

A Statement of Faith
Talitha Phillips

In life and in death we belong to God –
God who views the whole glorious universe in its enormity;
God who still numbers the grains of sand.
Above, below, around and within us,
we marvel at the abundance that God has so lavishly poured out.
In a world pained by the pressures of evolution,
where the fittest survive and the weakest fail to thrive,
God is the one who calls it all Good,
who blesses the whole complicated mess of it all,
and calls us to make glorious and creative messes of our own.

I trust in Jesus the son of God,
who came that we might have abundant life;
He who challenged and mystified us,
Who led us away from centers of power
and showed us God on the margins of society,
Who healed the sick, cheered the hopeless, and raised up the lowly,
And in the greatest mystery of all,
who relinquished all power even to death.
He was powerfully raised from the dead
to prove that God's power, love's power, is far greater than any other in the world.
In this we know that love is stronger than force,
and life is stronger than death.
He still is with us,
and he speaks to us through the "least of these,"
the poor,
and the little children.
Christ is the one I call "Lord," Kyrios, Boss, and Master,
knowing the delicious irony in that word which subverts our worldly power structures.

I trust in the Holy Spirit who dwells in all of us,
inspiring prophecy, action, and faith.
This Spirit dwells in all people and can speak to even the hardest hearts.
The Spirit speaks in small whispers in the privacy of our hearts,
and in loud cries raised in the streets.

Together we make Church –
God three ways, plus we –
Broken, lost, and sinful we –
Creative, prophetic, and inspired we –
And we tell and re-tell one another the good news of God

In word and sacrament,
In whispers and shouts,
That God loves us,
And heals us,
And sets us free
For the sake of love and justice.