

Presbyterian Church (USA)
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Statement of Faith by Martha Spear

The Bible is the foundation upon which I build my life, as I seek to live faithfully according to the will of God. I believe the Scriptures to be God's Word, and consider them to be the final authority in matters of faith and practice. Through the revelation of Scripture, we come to know the Triune nature of God. As the first person of the Trinity, God the Father is revealed as the Sovereign Author and Finisher of life, the Creator who has called all things into existence, the Provider who is steadfast in mercy and unconditional love. As the Son, the second person of the Trinity, God is revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who though being fully human, remained without sin. As the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, God is continually present with us as our Comforter and Guide. It is the Holy Spirit that convicts us of our sin and calls us to repentance, disclosing to us our need for a Savior. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, believers are given spiritual gifts which empower them to be God's servants in the world today.

Through the witness of Scripture, God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ is revealed to us. As sinners before God, our only hope for eternal salvation rests in the saving grace that God has provided to us through Jesus Christ, who has become sin for us and has borne our guilt upon the cross. Through Jesus, God's only Son, we are redeemed, and may now stand before our Maker cleansed of our sin through Christ's shed blood. Although Christ was crucified, He did not remain in the grave, but rose and ascended to heaven where He continues to rule at the right hand of God. Through Christ's resurrection, we are also promised victory over death and everlasting life. As believers in Jesus Christ, we become adopted as God's children, joint heirs with Christ. The hope that we have in Jesus Christ is the promise freely given to all who believe.

As the Church of Jesus Christ, we are called to preach the Word of God, share the Good News of the Gospel, and call others to knowledge of Christ as Savior. As the Body of Christ, the Church is to be at work in the world, alive in word and deed, as it seeks to be a vehicle of reconciliation and wholeness, caring for the needy and comforting the oppressed. As a worshipping community, it is proper that we celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper together. Through the Sacraments, we are showing forth an outward sign of the inward grace that we have received through Christ. In Baptism, we are acknowledging our entrance into the covenant family of God, the washing away of our sin, the death of our old nature, and resurrection to a new life in Christ. In Communion, we are called to experience Christ's spiritual presence with us, as we reflect on our salvation made possible by Christ's death and resurrection. It is in sharing the Lord's Supper that Christ ministers his grace to us through the breaking of the bread and the pouring out of the wine. As we gather around the Table of our Lord, we are given a foretaste of the heavenly banquet yet to come, when we will stand in God's presence at the end of the age.