

Statement of Faith

The text of the cantata, *Statement of Faith*, by William R. Miller is the complete text of “A Brief Statement of Faith” used by permission of the Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

1. Fidelis

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

2. Christus

We trust in Jesus Christ,

fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.

3. Deus

We trust in God,

whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
 Ignoring God's commandments,
 we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
 accept lies as truth,
 exploit neighbor and nature,
 and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
 We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
 the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
 to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
 God delivered the children of Israel
 from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
 God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
 God is faithful still.

4. Spiritus

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
 everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
 sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
 and binds us together with all believers
 in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit
 who inspired the prophets and apostles
 rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
 engages us through the Word proclaimed,
 claims us in the waters of baptism,
 feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
 and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
 to pray without ceasing,
 to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
 to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
 to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
 and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
 we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
 and to live holy and joyful lives,
 even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,

praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

5. Aeternitas

In life and death we belong to God.
With believers from every time and place,
 we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
 can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.