

**Statement of Faith**  
**Rachel Yejee Park**

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower... Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. (NRSVUE John 15:1, 3–4)

I understand my life in Christian faith to be that of the branch of Jesus Christ as my Korean name means. I believe in God as the vinegrower, who shepherds me unceasingly, provides all the nutrients that I need to grow spiritually and foundational source to be exist. I believe in Jesus Christ as the vine who abides in me and helped me to bear much fruit.

I understand my life within the Christian faith to mirror that of a branch of Jesus Christ, as my Korean name means (Ye Jee literally means the Branch of Jesus). I believe in God as the vinegrower, who shepherds me unceasingly and provides all the nutrients I need to grow spiritually. God is the foundational source and purpose of my existence. I believe in Jesus Christ as the vine who abides in me and empowers me to bear much fruit within him. Christ is the center of my faith, the reason for my life, and the empowerment of all that I can do within His grace. Therefore, I understand my faith will continue to grow, flourish, and bear fruits as I abide in Christ and follow God's will and guidance.

I believe in one God, who created our world and both males and females to bear His own image equally. This Triune God chose us to be His faithful disciples and has blessed us unceasingly. As a disciple of the creator God, I believe God is the ultimate source of all and part of all and wants us to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth he created.

I believe in Jesus Christ, who came to earth, was crucified on the cross, and was risen to save us, redeem us from sin, and exemplify his unconditional and unceasing love for us. He overcomes the power of death, brings salvation to all, and liberates us from all forms of oppression, inequality, and discrimination. I firmly believe our risen Lord calls us to read the Scripture, where his words and deeds are written, to live as Christ taught us, and to find joy, love, and grace in Him. As the disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to spread the Word of Christ, the Gospel, embody his teachings, and carry the presence of Christ to others by exemplifying his love, compassion, and forgiveness.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us in our weaknesses and intercedes on our behalf with groanings too deep for words, guiding us in our prayers and strengthening our spirits. I believe the Holy Spirit abides in us, comforts us in times of distress and depression, and guides and leads us to live according to God's will.

I believe that Scripture is the Word of God and provides the authoritative interpretation of Jesus' words and deeds. Scripture enriches our understanding of who God is, manifesting God's love and mercy, and teaches us how to apply the Word of God in our own lives. It is the best instrument for shaping us to listen to God and follow His will, as exemplified by biblical figures. The unlimited depth and richness of the Scripture continuously inspire and fuel our

interpretation, enabling us to delve deeper into the profound meaning behind Jesus's words and deeds. It has been my lifelong passion to solve the conundrums and puzzles within biblical passages, shedding new light to help readers of Scripture in their understanding. I am deeply committed to studying what Jesus said and did, particularly within the New Testament, and to sharing these insights through preaching to enrich the lives of the church and school community.

I believe in one baptism as the remembrance of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Through baptism, believers are welcomed into the community of discipleship, sealed as followers of Jesus Christ, and cleansed of their sins and souls. I believe in holy communion as the remembrance of Christ's sacrificial love for us demonstrated on the cross. In partaking of the bread and the cup, we remember Christ's body and blood, torn and shed for us. Through holy communion, we are invited to share meals with Christ and other believers, experiencing a deep sense of unity and fellowship.

As members of Christ's church, we are all called to fellowship and faith community inside and outside the Church. The Church is a place where the love of God is manifest as we gather together to worship God, orient ourselves toward Christ, and allow our hearts to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Beyond the physical building of the Church, believers should embody the essence of the Church by proclaiming the Gospel, loving one another, and living out the Word of God through God's grace and mercy guiding our actions. I believe the Church is the place where those who are broken and sick spiritually and emotionally can be healed and restored through loving each other and treating all equally regardless of gender, age, and status, as Jesus exemplified.