

Sean A. Hall
Statement of Faith

I believe in the one and only living God who reigns as three persons of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who are equal in glory, power, and being.

I believe in God the Father, who by grace created everything, out of nothingness, that is or ever will be. He created humanity, who he made male and female in His image; and He alone rules over and governs all of creation. Although humanity was created good and upright, mankind chose to turn away from God and became subject to sin and death so that no reconciliation would be possible by any human effort alone. As spirit, God the Father is neither male nor female; He is eternal, unchanging, almighty, and all-loving. God the Father is sufficient in Himself, being perfect, complete, and lacking in nothing. Because God is the only true God, He alone is to be worshipped and adored; He alone is worthy of glory and honor, and before Him can come no other gods.

I believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ, who is both fully human and fully God, and of the same being as God the Father, the Lord of life. In Jesus, who is co-eternal with the Father, God became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of Mary, who was a virgin. In order to redeem humanity, Jesus, although He was innocent, allowed Himself to suffer and be crucified, as He atoned for our sins and defeated death once and for all. Although we were deserving of death, Christ delivered us so that anyone who has faith in Him is forgiven of his or her sins and restored to right relationship with God and assured of everlasting life. On the third day following His death, Jesus physically rose from the dead and after a time ascended into heaven, and through Him, humanity has been glorified and restored to right relation with God. It is by God's free choice and action of Christ alone as the Mediator that humanity is redeemed, and believers again bear the image of God, and find their true identity in Christ. In Christ, God fully revealed His identity to humanity and in Christ is found the full nature of God.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, who is sent by the Son from the Father and who gives, renews, and rules life. The Holy Spirit justifies believers by grace alone through faith and unites us with Christ as Christ's church, working as the God who continually breaks into human history, acting not out of necessity but love. The Spirit also sustains all of God's works and empowers each believer to follow God's will in his or her life.

I believe that God has called His followers into community in the church, which is one in Christ and Universal for all believers. Christ established the church, calls it into being and sustains it by the power of the Holy Spirit. As the body of Christ, the church finds its identity in Christ alone, who is the sole head of the Church, and as such, the church is called to be Holy and set apart in its nature while working in and engaging the world to make disciples of all people. We believe that God instituted Baptism and the Lord's Supper as sacraments, which Jesus commended, and which are signs of Christ's grace, power, and presence in the Church and seals of redemption. In Baptism, although we have done nothing to deserve it, we receive new life as we are grafted into Christ and present our bodies to be living sacrifices to God. In the Lord's Supper, we are reconciled to God and receive the sustaining presence of Christ by the Holy Spirit, which renews us while uniting us in the communion of the saints as a foretaste of the kingdom of heaven. For the carrying out of Christ's mission, the church has the guidance of Holy Scriptures, which are the true and authoritative word of God through which God speaks by the Holy Spirit. As members of the Body of Christ, believers are joined together by the communion of the saints in one fellowship and called upon to use their gifts freely for the glory of God.

For Christ's sake and for the sake of all humanity, we await and pray for His return in expectation that His coming will bring the renewal of all life, God's final victory and the full reign of His kingdom, which will have no end.