

Yet, the wondrous gift to kindle another's glow.  
Be in awe at this moment as each person takes up the flame,  
And the light envelopes this room,  
As hope for peace and goodwill fill this night.  
So may it be.

Hymn: *Silent Night* *Chalice Hymnal #145*

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

\*The Closing Hymn: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* *Chalice Hymnal #164*  
~ Carrying the Light into the World ~

\*The Blessing, Alleluia & Benediction:

Postlude: *Tina Andersen*



YORKVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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Pastor: Rev. Mark Gregory Ministers: The Congregation

December 24, 2017 - 10:00PM



## We Gather Together

**Prelude:**  
**Lighting the Path**  
**Ringling of the Bells**  
**Welcome and Trinitarian Greeting**

Tina Andersen

### A Time for Praise and Preparation

**Introit Anthem:** *Celebrate the Child* (Rouse)  
**Call to Worship**

Leader: Sing to the Lord and bless God's holy name!  
**People: Praise to the one whose glory is known among nations!**  
Leader: Sing to the Lord and bless God's holy name!  
**People: Praise to the creator of the heavens!**  
Leader: Sing to the Lord and bless God's holy name!  
**People: Praise to the righteous judge of all!**  
Leader: Sing to the Lord and bless God's holy name!  
**All: Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice: the God of love comes near!**

**Opening Hymn:** *Joy To The World* Chalice Hymnal #143

**Lighting the Christ Candle** Joe & Diane Stablein

Leader: Hope, peace, love, and joy. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps. *[The four Advent candles are lit.]*

**All: We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—born in a stable, growing up in humble surroundings, changing lives and the world through his adult ministry, and in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago. Come to us, Lord Jesus, Be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. (The Christ Candle is lighted).**

**All: Jesus, may the light of your life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen**

**Unison Prayer of Praise and Gratitude:**

Loving and generous God, we praise and thank you for the joys of Christmas: the candle light, the music and the singing, being together with family and friends, the gifts we give and receive. But we thank you most of all for your great gift to us - the child Jesus. May Christ's Spirit of love fill our hearts to over-flowing. May Christ's Spirit of

peace be upon everyone, everywhere, everyday from this day forward. In His name, Amen.

**Celebration of Christ's Birth in Word and Song**

Narration - Read By: Jim Stott  
Narration - Read By: John Morello  
Song: *Come Emmanuel* (Choplin)  
Narration - Read By: Lou Ann Hoffman  
Song: *Come and See the Newborn King* (V. Johnson)  
Duet: Wendy and Deb Myers  
Narration - Read By: Carrie DeFuss  
**Hymn:** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Chalice Hymnal#14  
(Congregation sings)  
Narration - Read By: Jo Pierce  
Song: *Tell the News* (McDonald)  
Narration - Read By: Gail Gaebler  
Song: *Mary Did You Know* (Schrader)  
The Trumble family  
Narration - Read By: Dusty Rhodes  
**Hymn:** *Angels We Have Heard on High* Chalice Hymnal#155  
(Congregation Sings)

**Offering:** *(As the hymn is sung, the ushers will pass the offering plates. May the gift of salvation that you have been given in the Christ Child, renew in you a desire to share the gifts that you have been given.)*

Narration - Read By: Krista Yabsley  
Song: *Behold our God* (Mary McDonald)  
Narration - Read By: Lea Ann Skogsberg  
Song: *This Child* (Mary McDonald)

### SHARING THE LIGHT:

The ushers will come forward to receive the light from the Christ Candle and then proceed to light the candles of each person seated along the aisles. Pass the light to the person next to you, with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you". This sharing of the light is a way to symbolize our belief that God's love, revealed in the Light of the World, Jesus the Christ, is sufficient to overcome the darkness of our lives. Once you have passed the light:

Be still in the darkness of this sacred space,  
And listen to the quiet around you.  
For even in the quiet, there is the gentle being with others.  
Feel the warmth of this community, knowing you are not alone.  
For in the quiet shadow is the glow of life within all.  
Know, in the darkness, the gift each candle bears,  
A small flame, a diminutive light –