

*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*

*10<sup>00</sup> AM*

*Sunday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, 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.*

*Happy the people whose God is the Lord.*



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

Prelude: *The Prayer*

C.B. Sager and D. Foster

(10<sup>00</sup> am)

{Welcome, Announcements, & Greetings}

Call to Worship: *In the Bulb There is a Flower*

N. Sleeth

Scriptural Call to Worship: *(adapted from Psalm 71)*

In You, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

**Rescue me and deliver me in Your righteousness; turn Your ear to me and save me.**

Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for You are my rock and my fortress.

**For You have been my hope, O Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth.**

From birth I have relied on You; You brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise You.

**Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone.**

Be not far from me, O God; come quickly, O my God, to help me.

**My mouth will tell of Your righteousness and of Your salvation all day long, though I know not its measure.**

Since my youth You have taught me, and to this day I declare Your marvelous deeds.

**Though You have made me see troubles, many and bitter, You will restore my life again.**

From the depths of the earth You will again bring me up.

**My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to You — I, whom You have redeemed.**

\* Opening Hymn: *I Hide Your Word Within My Heart*

#411

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.

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

Choir Anthem: *Lift a Song, All Ye People*

J. Martin

Children's Moment

Offertory: *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

F.C. Atkinson

\* ♪♪ **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

*The Parable of the Growing Seed*

Mark 4:26-29 (page 1558)

\* ♪♪ **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 Parable of the Sower*

Luke 8:1-15 (page 1605)

Sermon: *O God, How Does Your Garden Grow?*

\* Closing Hymn: *O Word of God Incarnate*

#414

Benediction

Postlude: *Moderato in B Minor*

O. Ravello

*The seed that fell on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the Word, retain it, and by persevering produce a good crop. ~ Luke 8.15*

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