

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH - Rev. Jack Cormack**

I believe in a Trinitarian understanding and experience of God. God over us. God with us. God in and around us. God over us is the God who created all that is both seen and unseen. This including all of the physical stuff like, earth, wind, sky and that which is above the sky. And all of the stuff we can't see like, spirit and soul. The God over us concept also helps me to understand that God is greater than any human experience both individual and corporate. There is nothing too large that can ever separate us from God's love; no bomb, no war, or natural or un-natural disaster. When I remember that the large things in life cannot separate us from God's love, I know I am safe. I am free then to remember the small things that God has created including my breath; which leads me to the reality even my breath is a gift from God and not of my own creation. Then, when I remember the greatness of God's love, I am free to be a person of gratitude with each breath.

God with us, helps me to remember that in the person of Jesus, who is the Christ, that God fully enter the human experience. When Emmanuel was born in Bethlehem He not only entered into all of human experience but He entered my (and each individuals) experience right now. God with us reminds me that regardless of our trials and tribulations or heart and soul aches; Jesus has experienced the far greater pain of the cross so that we may know peace and joy that passes all understanding. For us to fully experience forgiveness of sin we need to acknowledge that Jesus not only died for our sin but because of our sin. And He chose the pain of the cross any way so that all sin would die in His death; therefore, we, along with all of creation, may experience the abundant life of the resurrection.

God in and around us is the constant reminder to me that we are not alone and this is not the end. If we are willing to trust the God above us and the God with us, then we can follow our pain to its end and we will find a God waiting for us that is far greater than our wildest imagination. In this experience of trusting God, we can then and only then, live into the truth that the difficult times in our lives are hard but not bad. The journey to the depths of our pain, which is hard, leads us to the truth of God's transcendent love, which we can experience at the very core of our being; we are not alone and this is not the end.