

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 27th of December, Year of Our Lord 2015



Welcome!

RYE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

~ In the heart of Rye since 1726 ~

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

{Welcome, Announcements, & Greetings}

Prelude: *Away in a Manger*

Normandy Carol, and Cradle Song

Call to Worship & Psalm of the Day: *(from Psalm 104)*

Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, Thou art very great; Thou art clothed with honor and majesty.

Who covers Thyself with light as with a garment: Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain:

Who lays the beams of His chambers in the waters: Who makes the clouds his chariot: Who walks upon the wings of the wind:

Who makes His angels spirits; His ministers a flaming fire: Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed forever.

Thou covers with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.

At Thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of Thy thunder they hasted away.

They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which Thou hast founded for them.

Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.

He sends the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills.

They give drink to every beast of the field and quench their thirst.

By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches.

He waters the hills from His chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy works.

* Opening Hymn: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

#251

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer *(forgive us our debts ...)*

Special Music: *I Wonder as I Wander* Melinda McMahon, mezzo soprano J.J. Niles

Children's Moment (after which the children gather for Sunday School)

Offertory: *O Jesu, Sweet Child*

Melody by S. Scheidt/Harmony J.S. Bach

Happy the people whose God is the Lord.

* (#815) **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.**

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

The Branch From Jesse

Isaiah 11:1-9 (page 1076)

* (#813) **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.**

The Shepherds and the Angels

Luke 2:8-20 (page 1591)

Sermon: *Glory to God in the Highest!*

* Closing Hymn: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

#258

* Benediction

Postlude: *Good Christian Men Rejoice*

14th Century Carol

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung,

Of Jesse's lineage coming, As men of old have sung.

It came a flow'ret bright Amid the cold of winter

When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, This Rose that I have in mind.

And with Mary we behold it, The virgin mother so sweet and so kind.

To show God's love aright, She bore to men a Saviour

When half-spent was the night.

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

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