

The basis of our congregation's common fellowship is comprehended in the following:

STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, are the inspired and eternal Word of God. These Scriptures are the revealed Will of God to mankind and are the only infallible guide to Christian faith and practice.

WE BELIEVE in one God, the Creator, Preserver, and Ruler of all things, infinite in being and perfect in justice, wisdom, holiness, truth and love. He exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

WE BELIEVE that mankind was created in righteousness and holiness in the image of God, and his purpose was to glorify God. He was endowed with the power of rational and responsible choice, and through the test of his obedience, mankind fell from grace. He was alienated from God and now lives in sin. In sin, mankind is separated from God and unable to save himself; physically and spiritually.

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. As the eternal Son of God, Jesus took upon Himself human form. Since He was born of the virgin Mary, He perfectly united the divine and human nature. We believe that God provided salvation from sin for mankind through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ upon the cross. In this way, Jesus took upon Himself the penalty of our sin, and all who believe in Him are justified because of His sacrificial death. We believe that on the third day Jesus Christ rose from the dead; that He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God, where He intercedes for us until the time of His coming again. Then He will come personally and visibly to complete His saving work and to consummate the eternal plan of God.

WE BELIEVE in the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit reveals to us the things of Christ, convicts us of sin, calls us to repentance, justifies us before God and carries on the process of renewal. The work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the individual Christian and congregation is witnessed by the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit and the ministry of the gifts of the Spirit.

WE BELIEVE that salvation is wholly by grace, that God desires each person to seek Him, to repent of his sin, and to live a life characterized by obedience and holiness. We believe that those who are Christians are so not only in name but in nature. They have acknowledged Jesus Christ to be the Savior and Lord of their life and are growing in their knowledge of His Word and Will. The Christian life is a process of repentance and renewal that will not be complete until the consummation of the age.

WE BELIEVE He calls us into His church to accept the cost of discipleship. He requires us to be His servant in the service of mankind, to proclaim the Gospel to all the world and to resist the powers of evil. We are committed to observe the ordinance of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and to proclaim to a lost world that Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord.

Service for the Lord's Day

10⁰⁰ AM

Sunday, the 2nd of April, Year of Our Lord 2017



Welcome!

RYE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

~ In the heart of Rye since 1726 ~

Let us take the cup of salvation and call upon His name.



Please use the opportunity afforded by the Prelude to prayerfully prepare for worship and assist us in establishing an air of reverence as the hour draws near.

Prelude: *Chorale Prelude on "Christ, Who Is My Life"* J.G. Walther

(10⁰⁰ am) {Welcome, Announcements, & Greetings}

How Deep the Father's Love for Us Wayne Gould & Melinda McMahon S. Townend

Scriptural Call to Worship: *(from Psalm 73 ~ A Psalm of Asaph)*

Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.

For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles. They are free from the burdens common to man.

Therefore pride is their necklace; from their callous hearts comes iniquity. Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth.

They say, "What can God know? Does the Most High know anything?" This is what the wicked are like; always carefree, increasing their wealth.

Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure. When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me.

Then I entered the sanctuary of God; and I understood their final destiny. As from a dream awakened, O Lord, You will disperse their fantasies.

When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before You.

But I am always with You; You take hold of my right hand. You guide me with Your counsel, and afterward You will take me into glory.

Whom have I in Heaven but You? And earth has nothing I desire besides You.

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. It is good to be near God. I have made the LORD my refuge.

* Opening Hymn: *Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him* #82

Choir Anthem: *The Glory of Our God* D. Bortniansky

* Those who are comfortably able, please stand. All others, please remain comfortably seated.

O taste and see that the Lord is good!

Children's Moment

Offertory: *Chorale Offertory on "All Glory Be to God on High"* J.C. Bach

* ♪♪ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.** (#815)

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

Faith and Deeds James 2:14-17 (page 1882)

* ♪♪ **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.** (#813)

The Parable of the Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37 (page 1612)

Sermon: *The Prism of Christ*

* Profession of Faith: *The Apostles' Creed* The Hymnal, inside back cover

Words of Institution of the Lord's Supper & *Lord's Prayer* (*forgive us our debts ...*)

♪♪ **Day by day, day by day, O, dear Lord, three things I pray: To see Thee more clearly, Love Thee more dearly, Follow Thee more nearly, Day by day.**

The Lord's Supper *Purify My Heart* Mindy McMahon, soloist B. Doerksen

* Closing Hymn: *My Jesus, I Love Thee* #79

* Benediction

Postlude: *Postlude on "Now Thank We All Our God"* R. Schulz-Widmar

Faith without deeds is dead. ~ James 2.26

(Hearing-aid headphones are available at the sound booth in the rear of the sanctuary.)