

THE DAYCHOLAH / WUPPERTAL DECLARATION ON FAITH

Oct '24 - April '25

Our Witness

Isaiah 58:1

“Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins.”

We are a group of young pastors, theologians, and Christian people from the Evangelische Kirche im Rheinland (EKiR) and the United Church of Christ (UCC), working together across borders as an ecumenical community.

We are shaped by our traditions and committed to the Gospel.

We come together in response to the political and spiritual crises of our time.

We cannot remain silent while injustice, hatred, and violence are committed.

We Confess

Jeremiah 31:33

“But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

In the spirit of God's promise through Jeremiah to a people living in exile, who longed for restoration and a renewed covenant, we confess our own need for hearts made tender by divine love and shaped by God's living law.

We confess we have not offered sufficient opportunity to present hope as an alternative to fear.

We confess that this has often led us into exclusive safe spaces, indifference, or frightened silence.

We confess the church's complacency that allowed for perverted versions of the gospel to spread.

We confess the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a living narrative of hope, liberation, abundance, compassion and loving invitation to all people to seek reconciliation with one another.

We Believe

Amos 5:24

“But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

Galatians 3:28–29

“There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

In the spirit of Amos, who proclaimed justice as the outpouring of divine love, and in the spirit of Paul, who taught the Galatians that within the reign of God all earthly divisions fall away:

We believe in God's promise of abundance for all.

We believe in honoring different interpretations of scripture.

We believe in a faith that proclaims a Christ who joins in suffering rather than a Christ who seeks power and domination.

We believe in a faith that proclaims God's Kingdom is already present, and we are invited to participate in it in all we do and say.

We believe faith spaces must be courageous spaces.

We Proclaim

Matthew 5:1–11

*“When Jesus sat down, his disciples came to him.
Then he began to speak, and he taught them, saying:
‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.’”*

In the spirit of Jesus, who proclaimed blessing on the poor, the meek, the merciful, the persecuted, the pure in heart, and all who hunger and thirst for righteousness, we proclaim that God's favor rests not on the powerful but on those who live by love and truth.

John 13:34–35

*“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

Luke 24:42–43

“They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.”

In the spirit of Jesus, who, even on the night of betrayal, commanded love as the mark of true discipleship, and who, after rising from death, ate with his friends to show that life had overcome death, we proclaim that love and life are stronger than fear and hatred.

We are people of the resurrection, standing with the disciples who were shocked, frightened and devastated.

We proclaim the resurrection as a joyful surprise in times of uncertainty.

We affirm that the Church is salt and light.

We proclaim a gospel that encompasses all people and all of creation.

We affirm that all creation belongs to God.

We affirm our call to be good stewards of our resources for the betterment of the global community and future generations.

In response to fear, we proclaim hope.

In response to manipulation, we proclaim liberation.

In response to scarcity, we proclaim abundance.

In response to hate, we proclaim compassion.

We Commit

Joshua 1:9

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

In the spirit of the Holy One's call to courage, we commit to walking boldly in faith, even when the way is difficult.

In the spirit of Shiphrah and Puah, who defied the empire's order to participate in injustice, choosing instead to honor God's sacred gift of life, we commit to holy disobedience whenever human power contradicts divine love (**Exodus 1:8–22**).

In the spirit of Jesus, who rejected the temptation to seize power through manipulation and chose instead to trust the living Word of God, we commit to resisting the false promises of worldly success (**Matthew 4:1–11**).

In the spirit of the apostles, who, after being beaten and threatened, returned joyfully to proclaim the good news, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit to courageous witness, no matter the cost (**Acts 5:17–42**).

We commit to walk humbly towards this vision.

We commit to teaching critical thinking in our communities.

We commit to be counter-cultural.

We commit to find the courage to act out of love instead of fear.

We commit to recognize the belovedness of all people.

We commit to resist and protest dehumanization.

We commit to interfaith dialogue.

We commit to the work of antiracism.

We commit to create educational resources.

We commit to breaking down walls between God's people.

We commit to remembering the Source of our faith.

We commit to being good stewards of scripture.

We Promise

Amos 5:14-15

*“Seek good and not evil, that you may live,
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said.
Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate.”*

In the spirit of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who refused to bow to false power and stood unbound in the fire with God beside them, we promise to remain faithful even when the flames rise around us (**Daniel 3:1–30**).

In the spirit of Jesus' persistent widow, who would not give up seeking justice, trusting that her perseverance would be honored, we promise to keep praying, keep working, and keep trusting that righteousness will prevail (**Luke 18:1–8**).

In our shared covenant, we promise to offer abundant opportunities to experience joy together, learn together, and pray together.

Our Hope

Romans 15:13

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

This declaration is not the final word—it is a beginning.

We do not claim to have all the answers, nor do we expect to control the outcome of this work. In faith, we let go of the results, trusting that God moves through uncertain spaces and imperfect voices.

We offer these words as an invitation:

Take this declaration. Wrestle with it. Change it. Use it.

Carry it forward in your own context, with your own voice, rooted in love, shaped by courage, and led by the Spirit.

Let it become what your community needs it to be.

We trust that the risen Christ meets us not only in clarity, love and eternity, but also in struggle, uncertainty, and faithful witness.

Isaiah 40:31

*“But those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”*

Amen.