

Statement of Faith: Rebecca (Becky) Bosarge

Since the time of Jesus, people who encounter him have an experience of God that is so profound, that we can only say that in Jesus, God has come among us. In his life, we come to know God as One who sees the marginalized and challenges the privileged, seeking the healing of both. In his death, we come to know God as One who is with us in our darkest hours, expressing solidarity with those who suffer and resisting the powers of oppression and injustice. In his resurrection, we have hope that God's love and life are stronger than hate and death. In the whole of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection, God graciously loved the world, embracing the whole of human experience, mending what is broken, and freeing us to know what it means to be truly human; free to know ourselves as God's beloved and free to love God, our neighbor, and ourselves.

Through Christ, I trust in God, a Loving Mystery, beyond our understanding, yet present and active. I experience God as the Source of Life within, between, and among us, from whom all creation comes and to whom all creation belongs; a Loving Communion whose very being is relational and hospitable. This lively, self-giving, generous, revealing nature is poured out in creation, covenant, in gracious expression through the saving work of Jesus Christ, and in the continual outpouring of God's Spirit.

I rest in and rely on the Spirit of God at work in all times and places, renewing, comforting, making community, energizing, challenging, and inspiring. God's Spirit keeps us engaged with Jesus' life through Word and Sacraments. God's Spirit confirms for us and assures us that we are God's beloved children. The Holy Spirit creatively opens new avenues and resources for loving and living when we can see no way forward and gives us the courage to step into those new possibilities, the necessary gifts to realize them, and the patience to let them unfold.

The church is God's forgiven, grateful, community, gathered and shaped by the life of the triune God and called to live as a reflection of that life. The church is shaped through Scripture, the witness to the triune God. As we deeply engage with scripture – listening and speaking, questioning and being questioned by it – we wake up to God and to our deepest selves in all our brokenness and belovedness. The church is shaped through an experience of God in the Sacraments, loving gifts from God that create and sustain our lives as Christ's body. Baptism welcomes us into this new life and as we gather at Christ's table, this new life and new community is sustained by his presence. Each time we remember our baptisms or eat and drink together at Table, we remember that God is with us and that we belong to God. The Sacraments are a sign, pointing to the presence of God through ordinary things like water or bread and ordinary actions like washing or sharing food. As such, the Sacraments can remind us that God is present in the whole of our lives. We can open to the presence of God not just at the baptismal font, but as we bathe our children; not just at the communion table, but at our own kitchen tables. As we learn God together, becoming spiritual community for each other as we worship and pray, continually becoming Christ's body, we gratefully respond to God's grace in service, loving the world that God loves, in ways that reflect God's life; openness to the other, feeding the hungry, listening to the lonely, welcoming the outcast, and being peacemakers in a violent world.