

those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.



YORKVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Pastor: Rev. Mark Gregory

Ministers: The Congregation

Worship: 10:00 A.M.

December 17, 2017

Message: *What's in a name?* *Pastor Mark Gregory*

Preparing for a Week of Serving

***The Closing Hymn:** *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* *Chalice Hymnal #153*

~ Carrying the Light into the World ~

***The Blessing, Alleluia & Benediction:**

Postlude: **Tina Andersen**

Offerings for December 10, 2017

Worship Assistants for December

Operating \$3,001.00
Designated \$460.00
Attendance 146

Church Guardians
Fred Dickson (12/3)
Jeff Farren (12/10)
Andy Hamblin (12/17)
Becky Jerabek (12/24)
Jeff Kline (12/31)

Liturgist: Jim Davis

Greeters:
12/3 - Andy & Pam Hamblin w/
DJ Melhouse & Greyson
Tsusaki
Acolyte: Aidan Donahue
12/10 - Gere Ryerson & Sandy
deRidder w/Chanel
Bravo & Cayla Pottinger
Acolyte: Mariana Olvera
12/17 - Ron & Deb Bezroukoff w/
Luke DeFuss & Owen
Shatters
Acolyte: Alexia Prochaska
12/24 @ 10am - Jo Pierce &
Tess Tsusaki
12/24 @ 10pm - JoAnn Vitek &
Jean Anderson
12/31 - Art Prochaska & Linda
Melhouse



As We Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

“Saints are ordinary people who love Jesus, try to be like him, are faithful to the duties of their state in life, sacrifice themselves for their neighbor, and keep their hearts and minds free of this world.” ~Mother Angelica

“Where there is love there is life.” ~Mahatma Gandhi

“Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas.” ~Dale Evans

We Gather Together

Prelude:
Lighting the Path
Ring of the Bells
Welcome and Trinitarian Greeting

Tina Andersen

A Time for Praise and Preparation

Introit: *Celebrate the Child* (Rouse)

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord has done great things!
People: My mouth is filled with laughter and praise!
Leader: The Lord has done great things!
People: That which is dry and parched is watered anew; that which is wasted and barren springs forth with new life!
Leader: The Lord has done great things!
People: Tears of sorrow are replaced by shouts of joy!
Leader: The Lord has done great things!
ALL: The Lord has done great things!

Opening Hymn: *Angels From the Realms of Glory* *Chalice Hymnal #149*

Children's Message

Special Music: *Angels We Have Heard on High* Jenna Anderson

Lighting the Third Candle of Advent: Love The Olvera Family

Leader: On the first two Sundays of Advent we lighted candles for hope and for peace. (*The Candles of Hope and Peace are lighted again*)
Today we light the third candle—the candle of love. The flame of the third candle signifies the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, a love that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

People: We Light the Candle of Love! (The 3rd candle is lighted)
Leader: Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. May the

light of these three candles illuminate our lives with your imagination.

People: Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

***The Gloria Patri:**

Glory be to the Savior, and to our God, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, love without end. Amen.

***Passing of the Peace:**

With a “Holy Hug” or a “Holy Handshake,” we greet those around us as a sharing of God’s love with the words, “Welcome, the Peace of Christ be with you.”

Announcements, Joys & Concerns

***Please pray for members of our congregation, their friends and families.

Bill Andersen	Dee Cruise	Rhonda Ladson	Ethel Perkins
Brad Andrus	Bob Freeman	Sandy Lindblom	Sandy Veselka
Michelle Atwood	Mary Freeman	Mazie Marshall	Marie Wayne
Bill Behrens	Michael Heinrich	Jean Martin	
Lynn Belcher	Hornbuckle Family	Joanne Matlock	
Mary Cass	Joe Hudgins	Ed Niesen	
Doc Coleman	Norm Kuhman	Joanne O'Brien	

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: *Come and See the Newborn King* (Johnson)

Responding to God's Gifts and Grace

The Call for the Offering

Offertory Hymn: *The First Noel (Verse 1)* *Chalice Hymnal #151*

***The Presentation - The Doxology:**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self:**

Giving God, I give you thanks for the many gifts and blessings you have entrusted to me. I especially thank you for the love you pour into my heart and my life through the gift of your Son. Use me and the gifts I bring to spread His message of Your love throughout the world. Amen.

We Listen for God's Word

Anthem: *Have You Seen the Tiny Little Baby* (Gray)

Scripture Background

Scripture Lessons: **Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for