

*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.

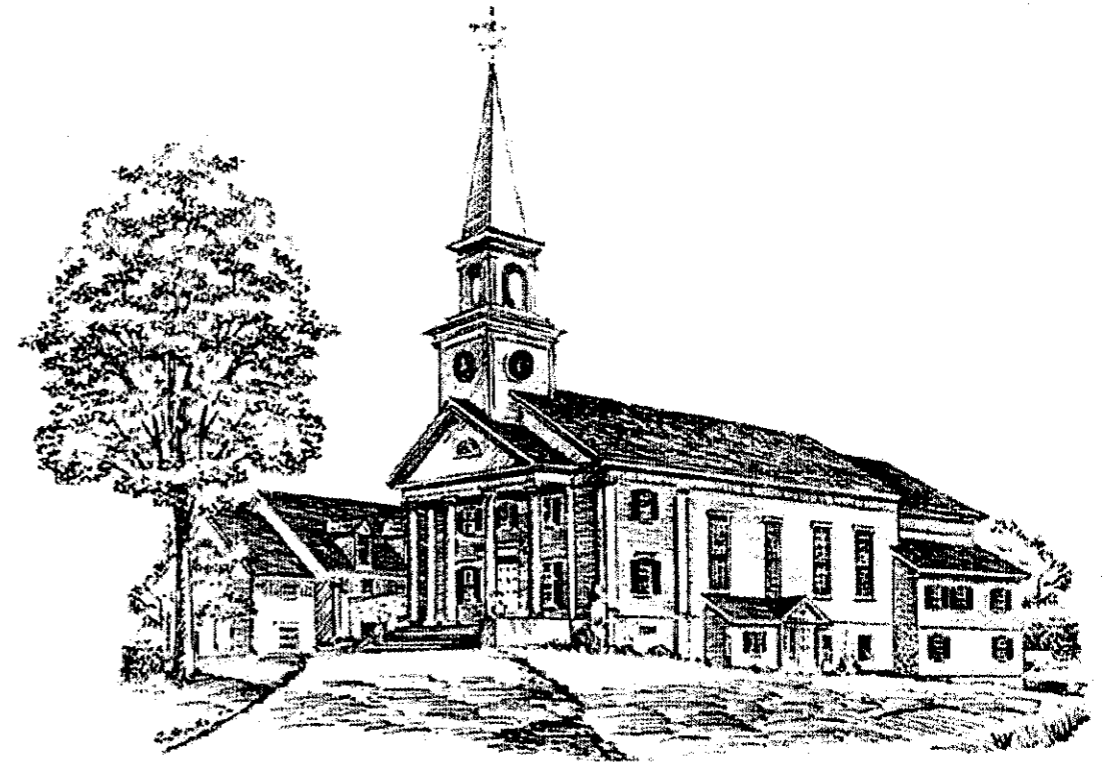
WE BELIEVE that salvation is wholly by grace, that God desires each person to seek Him, to repent of his sin, and to live a life characterized by obedience and holiness. We believe that those who are Christians are so not only in name but in nature. They have acknowledged Jesus Christ to be the Savior 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 5<sup>th</sup> of January, Year of Our Lord 2020*



*Welcome!*

**RYE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

*~ Celebrating God's Love in the Heart of Rye Since 1726 ~*

*Let us take the cup of salvation and call upon His name.*

Prelude: *Carol of the Bells* arr. George Winston

(10<sup>00</sup> am) {Welcome, Announcements, & Greetings}

♪♪ (#431) *Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory. Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy. Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Choral Call to Worship: *'Tis Winter Now; the Fallen Snow* R. Vaughan Williams

Scriptural Call to Worship: (from Psalm 17 ~ A Prayer of David)  
Hear, O LORD, my righteous plea; listen to my cry. May my vindication come from You; may Your eyes see what is right.

**Though You probe my heart and examine me at night, though You test me, You will find nothing; I have resolved that my mouth will not sin.**

Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings from the wicked who assail me, from my mortal enemies who surround me.

**They close up their callous hearts and speak with arrogance. They have tracked me down, they now surround me, with eyes alert, to throw me to the ground.**

They are like a lion hungry for prey, like a great lion crouching in cover. O LORD, by Your hand save me from such men, from men of this world whose reward is in this life.

**And I, in righteousness, I will see Your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing Your likeness.**

\* Opening Hymn: *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne* #292

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

♪♪ (#349) *O how He loves you and me! O how He loves you and me! He gave His life; what more could He give? O how He loves you; O how He loves me; O how He loves you and me!*

Choir Anthem: *He's Come from Heaven Above* R. E. Schram

Children's Moment (with Sunday School following)

Offertory

\* Those who are comfortably able, please stand.

*O taste and see that the Lord is good!*

\* ♪♪ *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

*Jesus and John the Baptist* Matthew 11:1-15 (page 1512)

\* ♪♪ *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)

*John the Baptist Denies Being the Christ* John 1:19-28 (page 1646)

Sermon: *Elijah the Prophet Turning Hearts*

\* Profession of Faith: *The Apostles' Creed* The Hymnal, inside back cover

Communion Hymn: *Break Thou the Bread of Life* #413 (vss. 1 & 5)

The Lord's Supper

\* Closing Hymn: *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* #602

Benediction

Postlude: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling/Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* arr. M. Bober



*Following the service, please join us at the Fellowship Hour downstairs.*

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