

**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

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*Mr. Matthew deRaad, Organist-Choir Director*

*The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian-Minister*

**SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE**

11:00 A.M.

January 9, 2005

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE**

**CHIMES**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

\*HYMN - #115 - *"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"*

\*INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Eternal God, You are the same yesterday, today and forever. As You have brought us through the trials and turmoil of the closing year, we know that Your ever present Spirit will guide us into the unknown experiences of this new year, so that we can enter into it without fear or anxiety. May we follow You through the one who is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught us to pray:

"Our Father, Who art in heaven..."

\*GLORIA PATRI

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**MORNING MEDITATION AND PRAYER:**

**PASTOR:** Everlasting God, by whose mercy we have come to the gateway of another year, grant that we may enter the New Year with humble and grateful hearts.

**PEOPLE:** We thank you for the year that is past.

**PASTOR:** We thank you for every satisfying experience, for victories won, for progress made during the past year.

**PEOPLE:** May we, who are pilgrims, conscious of life's varying scenes, learn by faith to cling to you.

**PASTOR:** We know that you will be in the future as you have been in the past. We know that you will lead us on through all the tomorrows as you have led us through the yesterdays.

**PEOPLE:** We know that you will not let us go, even when we try to wander from your way.

**PASTOR:** As we set our faces toward the New Year, we know full well that it will bring many changes.

**PEOPLE:** The old must give place to the new.

**PASTOR:** Give us courage and fortitude enabling us to stand firm upon our faith.

**UNISON:** Guide us in worship this day, and may your spirit be always with us. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**ANTHEM**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING -**

*Offertory Solo - Gayaneh Kachadourian*

\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**SCRIPTURE READING:**

*Armenian: Numbers 6: 22 - 26, (p. 215)*

*Galatians 5: 1 (p 1815)*

*Hebrews 11: 1-2 (p. 1875)*

*English: Psalm 16 (pp. 853 - 854)*

**SOLO:** *Gayaneh Kachadourian*

**ARMENIAN SERMON:** *Facing the Future*

**HYMN - # 70 - "Anywhere With Jesus, I Can Safely Go" (v. 1)**

**ENGLISH SERMON:** *The Journey of Life*

\*HAYR MER - # 133

\*BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: *"Park Kéz Dér, Asdvadz MÉR"*

**QUIET MEDITATION**

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

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*\*Congregation is requested to stand.*

*\*\*\* Latecomers may be seated.*

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WE WELCOME TO OUR CHANCEL** this morning our own soloist, Gayaneh Kachadourian.

**SPECIAL ENVELOPES IN THE BULLETIN** is for your convenience to donate to South East Asia Tsunami Relief. This Tsunami is one of the worst natural disasters in recent history. The death toll surpasses 150,000. There are numerous homeless people. Let's extend a caring hand and participate in this humanitarian effort.

**THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE A.C.C. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** will be held today, January 9, 2005, in the Christian Education Room, following the Morning Worship Service.

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be held on Sunday, January 16, 2005, immediately following the Morning Worship Service. All boards and organizations are requested to submit their reports.

**THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES** will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Christian Education room.

**WE NEED SPONSORS FOR ALTAR FLOWERS AND COFFEE HOURS.** Please sign your name on the church bulletin board. The sponsorship fee for the flowers and for the Coffee hour is \$50.00 each.

**SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON:**

Our Scripture reading for this occasion give us instructions on how we should face the future.

**1. The first, from Numbers, reminds us that we should face the future with a sense of DIVINE FAVOR.**

God is not an enemy; He is a friend. He is not against us; He is for us. He who walks beside us is the God with a shining face. The God who is revealed to us through Jesus Christ is a God who loves people. That kind of God has to be a smiling God.

**2. The second reading is from Galatians, and it says that we face the future with FREEDOM.**

Paul sums it up like this: "You are no longer a slave but a son." We do not walk into this new year with shackles on our souls. We are free humans, children of God. Christ has set us free to think, to live, to grow, to be, and to do.

**3. Our third reading speaks to us of facing the future with FAITH.**

We live in a world that has all kinds of problems. We face a future that is uncertain. But we don't need to be afraid. We are not in this thing alone. God is here. God is involved. He is with us today. He will be with us tomorrow. We can face the future with confidence and courage.

So I leave you with the traditional greeting of the season – HAPPY NEW YEAR. What else could it be, when the God who holds the future is the God who holds your hand?