

Statement of Faith — Grace Woodward, 2021

I believe that God created the universe and all things in it, and calls them good. I believe that this same God longs for an intimate relationship with each of us. I believe that God's grace precedes our faith, and thus we respond with faith after recognizing the presence of God's grace in our lives. This grace renews and sustains me. I believe that we are a chosen people loved by God, and we can do nothing to separate ourselves from this love.

I trust in Jesus Christ, fully human and fully God, who lived among creation and preached the Good News of the Kingdom of God. Jesus saw people long overlooked and sought to be in relationship with those on the margins of society. Jesus resisted earthly powers and preached liberation from the bondage of sin and oppression. Jesus was betrayed by his own friends, unjustly sentenced to death by public execution, and suffered the depths of human pain. I believe that God raised Jesus from death, proving that no earthly force can ever overcome the triumphal power of God.

I believe that Jesus stretches open his arms and welcomes all people into the upper room to join his disciples and break bread. As a follower of Jesus, I choose to see the overlooked, to seek solidarity with those who suffer, and to preach liberation from all powers of this world that cause harm. As a follower of Jesus, I am called to boldly study scripture. Through immersing myself in the radical nature of scripture I come to know God and hear where God is calling me.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is closer to me than my own breath and that it is this presence that guides and sustains me. The same Spirit that inspired the prophets and apostles, and was present with Jesus throughout his life, still moves among us and guides my faith. In a broken world filled with sin, the Spirit gives me the courage to live boldly in faith that good will triumph over evil, and that God will never forsake creation.

Through the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, we remember the life and ministry of Jesus and God's grace in our lives through communal worship. Through reading and interpreting scripture in worship, we nurture the will of God in our lives so that we may go out into the world as messengers of the Gospel. The goal of my life is to glorify God, and I do so by joyfully spreading the Good News that even in the midst of a broken and suffering world the Kingdom of God is near.