

*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  
10<sup>00</sup> AM*

*Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, Year of Our Lord 2016*



*Welcome!*

**RYE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

*~ In the heart of Rye since 1726 ~*

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, Let us go up to the house of the Lord.*



Please use the time afforded by the prelude to prayerfully prepare for worship.

Prelude: *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*

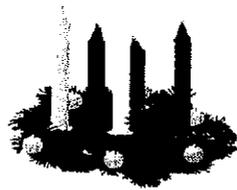
J. Pachelbel

Choral Introit: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

French carol

(10<sup>00</sup> am)

{Welcome, Announcements, & Greetings}



Lighting the Advent Wreath

Rev. Ron & Linda Lavoie

Scriptural Call to Worship: (adapted from Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7)

There will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past He humbled, but in the future He will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan.

**The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.**

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders.

**And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.

**He will reign on David's throne and over His kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.**

\* Opening Hymn: *Joy to the World*

#270

Pastoral Prayer & 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.*

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

*Happy the people whose God is the Lord.*

Choir Anthem: *Voices in the Night*

D. Wagner

Children's Moment

Offertory: *See Amid The Winter's Snow*

C. Tambling

\* ♪♪ *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

*Tidings of Comfort and Joy*

Isaiah 40:6-11 (page 1119)

\* ♪♪ *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 Birth of Jesus*

Luke 2:1-7 (page 1590)

Sermon: *Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room!*

\* Closing Hymn: *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

#258

Benediction

Postlude: *Postlude on Cradle Song*

G. Young

*The wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. ~ Luke 2.7*

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