

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 31st of January, 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 to the house of the Lord.

{Welcome, Announcements, & Greetings}

Introit: *I Will Lift Up My Eyes* Mindy McMahon, voice and dulcimer M. McMahon

Prelude: *Larghetto in E Flat Major* W. Volkmar

Call to Worship & Psalm of the Day: *(from Psalm 121 ~ A Song of Degrees)*

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the LORD, which made Heaven and Earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: He shall preserve thy soul.

**The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth,
and even for evermore.**

* Opening Hymn: *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven* insert

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

Choir Anthem: *I Will Lift Up My Eyes* L. Larson

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

Offertory: *Lento in G* C.H. Rinck

* (#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

Suffering for Doing Good I Peter 3:8-17 (page 1890)

* (#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.

Happy the people whose God is the Lord.

John the Baptist Denies Being the Christ

John 1:19-34 (page 1646)

Sermon: *Faithful Witnesses*

* Closing Hymn: *Another Year Is Dawning*

#811

* Benediction

Postlude: *Moderato in B minor*

G.A. Sorge

*Always be prepared to give an
answer to everyone who asks you to
give the reason for the hope that you
have. ~ 1 Peter 3:15*

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