

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 18th 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 assist us in establishing an air of reverence as the hour draws near by using the time afforded by the Prelude to prayerfully prepare for worship.

Prelude: *Pastorale on a French Carol* (Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence) G. Young

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



Lighting the Advent Wreath

Wayne & Joyce Gould

Scriptural Call to Worship: *(adapted from Luke 1:68-75, 77-79)*

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has redeemed His people.

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He said through His holy prophets of long ago;

to show mercy to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, the oath He swore to our father Abraham:

to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve Him without fear in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.

To give His people the knowledge of salvation and forgiveness of sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the Rising Sun will come to us from Heaven;

to shine upon those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.

* Opening Hymn: *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne* #292

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.

Children's Moment

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

Happy the people whose God is the Lord.

Offertory: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* Traditional Basque Carol

* ♪ 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

The Servant of the Lord Isaiah 42:1-9 (page 1124)

* ♪ 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 John the Baptist Luke 1:57-80 (page 1589)

Sermon: *A Single Purpose — A Holy Life*

* Closing Hymn: *Angels From the Realms of Glory* #259

Benediction

Postlude: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* 13th century plainsong arranged by E. McLean

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for Him. ~ Luke 1.76

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