

Vancouver Eastside Vineyard Statement of Faith

Our Vision is to be passionate followers of Jesus, joining together on a journey of healing and growth in love – for God, one another, our neighbours and world. It's a 'journey' because we are all lifelong learners and we come from a common place of need for God's grace.

Our highest calling and privilege is to love God passionately and engage in an ongoing encounter with him, making all of life a sacred place. An authentic encounter with God will translate into a growing, demonstrated, and practical love for one another, as we choose to come out of independence and isolation, to be known and loved in community. This in turn will overflow into loving and serving our neighbourhood and world. Jesus goes where people are hurting the most, and we want to follow him there, to love and to serve and to be Good News. The greatest gift we can offer our neighbourhood and world is community in the presence of God.

We believe in One God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. We believe that every nation is created and loved by God, who is One. We believe God deeply cares for all of creation, and that He calls His children to restore and respect the earth. We call God "Father" because Jesus calls Him Father in the four accounts of the gospel story. We believe this name for God is about His personhood and from where we derive our security and identity, more than it is about gender. We believe that we are created in his image as male and female, and that God as Spirit transcends human sexuality.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived supernaturally by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. We believe that the One God revealed Himself most fully to human beings in the person of Jesus Christ. As prophets in the Old Testament foretold, Jesus was born of a virgin by the power of God's Spirit. What this means is that Jesus is both fully human, and fully divine. Jesus showed who God is, not only through His teachings, but by his healing power. He demonstrated love for people of all races; for women as well as men; children as well as adults; and poor as well as rich. He showed us that every one matters to God. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the place of the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Jesus walked the path each of us walk, yet courageously chose to resist corrupt powers where they existed in the religious and political establishments. As He said, He could have called down angels in heaven

to rescue Him on the cross, yet He knew God had a plan to turn the evil committed against Him into good. God's plan was to raise Jesus from the dead, and restore Jesus' power to Him. God's plan was that Jesus would reveal the extent of God's love. On the cross, Jesus gave up His power to be Judge, and became judged instead, so that each of us who believe in Him would never be condemned. Our only hope of heaven is that God Himself became like one of us. He took the punishment for the slightest mistake as well as the deepest evil in human hearts. This means each human being can be free from the weight of guilt and free to walk in the light of truth and love.

We believe in the Holy Spirit... We believe that the One God has chosen to reveal himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Spirit is God who is present with us now! He empowers us to do the works that Jesus did, which include healing the sick, freeing the oppressed and bringing good news and justice to the poor. the holy catholic Church... "Catholic" here means "universal."

We believe there is One Church, made up of individuals within many congregations and denominations (Roman Catholic, Anglican, Baptist, etc.). We believe that what all followers of Jesus Christ have in common transcends any differences we may have, no matter what our church background. The communion of saints... "Saints" here means your common, every-day, lovers of Christ. But we do have a large community, because the "communion" includes those who have believed in Christ before us, as well as believers around the world.

We believe that the most important expression of our love for God is love and unity between each other. "Saint" is never singular in the Bible, it is always "plural" which means none of us is a saint on our own, we need one another. The forgiveness of sins... Jesus accomplished this by taking the judgment of every human who ever lived, when he died on the cross. This is the crux of our faith—that every person can be FORGIVEN of ANYTHING! We believe that in accepting Jesus' gift of forgiveness, He also gives us a new start—a clean heart, as if we were born all over again.

We believe in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. We who have trusted in Christ share the blessed hope of an eternal future with him and each other in a new heaven and new earth where God will reign supreme in a kingdom of justice and goodness. We also believe in the eternal punishment of the unrepentant wicked, which is eternal separation from the presence of God, who is the source of all goodness, beauty and life.