

I believe God is love.

The Parent, Son and Spirit are love embodied: the three persons of God in one being.

In love, the Parent created as an outpouring of love. All of creation is good. God made humans to be bearers of God's image. We were made for self-giving relationship with each other and God.

In love, God gave us freedom, because love cannot be forced. We chose to turn from God's love. Sin has overwhelmed humanity causing us to rebel against God and protect ourselves at all costs. Sin has totally tainted our entire being, made us incapable of any true good on our own, and leaving us in a state of separation from God and each other.

In love, God reached out to us. Through Scripture which is the unique and authoritative word of God and through God's relationship to Israel we see God faithfully reaching out to redeem humanity.

In love, God became one of us. God entered our humanity in the person of Jesus Christ. In Jesus of Nazareth dwells the fullness of God and the fullness of humanity. He models for us what abundant living looks like: love of God, neighbor and self. He showed compassion to sinners, healed the sick, communed with outsiders, and loved all without qualification. He is God with us.

In love, Christ died for us. Knowing that we were helpless to overcome sin, Christ showed the depths of God's love through his death on the cross. He willingly took the punishment from our sins, forever removing the barriers between God and humanity. He did so as an act of grace. We receive salvation solely as a gift of love from Christ.

In love, Christ rose again. His resurrection defeated sin and death. His new life was the first-fruits of the new life we would all taste, and of the perfect world that is quickly approaching where sin, death, and pain have disappeared.

In love, Christ ascended to heaven where He serves as our high priest, and is preparing a permanent home for us with God.

In love Christ sent us the Spirit. The Spirit of God dwells within us. The Spirit is our consoler, reminding us of our adoption as children of God. The Spirit is our sanctifier, making us ever more like Christ. The Spirit is our unifier, making us one body. The Spirit is our illuminator, making Scripture come alive to us and imparting the grace of God through the Sacraments. The Spirit is our empowerer who gives all believers spiritual gifts and calls us to service.

In love, God gave us the Church. The Church is the family of God, made one through Christ. In the Church, we are marked as God's own in baptism, and made the children of God by grace. In the Church, the bread and wine of Communion serve as a sign and seal of Christ's grace for us through his death. Through the Church we hear the Word proclaimed, and experience God in prayer and worship. Through the Church we practice the love we receive in Christ. Through the Church we proclaim and enact the Kingdom of God to the world, until Christ returns.

Our God always was, is and always will be love.