

**STATEMENT OF FAITH**  
Rebecca Sue Weltmann

I believe in a loving God, creator of all things visible and invisible. God, operating outside the human concept of time, created the world in love. God is merciful and just. God is forgiving and holy. Through grace, God gives faith. God's grace is a free gift, not based on good works, though good works are an appropriate response to the grace God offers freely.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, begotten not made. In Christ, all things hold together. Christ came into the world to save it, not to condemn it. Jesus Christ brought a message of good news to the sick and reached out to sinners and outcasts. Jesus taught that all are sinners, though he himself was fully human and fully divine and without sin. The law, shown to us in Scripture as an anticipation of the revelation of God in Jesus Christ, provides a mirror by which human beings can understand sin as that which separates us from a life with God. Through Jesus Christ's resurrection, human beings have hope and salvation from the death resulting from sin. Christ is the true mediator and through his message, Christ lives in each of our hearts.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who is of the same substance as the Creator and Christ. The Spirit is active in each of us. The Spirit moves where the Spirit chooses to move in each unique person in God's creation so the Spirit speaks to God's people in different ways. The Spirit encourages the faith that God gives us through grace by means inside and outside of worship, which allows us to move through a life of both joy and pain.

I believe the Spirit is present in the sacraments. As an outward sign of God's inward grace, the sacraments are a sign of the real presence of Jesus Christ. Through baptism we are made new and welcomed into the covenant family. Through the Eucharist, we commune together at the Lord's table to celebrate life with Christ as a communion of saints in a holy catholic church.

I believe in the authority of the Old and New Testament. In scripture we see the work and life of Jesus Christ and experience the witness of Christian history. Scripture shows us our roots from the marvels of creation to the promise for eternal life. God is revealed in Jesus Christ through scripture. Through the Holy Spirit, God is present and speaks to human beings in a variety of ways, including scripture.

I believe that in the here and now, we are all called as Christians to imitate Christ: to love others because Jesus first loved us. In the here and now we are called to joyfully seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with the Lord our God, declaring kindness in fellowship with one another. This fellowship, this Church, is the body of Christ here on Earth. I trust that because of the hope we have in the here and now, we know we will be united to Christ in the life to come. Christ will come again in glory to unite his believers to him in God's kingdom.