

Bio - Adrienne Poissant

I was born and raised in Media, Pennsylvania. I was baptized in the local Catholic Church where my parents were married and attended Catholic education classes throughout elementary and middle school.

We stayed in the same town my whole life and I did not move away until college, where I attended Gettysburg College. I entered my freshman year as a political science major with the intent of working for the government upon graduation, but a bout of homesickness caused me to participate more fully in the Catholic student group on campus. At the same time, I began reading my Bible more consistently and started reading other books on theology and church history. As I learned more about my faith, I realized I wasn't really Catholic, as I did not hold the beliefs the Catholic Church held.

I began to do research into other denominations and while I was doing that, my cousin gave birth to a baby girl and I was invited to attend her baptism at a Presbyterian Church in my hometown. I loved the experience of the service and once I did some more research, I realized much of my beliefs were reformed in nature. I started attending Sunday worship regularly and became a full member of the congregation in 2021.

During 2021, I experienced a week of extreme headaches that led me to being admitted into the ICU for a blood clot in my brain. I was hospitalized for a week and during this time, I had to rely heavily on my faith and grapple with what it means to be a Christian during difficult times. Despite the overwhelming experience, one of the first things I did once out of the hospital was apply to enroll at Princeton Theological Seminary.

While at seminary, I became involved in the student government, serving as clerk my second year and moderator my final year. I also found myself fascinated by church history and Reformed theology. Many of my favorite classes at seminary were taught by Prof. Dirk Smit on reformed worship and ecumenical relations.

I completed my first field education at Morrisville Presbyterian Church and my second year at Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church. In the summer of 2024, I completed a unit of CPE at the Main Line Hospital system with a cohort that included a Muslim, a Jew, and a Catholic. At seminary, I also had the opportunity to travel to the UK with seminary students to meet with Christians there and talk about the future of worship and youth ministry.

When I graduated seminary, I was notified that I received the Parish-Pulpit Fellowship, allowing me to travel to other parts of the world for the purpose of being exposed to other cultures and bringing what I learned back to my congregation. I took my first trip this summer, exploring Switzerland, Germany, and the Czech Republic. I plan to go to Japan this January, with a third trip to a currently unknown destination penciled in for the summer of 2026.

Statement of Faith – Adrienne Poissant

I believe in the Triune God; God the Father, the creator of the universe; God the Son, Jesus Christ, who redeems creation; and God the Spirit, who gives us life and sustains us. I believe that no aspect of the Trinity should receive primacy over the others. All three have been in communion with each other since the beginning and shall remain as one for eternity. God is a God of love and a God of justice, acting and moving in ways humanity may never understand.

Humanity was created to be in communion with the Triune God, but through our sin, both collective and individual, we have created a separation between ourselves and God's love. No one on earth is free from sin. To reconcile humanity with God, God became human in the form of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ was both fully human and fully God, born of Mary. On earth, he healed, taught, called for repentance, and proclaimed the Gospel to all people. He was arrested and crucified by Roman imperial powers. He was buried and after three days, rose from the dead, releasing the hold death has on him and on all of creation.

Through his death, Jesus Christ paid the price of our sins and brought us into reconciliation with God. This act was done out of pure, selfless love and not because humanity deserved it. This salvation is a freely given gift from God. By confessing the truth that Jesus Christ is Lord, we receive the gift of God's grace and are justified.

We know that Jesus Christ is Lord and has redeemed the world because of the revelation given to us through Scripture. The books of the Bible have been passed down by our ancestors in our faith and are our best source to understand the life and works of the prophets and of Jesus Christ.

While the Bible teaches us true things about God, it was written by humans at a specific time and place. Therefore, we must read the Bible critically, with historical context in mind, while trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit to point us to the incarnation of God through Jesus Christ.

When we truly believe in the good news of the Gospel, our lives must change. The love and grace shown to us by God through Jesus Christ has justified us and we are called to live holy lives. By showing God's love to others, regardless of who the other is, we are then sanctified. This is the purpose of the church, to be God's hands in this world. The church is meant to act on behalf of God, relying on the wisdom of the Bible and the power of the Holy Spirit to teach others and guide them to live in accordance to God's will.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are both visible signs and gifts of God's love and grace for us administered by the church. Only these sacraments were instituted by Jesus Christ and through them, the Holy Spirit works to reconcile us to God even more. Through baptism, we are entered into a covenant with God, a covenant that is remembered every time we receive communion.

At an unknown time in the future, the world will come to an end and Jesus Christ will return to judge the living and the dead and to usher in God's kingdom. Heaven and earth as we know it shall pass away and those who have been saved shall enjoy eternal peace with each other and with God. It is not for us to know who is saved and who is not, but we may hope that all people may be reconciled to God.