

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.

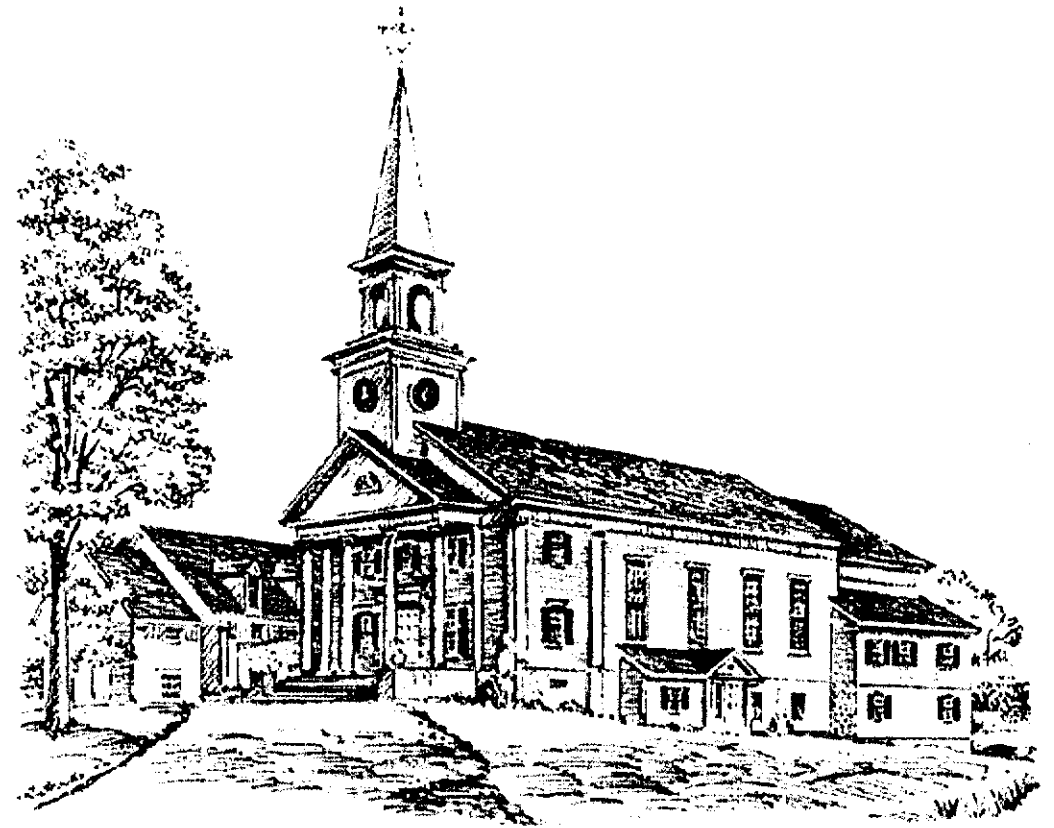
WE BELIEVE that salvation is wholly by grace, that God desires each person to seek Him, to repent of his sin, and to live a life characterized by obedience and holiness. We believe that those who are Christians are so not only in name but in nature. They have acknowledged Jesus Christ to be the Savior 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 8th of January, Year of Our Lord 2017




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 use the time afforded by the prelude to prayerfully prepare for worship.

Prelude: *Canon in D* J. Pachelbel

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

Choral Introit: *'Tis Winter Now, the Fallen Snow* arr. R. Vaughan Williams

Scriptural Call to Worship: *(selected verses from John 1:1-17)*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him was not anything made that has been made.

In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him.

He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him.

Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to be called children of God.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, Who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

From the fullness of His grace we have all received, blessing upon blessing. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

* Opening Hymn: *One Small Child* #280

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.*

Choir Anthem: *Follow Jesus* J. Purifoy

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 Star Proclaims the King Is Here* J. Pachelbel

* ¶¶ *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: *Wise Men Still Seek Him!*

* Closing Hymn: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* #251

Benediction

Postlude: *Toccata in F* J. Pachelbel

I see Him, nobut t now; I behold Him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. ~ Numbers 24.17

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