

Personal Confession of Faith

Mary Ellen Lucas

I give thanks that I am a child of the Lord God Almighty and He is living me. He is the one true, living, eternal, almighty, perfect God. He has been in the beginning, is present now, and will always be. He is the creator of all things in heaven and earth. He has made all things both seen and unseen. I believe God is triune, in three distinct persons, but co-equal as God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. My God reigns in power, glory, might, and love over heaven and earth. He leads, guides, and directs my life. I don't always understand why things happen, but I place my trust and faith, and life in Him.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son. I believe Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus was fully human and fully divine. I believe in the humanity of Jesus Christ, his sinless life, and his miracles. I believe Jesus chose to offer himself freely to suffer and to be crucified for our sins. I believe that God elected Jesus Christ to die for our sins and reconcile us to God. Jesus was crucified, buried, descended to the dead, and on the third day he rose from the dead proving God's power over evil. He ascended unto heaven and sits on the right hand of God. Jesus will return one day to judge both the living and the dead. Jesus intercedes on my behalf before God; therefore, I can stand forgiven before Him.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, who was sent by God to indwell within us here on earth. The Holy Spirit provides us comfort and strength. I believe, through the Holy Spirit, every moment I live I am in God's presence and He is loving me, guiding me, comforting me. The Holy Spirit unites all believers as one universal church, a communion of believers, and transforms us to live a new life in Christ.

I believe the church here on earth is called not only to minister in word and sacrament, but also to minister to all of God's people; the sick, the poor, the social outcasts, all that are in need. We are called to preach the gospel to everyone.

I believe the Holy Bible is inspired word of God. It was written by men as revealed by the Holy Spirit. No other written text or words said by man is equal to or is above the Bible in authority. I believe we can fully know God and His nature as it is revealed in Scripture and through his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

I believe man and woman were created equally by God in His own image. God created us with a free will allowing us to make our own choices. Because of our sinful nature we disobeyed God and sinned. Despite our sinfulness, God elected His son Jesus Christ to bear all our sins. It is God's free gift of grace through faith that calls us to salvation. We cannot earn our own salvation through works or by our own merit.

I believe Jesus Christ instituted two sacraments as described in the New Testament: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. I believe there is but one baptism in the name of the triune God, which includes infants and new believers. Infants are included in baptism as it is a sign and seal of covenant of grace, as well as their parents, and belong to the people of God. The Lord's Supper we do in remembrance of Christ's body broken on the cross and His blood shed, paying the price for our sinfulness. I believe Christ's body and blood are spiritually present in this sacrament.

I believe Jesus Christ will return to judge both the living and the dead I believe in the resurrection of the body. We will be reunited with Christ and transformed into the glory of eternal life.