

Statement of Faith : Rory Chambers : Spring 2020

I have faith in one God: Creator, Christ, and Spirit.

I have faith in God, the Creator; God, the ground of all being in whom we live. God, who is streams of living water, continuously beckoning us to dip our toes and sink our body into the waters that bring eternal life. God, who is Love. Love keeps no record of wrongs, Love is stronger than death, Love is the power to resist the evil that is heartbreakingly present in the world. Love, in whom there is no fear.

I have faith in Jesus, the Christ. The incarnation of God; born in Palestine, poor, Jewish, under Roman occupation. Jesus lived and preached about the reign of God, a present reality and a promised future where Love reigns, justice is found, and peace is present. That is: a world unlike the one he lived and preached within. Jesus' life set him against the ruling authorities, who crucified him. He died and was buried. I have faith that God resurrected Jesus, saying "yes" to the life to which the world had said "no." I have faith that there is hope for those who follow Jesus; we expect resistance to the world of Love we hope for as it pushes against the power structures that refuse justice and peace, yet we hope for resurrection on the other side of what seems like death. I have faith that Jesus himself is the Word of God, who emptied himself of his equality with God and humbled himself in obedience to God's call. In and through Christ's faithfulness, I am drawn into the life of God by the Spirit to faithfully work for God's goals of liberation, wholeness, and reconciliation in the world.

I have faith in the Spirit. The sustainer of all life, our renewer, empowerer, advocate, and the one who keeps our chins raised high in defiance of fear and evil. The Spirit illumines our minds, sparks our imaginations, stokes our emotions, moves our bodies, and unites diverse people and communities together in the Love that is our home, our origin and our destination.

My faith is spurred by Scripture, which bears witness to Jesus: the Word of God. Scripture guides our discipleship, formation, devotion, and connection to centuries of tradition. In the Old and New Testaments, God reveals themselves to us. Scripture's witness helps us understand God's continued revelation in the lives and testimonies of the people of God throughout history.

My faith reveals that Sin is real, extensive, social, structural, personal, and inevitable. My faith also reveals that, in Christ, Sin has been and will be overcome.

My faith finds its home in the Church through (and beyond) which God works. In the Church, we receive the grace of God in the sacraments of Baptism and Communion; means and reminders that we are welcomed into fellowship by the grace of God and not by our own effort. All are welcome, and none shall be turned away who seek the life that God has offered. Together, we bear witness to the truth of the Gospel that in his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus Christ overcame the world, overcame death, and overcame Sin. Through the Spirit, we are united as one Body — Christ's — to follow Jesus' way of living and preaching about the reign of God.

I have faith that though the life of faith is not easier than the life I lived before, it *is* good. I hear you think: "Oh! But what about..." and I have faith that we can chat more about it.

Faith Statement - PIF edit (3000 characters)

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