

Joaquin Anabe Lopez

Statement of Faith

I believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God in three persons. As a person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and shares our humanity in every way but without sin. God created all things visible and invisible, for whom all things exist and through whom all things are sustained. God created heaven and earth and all the creatures for God's honor and glory. Human beings were created in the image of God to be in a relationship with God and all creation. However, because of sin, all creation is subject to the consequences of affliction and death. By nature, all human beings are sinners and without God we are lost. Sin is the sign of a broken relationship with God. Humankind knows good and bad, but we are unable to perform only good works because all humanity is sinful.

The sovereign God reconciles all creation to Godself. While humans are absent from God, reconciliation takes place as an initiative of and from God and not human intervention. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit testifies to the world that reconciliation with God is available through Jesus Christ. For God so loved the world that God gave the begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life (John 3:16). God came to us in Jesus Christ. God reached out to us, accomplishing the promise of the covenant to Abraham and the world: "and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3b). This was done through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ who through his life, death and resurrection overcame the power of sin and evil to provide new life and atonement for humanity. Jesus Christ inaugurated a new creation as part of the Kingdom of God here and now.

God has revealed and spoken in different ways through history, but now God has revealed in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Scripture (the Old and New Testaments) bears witness of God's revelation and plan for creation. Jesus Christ is present today through his body, the church, a community of believers reconciled to God to bear witness to God's mission in the world. It is not by deed that one is reconciled. So nobody can boast about it, it is rather by grace through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. The Church as a holy catholic community points to God in love, worships God serving in word and deed, and does justice, bearing witness that in Jesus Christ the Kingdom of God is present. There is life and salvation by grace through faith. The church bears witness through Baptism and Communion. In baptism the church recognizes God's grace that claims us to be God's own child, sealing us with the Holy Spirit. In the Lord's Supper the church eats and drinks in communion with the crucified and resurrected Lord and Savior and confesses that Christ will come again. So, the church joins God's reconciling mission doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly in the power of the Holy Spirit through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.