

When my daughter went through Confirmation and it came time to share her faith statement, she looked at her mentor, then to me, then to the Elder sitting with us and said, "I believe in God, I believe in Jesus and I believe in the Holy Spirit. What more can I say?" The faith of a child! As I have prepared to write this statement, I have looked back over others I have crafted in the past. The basics are the same, I believe in the Triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. All three present from the beginning, when the Spirit hovered over the chaos, per the words recorded in Genesis. The recorder of the Gospel of John tells us that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and nothing was made without the Word. Yet, there are some changes that I believe reflect maturity in my ongoing Christian formation.

I believe in God, the Creator, who has since the beginning of time desired relationship with humankind, which was created in "their image"[Genesis 1:26]. Yet humankind, because of human nature, has throughout time thought they knew better than God. God offers grace and redemption, despite our actions. I believe that God, the Creator, has never given up on the relationship with humankind, despite our attempts to be in control of everything.

I believe in God, whose desire to be in relationship with us is so strong that God became human in the baby born of Mary, in Bethlehem, during a time of oppression of the Jewish people by the Roman government. Following his baptism as a man by John, his temptation by Satan, he set out to teach and heal. He offered grace even to those that the society looked down on. His actions of acceptance lead to the religious leaders trying to silence him. In order to silence him, he was turned over to Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, who ordered his death. Upon his death, he was placed in a borrowed tomb and on the morning of the third day, the women found the tomb empty and they went to tell the others. I believe in Jesus as the Redeemer of our relationship with God.

Jesus told his followers that he would leave them but the Father would send another to them. I believe in God as the Sustainer, Comforter, and Counselor. The one who came first to the followers on the day of Pentecost, when 3000 came to believe in Christ and were baptized as Jesus had commissioned his disciples to do.

I believe in one baptism, which serves as a visible sign to the community that we are beloved children of God the Creator. In the same manner, in community we gather at the table to share a simple meal of bread and cup, just as Jesus did with his community on the night of his arrest. Just as Jesus offered grace and welcome to all, I believe that all are welcome to come to the table and to use their gifts to the betterment of the Kingdom of God.