

Statement of Faith: Lesley Abrams

God is the Creator of all: from the microbe to the mountain, from the goldfinch to the galaxies. God – beyond gender, beyond size, beyond time – created the laws of science and nature and created me as a reflection of God’s glory. This mysterious yet knowable God reaches out to us all to be in relationship with God’s self. We belong to God.

Jesus the Christ was the promised Messiah. Jesus is the Son of God, born in the humblest of circumstances, fully human and fully divine. God with skin. He was sent to heal, teach, lead and to discover those who would build God’s church. He walked the earth allowing us to know God personally. At his horrific death, Jesus took upon himself the sins of the world. Through his death we are forgiven the consequences of those sins. Through his resurrection we are promised eternal life.

The Holy Spirit moves through and among us, inspiring, equipping and giving us the courage to do God’s work; to be God’s hands and to grow as Christians. The Holy Spirit guides us to be a people of peace and justice, comfort and compassion. The Holy Spirit whispers, nudges, and drives us to faith. And through the Holy Spirit, God acts in our lives.

We are broken. We sully God’s creation, make wars, ignore the poor, and twist God’s Holy Word to our own purposes. We turn our backs on God. Yet God’s grace is showered upon us. God loves us and knows us. God is present and active in the world.

The Bible is God’s blueprint for us. Part history, part instruction manual, part poetry and part parable, the Bible is the story of God’s relationship with God’s people. Through the Word, we learn of God’s expectations for us, and God’s disappointment with us. We learn how God reaches out to bond with us again and again through gardens, rainbows, tablets, and the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ.

Baptism is God’s claim on us – even before we know God. The waters of baptism cleanse us and prepare us for a life of service to God. In baptism, the Holy Spirit brings us into God’s covenant community. When we take in the elements at the Lord’s Supper, we are nourished spiritually and we are in communion with our Savior. Joining one another at the Lord’s Table, we remember Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf and we give thanks to God.

We are meant to love one another. It is the church’s obligation to preach social issues, while avoiding the trap of politics. Justice is part of the job of the church. Peacemaking is part of the job of the church. Those communities gathering together in churches, city parks, vacant lots and stadiums to worship and serve God are the living body of Christ, each contributing his or her talents to the whole. “Church” evolves through time, but is constant in its ultimate mission: to serve God’s purpose, to praise God’s creative generosity, to proclaim the good news in Christ and to respect God’s sovereignty.

I believe that nothing can separate us from God’s love through Christ Jesus.