

Statement of Faith - Jonathan Hoeldtke

I believe in God, who is the ultimate ground of being and the source of all that exists. God, traditionally known as the “Father” is the first person of the Trinity. God created the universe from an overflow of love and reflects God’s imagination and creativity. God declared that it was all good! This “original blessing” is where we start when contemplating our relationship with God, to others, to ourselves and to Creation. It inspires us to share the message that God’s deep, extravagant love is for everyone!

I believe in Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity and God’s validation of the goodness of humanity and Creation through the incarnation. Jesus Christ is fully human and fully God, a mystery and form that invites us, in our humanity, to a deeper relationship with the Divine. The life and teachings of Jesus shows us the way of love and a focus on the “other” who is the outsider, the person who is not like us or our enemy. Healing is found in a regular movement of spiritual death and resurrection of our own lives. Our ultimate hope is located in the trajectory of Christ’s life who demonstrated that life doesn’t end at the grave. Christ is the first born of the new creation and invites us to follow.

I believe in the Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, the breath of life and the animator of all that exists. The Spirit comforts, guides, reveals mysteries, creates and renews. The Spirit is a gift and available to everyone. All things are held together by the Spirit and therefore all of life is sacred.

I believe in the Trinity, the fullest expression of God, described as 3 divine persons, but one God and living in perfect community. The Trinity is a mystery whose form is repeated over and over in creation. It is a model for the church and our lives.

I believe in the Church which is an imperfect but intentional reflection of the Triune community in this life. The Church, at its best, seeks to participate in the loving flow of the Trinity already at work in the world. Love and grace are hallmarks of the church community not fear and self-righteousness. The church is responsible for sharing the sacraments of baptism and communion, physical and mystical signs of God’s prevenient grace and love.

I believe in scripture, a deeply human writing and yet inspired by God. Scripture is helpful in guiding us when read and studied in partnership with the Spirit. Scripture is faithful is revealing the reality of God.

I believe in a heaven that is breaking into our own existence. Someday, God will make all things new. Heaven and Earth will become one, a culmination of the new creation begun in the incarnation of Jesus. I believe that in the end Love wins.