

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 24th of September, Year of Our Lord 2017



Welcome!

RYE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

~ Celebrating God's Love 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: *Schlummerlied, Op.124, No.16*

R. Schumann

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

Choral Call to Worship: *We Are Singing* Zulu melody (Seasons of Praise)

Scriptural Call to Worship: (from Psalm 97)

The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.

Clouds and thick darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim His righteousness, and all the peoples see His glory.

All who worship images are put to shame, those who boast in idols.

Zion hears and rejoices and the villages of Judah are glad because of You, O LORD.

For You, O LORD, are the exalted over all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods.

Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for He guards the lives of His faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light is shed upon the righteous and joy upon the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, and praise His holy name.

* Opening Hymn: *This Is My Father's World* #143

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

♪♪ Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; Incline thine ear to us and grant us Thy peace. Amen. (#641)

Choir Anthem: *For a Moment* C. Courtney

Children's Moment

Offertory

Happy the people whose God is the Lord.

* ♪♪ **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

God Speed Hymn: *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* #602

The Branch from Jesse Isaiah 11:1-9 (page 1076)

* ♪♪ **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 Little Children and Jesus Luke 18:15-17 (page 1629)

Sermon: *Childlike Faith*

* Closing Hymn: *Children of the Heavenly Father* #719

Benediction

Postlude on "Finlandia" J. Sibelius

Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ~ Luke 18:16

Following the worship service, please join us at the Coffee Hour Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall.

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

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