

I believe in the Creator God, maker of the universe and human beings. I believe that this Creator has made human beings with free will, and a desire for a relationship with God. I have made a conscious effort for all of my adult life to cement this relationship and understand what God's will is for my life. My faith has grown as I study the singularly reliable Word of God in the Scriptures, and hear the Word preached in worship. I hope that I will continue to grow and be connected to this relationship to God. Putting God's will ahead of my own is a life long struggle for me.

I believe that the Creator God gave his Son, Jesus Christ in human form to the world to redeem the world. Jesus came to earth truly human and truly divine. In his death and resurrection Jesus reconciled the world to the Creator God. This reconciling act is a mystery, which the Holy Scripture described in several ways, from the sacrificial lamb to the atonement for sin. He is the bridge to the Creator, and allows me to become a child of God again and again as I ask for forgiveness when I sin. Evil exists in the world; forces of Satan can lead to human sin. Man can overcome the forces of evil with the saving blood of Christ, but man also sins because of human nature and its selfishness. Our sin makes God sad but does not stop God from loving us and wanting a relationship with us.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, given to human beings fully on Pentecost, to be with us when Jesus Christ left this world to return to Heaven. The Creator God has chosen us from the time of our conception, and joins us with the community of believers in baptism. The Holy Spirit will abide in any person and help build the relationship to the Godhead, when the person invites it to do this. God gives us free will to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit or go our own way. A community of believers makes it easier to understand God's will in our lives, and turn back to God in corporate prayers of confession.

I believe in worship, and a life of prayer and Bible study. Worship allows the believer to hear the Word, worship the Creator and leads us into mission as described by Jesus in the Parables. I believe that the community of believers is an important part of sustaining a Christian faith, with corporate confession, the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion. In baptism, the person is taken into the community of believers and the mystery of the Holy Spirit is then at work in their life. In Holy Communion, the elements have a transforming power to change lives and bring the communicant into a relationship with the triune God. The mission of the church is to preach the Word, administer the sacraments and do Christ's work in the world of feeding the poor, healing and helping the sick, caring for the homeless and showing the love of God to the world. The church universal is an asset to its members as it allows for searching of answers in a safe environment. Our confessions are a wonderful tool in this process and help all to understand their relationship with the Trinity.

I believe that all of my answers and the end of my faith journey will be in the next life. Ministers, teachers and theologians can help us to understand God's mysteries. I feel a call to be part of the teachers for a congregation, as they struggle to understand their faith. I can help them to study the Bible, ask theological questions and be part of the answer for them. I will try to lead the people in our congregation to Christ and make an honest attempt to walk a faith journey, being honest in my own search. Honesty every day in walking with God is all that is required of any person.