

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.

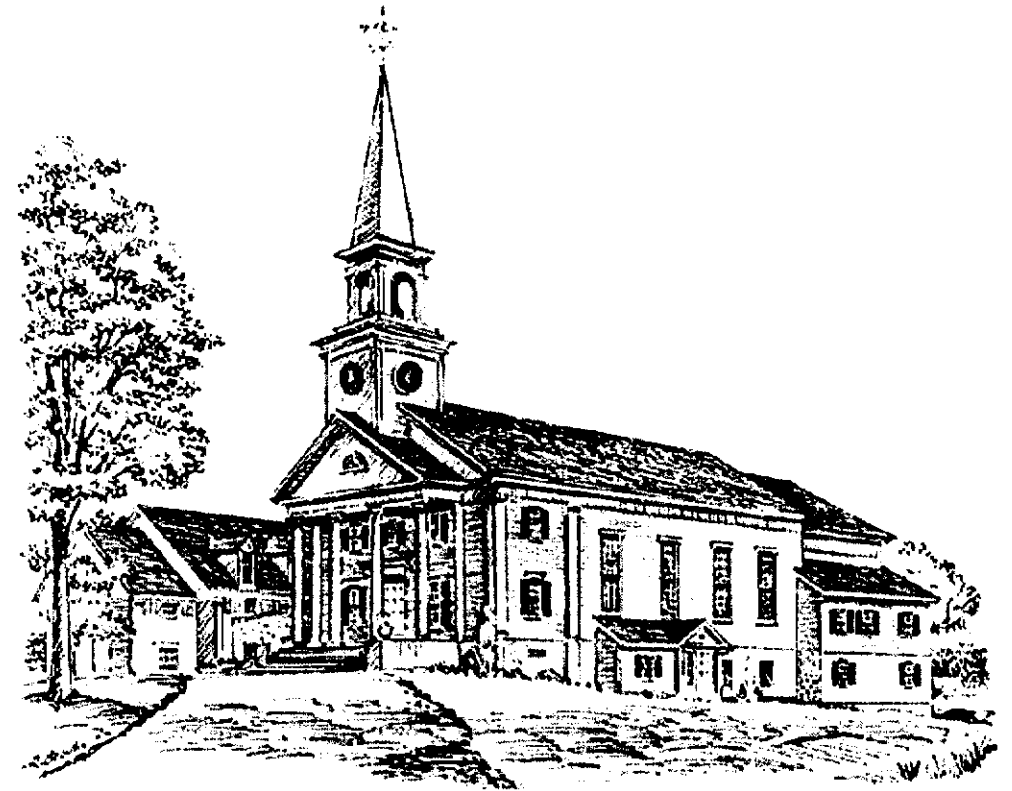
WE BELIEVE that salvation is wholly by grace, that God desires each person to seek Him, to repent of his sin, and to live a life characterized by obedience and holiness. We believe that those who are Christians are so not only in name but in nature. They have acknowledged Jesus Christ to be the Savior 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 14th of January, Year of Our Lord 2018



Welcome!

RYE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
~ Celebrating God's Love in the Heart of Rye Since 1726 ~

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



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

Prelude from Cello Suite No. 1

J.S. Bach, piano transcription

(10⁰⁰ am)

{Welcome, Announcements, & Greetings}

♪♪ (#170) Give thanks with a grateful heart; Give thanks to the Holy One; Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son (repeat).

And now let the weak say, I am strong; Let the poor say, I am rich, because of what the Lord has done for us (repeat). Give thanks!

Scriptural Call to Worship: (from Psalm 105)

Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done. Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts.

Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Look to the LORD and His strength; seek His face always.

Remember the wonders He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He pronounced.

He remembers His covenant forever, the word He commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant He made with Abraham, the oath He swore to Isaac.

He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit.

When they were but few in number, few indeed, and strangers in it, they wandered from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another.

He opened the rock, and water gushed out; like a river it flowed in the desert. For He remembered His holy promise given to His servant Abraham.

He brought out His people with rejoicing, with shouts of joy. Praise the LORD!

* Opening Hymn: *In Christ There Is No East or West*

#428

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

♪♪ (#385) *Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is peace; Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is love. There is comfort in life's darkest hour; There is light and life, there is help and power in the Spirit, in the Spirit of the Lord.*

Children's Moment

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

O taste and see that the Lord is good!

God Speed Hymn: *The Holly and the Ivy*

(see insert)

Offertory

* ♪♪ *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

Balaam's Fourth Oracle

Numbers 24:15-19 (page 249)

* ♪♪ *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 Visit of the Magi

Matthew 2:1-12 (page 1497)

Sermon: *The Fear of the Lord and Holy Worship*

* Profession of Faith: *The Apostles' Creed*

The Hymnal, inside back cover

The Lord's Supper

* Closing Hymn: *As with Gladness Men of Old*

#290

Benediction

Postlude: *Zu Tanze, Zu Sprunge*, J.S. Bach, transcribed for piano by Walter Rummel.

We have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him. ~ Matthew 2:1

Following the worship service, please join us at the Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall.

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