

STORY

At the heart of our faith is the story of how God has been active through history. But each of us has a story as well. Just as we look to see how God has been at work through history, we also reflect on how God has been at work in our life. Faith happens when we see the intersection of God's story with our own. Our community longs to join God in the writing of how this story will continue to unfold.

WHOLENESS

While we see the work of God in this world, we also hold a deep understanding that not everything is as it should be. God is not finished with the story. In the structures of our world and in our own lives, we see brokenness. But we hope. We long for the final redemption when God will join a new heaven and a new earth together in the ultimate act of restoration. Until then, we choose to live in the Way of Jesus because we believe that is how we will see life flourish in our souls, our homes, our community, our world and in creation.

PRESENCE

As a church community, we are the presence of God in the world today. God is continually moving into the brokenness of this created world, and so do we. Compelled by God's love, we partner with the resurrected Christ to recover the beauty, renewal, and justice that our broken world longs to see. We pray that we will be able to help God's will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

STORY

WHOLENESS

PRESENCE



We believe that the Bible was inspired by God as an account of God's activity in history. With that in mind, what we believe is shaped in the form of a historical narrative...an abbreviated form of the greater story that we are part of:

Creation

We believe in a Creator God who is the ultimate reality. Before the creation, God existed in a community of three that included the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Through the Son, God spoke the created world into existence. God's good and relational nature was passed along to humanity, who were created in God's image. No other being, whether angels or animals, can make the same claim. God's desire for humanity was to have a relationship with us.

STORY

Fall

God offered man a true and full life in this good creation, but humans rejected it. After being deceived, humankind chose to follow their own way, rather than choose the life God had offered. This caused man to fall from intimacy with God, and all of creation's relationship with God became fractured.

Redemption

Though broken hearted over this schism, God worked to again initiate a relationship with humanity. God called Abraham and Sarah to begin this work. God promised them that through their offspring, the Hebrews, all the peoples of the earth would be blessed.

In time, the Hebrews became slaves in Egypt, where they cried to God. God heard their cry and remembered the promise that had been made to Abraham and Sarah. After liberating the Hebrews, God established a covenant relationship with them, offering blessing to them as they followed the Torah, a set of laws or guidelines on how to live. But though the law was meant for good, it became a burden as some tried to prove themselves more righteous than others.

Through one of Abraham's descendants, Jesus, God offered the means to repair the broken relationship with humans. Jesus was God's son, fully human and fully God. He lived a perfect, sinless life, to offer a view for humans of the way that God had designed us to live. Jesus proclaimed this way of life to be the kingdom of God, and invited humanity to live in this way.

Jesus was killed through crucifixion. This was not only a gruesome execution, but also God's offering of self as a final sacrifice to mend this broken relationship with humans. Three days after he was killed, Jesus rose from the dead (also known as resurrection) as a testimony that he offered power over sin and death.

STORY

Restoration

Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus left the earth to be with the Father in heaven. But he did not leave us alone. He promised that he would send the Spirit to come and continue to show us how to live in the way of Jesus. For those who are followers of Jesus, the Spirit affirms us as children of God, empowers with gifts, convicts, guides, comforts, counsels, and leads us into truth through a communal life of worship and a missional expression of our faith.

STORY

When the Spirit came, the church began, and it continues today to extend the kingdom of God on earth. The church is a global and local expression of living out the way of Jesus through love, sacrifice, and healing as we embody the resurrected Christ, who lives in and through us, to a broken and hurting world. We labor to restore relationships between God and humans, and among humans. We hold firmly to the belief that the way of Jesus is the best way to live and it is open to anyone who desires it. As a sign of commitment to living in the way of Jesus, we remember the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus through water baptism.

STORY

But even as we labor for the kingdom of God, we know it is not yet complete. We look forward to the day when Jesus will return, and God will fully and completely restore things to the way they were meant to be. God will dwell with us here in a restored creation. Our relationships with God, others, ourselves, and creation will be whole. All will flourish as God intends. This is what we long for. This is what we hope for. And we have given our lives to living out that future reality now.

STORY

Shalom: God's ultimate goal of health and wholeness for all humankind and the whole of creation.

WHOLENESS

In the last days

the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.

Many peoples will come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.

WHOLENESS

They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

Come, house of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the LORD.

--Isaiah 2:2-5

WHOLENESS

We cannot attain the presence of God because we're already totally in the presence of God. What's absent is awareness...To become aware of God's presence in our lives, we have to accept what is often difficult, particularly for people in what appears to be a successful culture. We have to accept that human culture is in a mass hypnotic trance. We're sleep-walkers. All religious teachers have recognized that we human beings do not naturally see; we have to be taught how to see. -- Richard Rohr

PRESENCE

The church's mission requires both the individuals and groups who, authorized by God to communicate his message, go out from the community to others, near or far, and also the community that manifests God's presences in its midst by its life together and its relationships to others. -- Richard Bauckham

PRESENCE