

Our Faith: The Story We Are Living...

In the beginning our God created life and this included creating us equally in his image and likeness. As part of his creation, we were created to be in communion with God and one another. Because God loved us, he did not force us to reciprocate his love. We chose to reject the love and communion which God gave to us in exchange for our own self-serving wills, called sin. As a result, our sin has destroyed the relationship we were created to have – communion with God and one another. But God, in his rich grace, mercy, and love, still pursued a relationship with us. God began this pursuit by redeeming the people of Israel from which God himself would come from, in the flesh, as the Son, Jesus the Messiah. In Jesus, God has sought to restore the communion that our sin destroyed by removing the sin through the death of Jesus on the cross. Though buried among the dead, God raised Jesus from death assuring the world that in Jesus the Messiah was true life, eternal life that could never be destroyed again.

By faith we accepted God's gift of redemption, repented of our sins and surrendered our life in the waters of baptism to Jesus who is our Lord and Savior. In turn, God has made us his people, the church, along with everyone else who follows Jesus as Lord and Savior, forgiving us of our sins and giving us the gift of his Spirit. We are the church where communion with God and one another is a reality – the new reality – once again. Having received the Holy Spirit as both a promise of our salvation and the source of God's power in us as we live out this new reality, we live a life of love by faith and with hope for the day when Jesus will come again as he promised. In the meantime, because we belong to a new reality and life, we live out this story as a proclamation to the world that in Jesus the Messiah, God is victorious over all sin, darkness, and death.

This is the faith proclaimed by the apostles of Jesus, passed on throughout history as the tradition of the church, and taught within the Bible which is the inspired word of God.

– K. Rex Butts