

## **Emily Hook: Statement of Faith**

I believe that the one triune God created and breathed life into the universe and has a purpose for each person that God created- that humanity should know and love our Creator and live in connection with God. Humanity was made in God's image so that God's goodness could be reflected in our lives.

Despite this beautiful and intentional creation, sin entered into the world. Thankfully, sin did not cause God to stop loving us but it estranged us from God and distorted our relationship with others. Despite this, God loved us first, even in our sinful state. God's love is not contingent on human action; rather it flows freely for all. God's grace draws us to God and justifies us by faith in God's only son, Jesus Christ, who was both fully human and divine. Jesus was crucified, becoming the ultimate sacrifice for our sins and then rose from the dead after three days. Because of this, Christians can respond to the grace that God extends and consequently are sanctified, redeemed and saved from eternal separation from God.

In light of the gospel, Christians are able to love, because God first loved us, and we are called to share this love with others as we live out our faith. God gives Christians the Holy Spirit who enables them to embrace faith in Jesus Christ, convicts them of sin, moves them to repentance, and allows them to faithfully interpret the Bible, which is the Word of God.

God also gave believers the universal church to encourage and nurture us along the path of discipleship and to faithfully seek to do God's will together in every time and place. The church worships together in prayer, proclamation, and celebration of the two sacraments, which are outward signs of an inward spiritual grace. The sacrament of baptism marks the beginning of a Christian's spiritual journey and commissions the church to encourage and disciple the new child of God. Through the sacrament of communion we are united to Christ and collectively remember who God has called us to be. The Church serves God daily, as it awaits the glorious return of Jesus Christ.