

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 5th of March, Year of Our Lord 2017



Welcome!

RYE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

~ 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: *Intermezzo in A Major, op. 118, no.2* Brahms

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

Call to Worship: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* Irish melody

Scriptural Call to Worship: (from Psalm 69~ of David. To the tune of 'Lillies')

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.

I sink in the miry depths, where there is no foothold. I have come into the deep waters; the floods engulf me.

I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched. My eyes fail, looking for my God.

Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal.

I endure scorn for Your sake, and shame covers my face. I am a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons; for zeal for Your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult You fall on me.

Rescue me from the mire, do not let me sink; deliver me from those who hate me, from the deep waters.

Do not let the floodwaters engulf me or the depths swallow me up or the pit close its mouth over me.

Do not hide Your face from Your servant; answer me quickly, for I am in trouble.

Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none.

They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.

The LORD hears the needy and does not despise His captive people.

Let heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and all that move in them, for God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah.

* Opening Hymn: *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* #21

Choir Anthem: *The Lord's Prayer* M. Durufle

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

O taste and see that the Lord is good!

Children's Moment:

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

The Vine and the Branches

John 15:1-8 (page 1676)

* ♪♪ **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)

A Tree and Its Fruit

Luke 6:43-45 (page 1602)

Sermon: *Fruit Inspection*

* Profession of Faith: *The Apostles' Creed*

The Hymnal, inside back cover

Words of Institution of the Lord's Supper & *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.**

The Lord's Supper & Closing Prayer

* Closing Hymn: *And Can it Be*

#347

Benediction & Postlude: *Sonata in A Major; 1st movement - Allegro Assai* C.P.E. Bach

No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ~ Luke 6.43

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