

## **Statement of Faith**

### **The Reverend Donna Frischknecht-Jackson**

I believe in the triune God whose love for us is always carrying and cradling us. This love was made manifest through Jesus Christ, God's Word who came to dwell among us. This love also breathes upon us in the way of the Holy Spirit, God's gift so that we would not be left "orphaned", which opens us up and empowers us to the incredible possibilities in the building of God's Kingdom.

I believe God is all knowing and all-powerful. God has lovingly called us into covenant with Him and with one another. While God is sovereign, we are not freed from trials, but rather, through the trials, we can see the beautiful truth that when we are weak, God is indeed strong. I believe God is saddened by how we choose to wield the free will we have been given, thus, opening the door to evil and human sin. Yet I believe God's will ultimately prevails and God's grace has the power to redeem and transform.

I believe God is love and the best expression of the love was shown through His Son Jesus who, both fully human and fully divine, entered into the messiness of our world to show us that comforting and reenergizing truth that when we cry, when we doubt, when we face persecution and heartaches, we know we have One who is walking with us and who understands completely.

I believe Jesus Christ came to show us a better way in how to love all, even when we don't see eye to eye. Jesus came to show us that God's Kingdom is about turning everything we know upside down. The last shall be first. The outcast shall be welcomed. The lonely will find a friend. And at the table, there is room for all.

I believe Jesus Christ's death on the cross was atonement for our sins. His sacrifice showed the extent of God's love for us, and because God raised Jesus from the dead, we too, have power in God to rise above all that threatens our relationship with God, till the day we enter into the promise of eternal life and have conquered death itself.

I believe God gifts us the Holy Spirit to comfort, inspire and lead us on. I believe the Holy Spirit, that ignited a passionate witness as seen among the ordinary men and women proclaiming the Gospel boldly in the Book of Acts, can still ignite in our hearts today with the same bold witness out into our communities.

I believe the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism are beautiful signs of His grace, that move us toward a future we have been promised—one full of hope.

I believe that Scripture has the power to speak new to us each and everyday. God's word is living and when we approach it in prayer, asking for wisdom and discernment, new insights and discoveries, comfort and healing, joy and awe, always come.

I believe we are not meant to journey alone and that God is revealed in community where we share life's ups and downs, ask the tough questions, discern and discuss, and pray for one another. That community God gifted us is the church, the body of Christ. When we embrace and celebrate our unique gifts and differences within this body, we honor the head, Christ, and we become truly connected to one another by the reconciling love and grace of God. Thus, our lights shine ever more brightly out into the world we are called to serve.