

## Rev. Dr. Mark McIlraith

M.Div., Ph.D.

### Statement of Faith

I believe in the one triune God, revealed to us in the three persons of Father, Son and Holy Spirit who live in divine love and perfect unity. Each is involved in the activity of the other two, and none is subordinate to the others. The three are one.

I believe in almighty God the Creator whom the scriptures and Jesus call “Abba, Father”.<sup>1</sup> God created all that is known and unknown out of nothing. This act of creation was born out of love and is preserved, sustained, and accompanied by God.

I believe in Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, the Redeemer as Lord and Savior. He is fully God and fully human, of the same substance with the Father. As God’s eternal Son, he was present with the Father and the Spirit before creation. His coming was foretold in Israel’s scriptures and his incarnate presence among us is recorded in the New Testament. He is the Word of God in the flesh as Jesus of Nazareth, born into an earthly family. He experienced a painful death on the cross and was then raised from the dead on the third day. He is the Mediator, and through him, our broken relationship with God is restored. Christ’s death and resurrection is atonement for our sins, setting us right with the triune God. Through him alone do we live and breathe.<sup>2</sup> We are called to serve him and love him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.<sup>3</sup>

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. As our Sustainer, the Spirit is the comforter, advocate, and helper, who convicts us of sin and points us toward the grace of God through Christ. The chief work of the Holy Spirit is faith. Through the Holy Spirit, we move as instruments in the hands of the triune God who reconciles the world.<sup>4</sup>

I believe that Scripture is the Word of God written, which testifies that Jesus Christ is the one sufficient revelation of God, and which the Holy Spirit illuminates in our hearts and minds. Scripture is the witness of the triune God without parallel. Through Scripture we can know the activity of the triune God in history and God’s promises to us as God’s children.

I believe in the Church as the People of God, the Body of Christ, and those in communion with the Holy Spirit. The Church is a community of believers united in Christ, but not uniform; a community of forgiven sinners called to a sanctified life; a community called in mission to break down the dividing walls of hostility; a community nurtured, ruled, and established by the apostolic witness found in Scripture. Through this community, baptism and communion are celebrated and experienced as a “visible sign of an invisible grace.”<sup>5</sup>

I believe in the return of Christ, the resurrection of the body, and life eternal. We currently live in anticipation of the Parousia in which God’s purpose for creation will be fulfilled.<sup>6</sup> Until then, we live as God commands by faith, hope, and love, resting in the knowledge that God considers us victors with Christ through the Holy Spirit.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Mark 14:36; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6.

<sup>2</sup> Acts 17:28.

<sup>3</sup> Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27.

<sup>4</sup> Colossians 1:20; 2 Corinthians 5:19.

<sup>5</sup> Augustine.

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 25:31; Mark 13; Luke 17:24, 21:27; John 21:22; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 3:13, 5:23; Hebrews 9:26-28; James 5:7-8; 1 John 2:28; Revelation 1:4, 8, 22:20.

<sup>7</sup> 1 Corinthians 13:13; Romans 8:37.