

A Brief Statement of Faith

In 1983 the two largest Presbyterian denominations came together to form the Presbyterian Church (USA). In the process of this merger A Brief Statement of Faith was placed in our Book of Confessions.

The Brief Statement of Faith begins in the following way:

In life and 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 one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

As many of you already know, this past week I learned, after a heart cath procedure, that I needed open heart surgery. It will be a Triple Bypass and will take place on Monday morning, October 21, at 7:30 a.m. at Baylor Scott & White Heart Hospital in Plano, TX.

People have asked me about my response. My response is much like the beginning of the Brief Statement of Faith: "In life and in death we belong to God!"

I expect to miss several Sundays because of this operation, but my expectation is to return with renewed vigor to be your pastor here at Westminster Presbyterian. But as we all know "the best laid plans of mice and men" at times backfire! And to be perfectly honest, I'm at peace no matter how this turns out, because God wants us to put our trust in God and not in our well-intentioned expectations.

I'm at peace! Yet, it is not a peace that I've talked myself into; I believe it is the kind of peace that Paul talks about in Philippians 4:7 "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

This is the kind of peace that God has given me about this upcoming surgery. It is the same kind of peace that I pray God gives all of us in our journeys of faith. Let's face it, our lives are in the hands of our loving and grace-filled God. And God wants us to be OK with that.

So, keep me in your prayers. You will be in my prayers as well, because the last time I looked, we are all going through something. And no matter what we are going through, God loves us and has something good for us. Because in life and in death we belong to God! Hallelujah!

Your Pastor in Christ

John

P.S. This next Sunday, October 20, we will Worship Under the Oaks in front of the sanctuary at 10:45 a.m. It should be beautiful weather: about 70 degrees. Come join us! We will sing "For the Beauty of the Earth," "Fairest Lord Jesus," and "Here I Am, Lord." We will read Psalm 146 and Matthew 6:25-33 with the topic "Don't Worry – God's in Charge of All Creation." If you would like, bring your dog to worship!

Prayers:

Pray for our upcoming election on November 5, 2024. And YES, remember to vote!

Pray for all who are affected and suffering because of wars and conflicts around the globe, especially the Ukraine-Russian war, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Gaza and the wider Arab-Israeli conflict across the Middle East, the Sundanese civil war, and the ongoing Myanmar conflict.

Pray for Toni Cammack's daughter in Houston.

Pray for Sharon Wright who hit her head on the kitchen counter.

Pray for a friend of Cheryl Valentine who passed away in a plane crash.

Pray for Pastor John's upcoming heart surgery on Monday, October 21st.