

Most central to my faith is my belief in Christ. I believe that Jesus was and is the Messiah – the One sent by God to be the Savior of God’s people. Jesus was the fulfillment of prophecy from the Hebrew Scriptures. He is one with God, fully divine and also fully human, born into a world where pain exists, where sin corrupts, where hatred can kill.

I believe in a gracious and loving God, the creator of all seen and unseen. God called forth the universe into being and calls each one of us to care for and respect our world. God’s love for us is beyond our ability to grasp. Yet we try to understand and respond by reading scripture, gathering to worship, spending time in prayer, and opening our hearts and minds to God and God’s will for our lives.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is God’s gift to us, given freely, and is the divine presence with and among us. Through the Holy Spirit, we are given abilities – gifts of the Spirit – to continue the work begun by Christ during his earthly ministry, and we are encouraged, sustained and empowered to act out of God’s love.

The Bible, including both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, offers us the accounts of God’s actions in the world throughout history. It is therefore our story, our history. The Bible provides guidelines for how we are to care for the world and treat one another. Scripture also brings us the message of God’s love, the forgiveness through Christ, and the continued presence through the Holy Spirit.

I believe that the sacraments of Baptism and The Lord’s Supper are a means of grace and signs of God’s continued presence in our lives. Through our participation, we show our commitment to and love of God, and our faith in God’s grace. Baptism and The Lord’s Supper are gifts given from God and instituted by scripture, and are symbolic of our union with Christ, God and fellow Christians.

The Church, as the body of Christ, is called to live out the teachings of Christ. The Church is to be a place in which God is worshipped, life is celebrated, and reconciliation is encouraged. Love, honesty and forgiveness should be evident, as members strive to follow the examples of Christ. And yet as sinful people, we can not live up to Christ’s example. For this reason, we are called to confess our sins. Our loving God offers us forgiveness from all sin. Not because we confess or live according to the will of God or the ways of Christ. Our forgiveness comes through Jesus – through his death on the cross. But death did not have the final word, and our faith in the risen Lord offers us everlasting life.

The mission of the Church universal is to spread the message of the gospel. As Christians, we are called to be a light to all people, showing God’s love for all. For God’s love is ageless, endless and unconditional.