

Christian Statement of Faith within an interreligious Context

(by Shafique Keshavjee)

With all our *Christian sisters and brothers*,
we confess the unique God as
Father, beyond all of us and all things,
Son, near to all of us and all things, and
Holy Spirit, in all of us and all things.

We confess the thrice-holy God as Mystery
of infinity and nearness,
of communion and communication,
of tenderness and justice.

With our *Jewish sisters and brothers* in humanity,
we confess that God is the Creator of the universe and the Holy One.
And differently we confess that the Creator expressed himself in a creature
and that the Holy One became a man.

With our *Muslim sisters and brothers* in humanity,
we confess that God is the Almighty, the Perfect and the Immortal.
And differently we confess that the Almighty inhabited powerlessness,
that the Perfect bore our imperfections
and that the Immortal, through the death and the resurrection of Jesus,
transfigured our mortality.

With our *Hindu sisters and brothers* in humanity,
we confess that God is the One beyond description.
And differently we confess that his unity is diverse
and that the world in its diversity does not dissolve in the One.

With our *Buddhist sisters and brothers* in humanity,
we confess that Ultimate Reality is inexpressible.
And differently we confess that the inexpressible Ultimate has expressed itself
not as impersonal emptiness (shunyata)
but as an emptied personality (kenosis).

Thus we confess with the religions of the East that God is Silence and Breath.
With the religions of the Jews and of Muslims we confess that God is Word.
And differently from all, we confess that God is all together
Silence, Word and Breath
(Father, Son and Spirit),
that the Silent Source can be heard in the Word,
that the Word become flesh,
and that through the Breath of the Word all flesh can become living Word
to the praise of God who is beyond all.

With our *sisters and brothers* in humanity *without religion* and of good will,
we confess that human rights are inalienable.
And differently we confess that human beings are made in the image of God.

With the Apostle Paul, and all Christians at all times,
we confess the divinity, the incarnation, the death, the resurrection and the exaltation of Jesus,
the son of God recognized as Messiah, who came and will come (Philippians 2,5-11).
And this common confession fills us with deep joy.