

Personal Statement of Faith 2020

Carolyn L. Grice

I believe in God, the Father, God, the Son and God, the Holy Spirit. I believe God is the creator of all that is, the Alpha and the Omega. I believe in the sovereignty of God and that God gives us grace and through grace we love all God has created for us. I believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Jesus cares for us, tends to our needs, and teaches us how to love and care for each other. I believe in the Holy Spirit. I believe in the life, death resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ.

I believe in the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper. In Baptism, one is joined into a community of believers where faith and fellowship of faith binds one with other around the world. Baptism is about the dying to sin and rising in faith and life in Christ, as Lord and Savior. Baptism is also about the washing away of that sin and living a life committed to God in Christ. I believe in the Baptism of infants and adults. The promises of God in Christ Jesus are for all. I truly believe God's love and grace extends to all of humanity.

When the Lord's Supper is celebrated it unites us one with another in remembering the Lord's death until he comes again as promised. The bread represents Christ's body, given for us, and the wine represents Christ's blood, shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins. Every time we participate in this fellowship, we remember the sacrifice Christ made for each of us. He calls each of us by name to the table with the reminder, "We remember the Lord's death until He comes again in glory."

My faith is driven by the following Scripture passages. Psalm 27 is my favorite. The Lord is my light and salvation. When times are troubling, when hope seems to have escaped my reality, I call on this passage. There are so many times we need strength in the work of being a Christian and I am often lifted up by this passage. I see Micah 6:8 as a means of accomplishing Matthew 25: 31-46. We humbly walk with God by doing justice when we, as Christians, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the incarcerated, welcome strangers because at any given time we can find ourselves in these situations. We do kindness by reaching out to others and embracing their walks of life. Galatians 6:9, *So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up* reminds me to not give up no matter how tired or frustrated I may become.

My inspiration comes from the Brief Statement of Faith, *In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.* As a result, I want to work for social justice issues through the structure of the church.