

**Rev. Ed Sackett – Statement of Faith**

God offers us grace, yet we are not able to offer that same grace to others or receive it for ourselves as easily as it is offered to us. God is looking for the created to treat one another with the same grace we receive, but until we are willing to speak with the truth of Christ and offer heavenly justice, we cannot reach a point of reconciliation that allows us to fully share God's grace one to another. We are sinners, and it is God who must forgive. God's forgiveness is a costly forgiveness, forged out of God's grief and pain at our failure to be the loving people God created us to be. Standing at the center of Christianity is a tormented Christ, dying in forsakenness. As houses of worship and individuals, we must break our alliances with the powerful and enter into solidarity with the humiliated. To have authentic justice people must have authentic fellowship, and for this to happen there must be a common point of reference. For Christians, there is that common point, Jesus Christ, and through him, the Christian community needs to rebuild relationships so we can live into his; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry."

I believe in the atonement for my sin, the covenant with God created from the flowing waters of baptism, the Holy Spirit that leads me on a daily basis, and that the Triune God offers us a grace that can never be repaid. I believe in Jesus the Church participates in God's mission for the transformation of creation and humanity by proclaiming to all people the good news of God's love, offering to all people the grace of God at font and table, and calling all people to discipleship in Christ. I believe in the Table where we all gather for a meal and in the Communion where there is a healing grace; a healing Table which we need to offer up and allow to become a balm for one another, the other, and the injured. God has called humanity into covenant, a relationship with people in community. The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, orders, and empowers the church community so that each member can receive the gifts to build up the body of Christ by equipping the people for the work of ministry. God calls us to different ministries. Seeking truth and justice was my calling as a journalist and remains my calling to this day. I will stand on the forsakenness because I believe in the truth of Jesus Christ, the justice of the Holy Spirit, the ability of reconciliation in humanity, and the God-given grace for all of God's creations.