

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 3rd of January, Year of Our Lord 2016



Welcome!

RYE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

~ In the heart of Rye since 1726 ~

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

{Welcome, Announcements, & Greetings}

Introit: *Come Rejoicing!*

O Sanctissima

Prelude: *Prelude on Away in a Manger*

Arranged for Organ by D. Lasky

Call to Worship & Psalm of the Day: *(from Psalm 1)*

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law does he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

*Opening Hymn: *We Three Kings*

#288

Choral Anthem: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

G. Holst

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

Offertory: *What Star Is This That Shines So Bright* 15th c., Puer Nobis, adap. M. Praetorius

* (#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

Balaam's Oracle

Numbers 24:10-19 (page 249)

(#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.*

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

O taste and see that the Lord is good!

The Visit of the Magi

Matthew 2:1-12 (page 1497)

Sermon: *A Star Shall Come Out of Jacob ~ A Scepter Shall Rise Out of Israel*

* Profession of Faith: *The Apostles' Creed*

The Hymnal, inside back cover

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

Communion

Closing Prayer

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

#290

*Benediction

Postlude: *As With Gladness & God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said: He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open: "I shall see Him, but not now: I shall behold Him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel." ~ Numbers 24.15-17

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