

## Statement of Faith – Matt Royston

### First

I am a follower of Christ. I have been claimed as one who belongs to the Lord.

### Revelation

Through God's revelation, I believe in one Sovereign and Providential Lord, shown to be triune in nature; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Most specifically in Jesus Christ, God is shown to be all-loving, all-present, all-knowledgeable, and all-powerful.

### Creation

I believe that God acts in creating all that is, was, and will be created. Through God's Word, our Lord creates freely out of love, for the purpose of displaying divine glory. I believe that in humanity, God's creation is made complete. Scripture reveals that all persons are made in the image of the triune God, and declared to be very good. Through sin, creation is broken and remains but a distorted view of its original character.

### Redemption

In Scripture we see the story of God's redemptive work, reconciling the broken creation back to wholeness. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus; and the sanctification work of the Holy Spirit, redemption is both complete and ongoing. This work continues until the final day when the Kingdom of God will reign in completion and finality forever.

### The Holy Spirit

I believe that the Holy Spirit works and has worked in and among God's Church throughout its history. The Spirit moves mysteriously and unpredictably for the sake of furthering the culmination of God's Kingdom in the world today.

### The Church

I believe that the Christian Church is the worshipping and ministering community, specifically existing to reflect the Glory of God. The Church is missionally-driven, given its purpose to exist that the world may know it is loved by its Creator.

### The Sacraments

The Lord is with us at all times, but uniquely and powerfully so in Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Through these sacraments, God meets us on Holy Ground. Grace is mysteriously transmitted to God's people through ordinary things of the earth; water, bread, and wine. In Baptism, we are marked as the people God chose us to be and brought into the Faith Community. In the Lord's Supper, we are brought into the presence of Christ and reminded of who we are as people who belong to God.

### Jesus Christ, Our Great Hope

I believe that through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the world is given its fullest revelation of the God who has worked throughout history to redeem the world from sin and brokenness. Jesus Christ is the great hope of all people and indeed of all creation.

All redemption has occurred and will continue to occur through Christ. Our hope rests in the One who created us, who loves us, who desires to be known by us, and who longs to redeem us. In humble gratitude, our proper response is worship of, and obedient service to God and the world.

### Finally

The work that God has begun through Jesus will carry into eternity. As the people whom Christ has claimed, we will continue to be with our Lord forever. "For God so loved the world..."