

REFLECTIONS UPON: A VISION STATEMENT FOR ST. PHILIP ANGLICAN CHURCH

1. We are a church rooted in the historic Christian faith revealed in the Scriptures and the creeds and faithfully transmitted in the traditions and history of the Anglican Church.

The Christian faith is a “revelation” from God. It is not merely a construct of human ideas dreamed up by thoughtful people about the nature and meaning of life.

Christians believe that this revelation came to fullness in Jesus through whom God was uniquely present in human history. This Jesus was known as a great religious teacher. In his presence people experienced the presence and power of God mightily at work.

Jesus died, was buried and was raised from death to new life. For forty days after his resurrection, people experienced the presence of Jesus in the tangible way they had experienced his presence before his death. When these physical appearances ended, Jesus’ Spirit was poured out “upon all flesh.” (Acts 2:17)

Jesus’ Spirit lives in us now. We are empowered by God’s Spirit to live the full human lives for which we were created. When we forget the reality of Jesus’ presence in our lives, we lose our true selves.

Jesus is the way to life. He said “I came that you may “have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10) We come to abundant life through the cross. Jesus said, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23) To “take up our cross” is to choose to die to that small, self-interested part of ourselves that dominates so much of our lives and is unaware of God. When we “take up our cross” we open to that dimension of our being where God is known and true life is found.

How can I grow in my openness to God?

How can we be faithful to “the historic Christian faith” without becoming narrow and rigid?