

Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit
26210 W. 12 Mile Road ~ Southfield, MI 48034
Telephone: (248) 352- 0680; Fax (248) 352-5568
The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian-Minister
Mr. Matthew deRaad, Organist-Choir Director

VARTANANTZ SUNDAY

11:00 A.M.

January 30, 2005

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE

CHIMES AND LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN - # 21 " A Mighty Fortress is Our God "

***INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER**

O God, our Father, we thank you for our forefathers, Vartan and his comrades and their spiritual legacy. Help us to appreciate the faith of those leaders of the past, who sacrificed in many ways with the hope that future generations might enjoy religious freedom. Guide us as we would build upon this heritage, seeking to become faithful Christians and loyal citizens of our nation, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who taught us to pray:

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

***GLORIA PATRI**

LITANY ON VARTANANTZ DAY:

PASTOR: Almighty God, we thank you for the faith of our fathers, for their love and their dedication to you.

PEOPLE: **We praise you, O Lord, for the faith of our fathers.**

PASTOR: We thank you for our ancestors, General Vartan Mamigonian and his comrades, who sacrificed their lives in defense of their Christian faith and freedom of conscience.

PEOPLE: **We praise you for their commitment to religious faith and freedom.**

PASTOR: Forgive us, O God, if we have failed you by our lack of faith and devotion to Jesus Christ and his Church.

PEOPLE: **Forgive our refusal to accept sacrifice as part of love, and for our sin of playing it safe.**

PASTOR: Help us, O Lord, to set our priorities in the direction of eternal principles, rather than expedience and mere survival.

PEOPLE: **Give us courage to live by those principles and values for which our Christian ancestors died.**

PASTOR: As you blessed Vartan and his comrades with courage to stand for Christ, grant us, O Lord, vision and determination to do the same and to prove ourselves worthy of your blessings.

PEOPLE: **Bless each one of us, and grant that we may go out to live as those who have been with Jesus Christ.**

UNISON: Grant us, O God, divine wisdom and grace to commit ourselves to Jesus Christ, and allow him to enter our lives and transform us and make us worthy disciples and ambassadors for the advancement of his kingdom and the edification of his Church. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

ANTHEM

NOTICES AND CONCERNS

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING & SOLO –Gayaneh Kachadourian

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SCRIPTURE READING:

Armenian: Romans 8:35–39 (p. 1758)

English: Hebrews 11:32–40 (pp. 1876-77)

VARTANANTZ PROCLAMATION OF FAITH

Excerpts from the Letter sent to the Persians by the Armenian Church hierarchy and nobility, in mid-fifth century A.D.

(IN UNISON)

"From this faith no one can shake us, neither angels nor men; neither sword, nor fire, nor water, nor any, nor all other horrid tortures. All our goods and possessions are in your hands, our bodies are before you; dispose of them as you will. If you leave us to our belief, we will, here on earth, choose no other master in your place, and in heaven choose no other God in place of Jesus Christ, for there is no other God. But should you require anything beyond this great testimony, here we are; our bodies are in your hands; do with them as you please. Tortures from you, submission from us; the sword is yours, the neck ours. We are no better than our forefathers, who, for the sake of this faith, surrendered their goods, their possessions, and their bodies."

"It is worth dying for the sake of Christ even if we were immortal, for he himself was immortal and so loved us that he died for us, that we, by his death, might be saved from eternal death. And since he did not spare his immortality, we, who became mortal of our own will, will die for his sake willingly, so that he may make us participants of his immortality. We shall die as mortals that he may accept our death as that of immortals."

SOLO – Gayaneh Kachadourian

ARMENIAN SERMON: *The Vartanantz War of Faith*

***HYMN - #263 "Once to Every Man and Nation" (vs. 1, 2)**

ENGLISH SERMON: *The Vartanantz War:*

A Turning Point in Our History

***HAYR MER - # 133**

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: "Park Kéz Dér, Asdvadz Mér"**

QUIET MEDITATION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

****Congregation is requested to stand.***

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME ALL WHO ARE WORSHIPING WITH US, especially guests. We extend a very cordial welcome to newcomers to take part in the worship, to engage in the activities of the Church and make this your church home.

WE WELCOME TO OUR CHANCEL THIS MORNING our own soloist, Gayaneh Kachadourian

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR THIS MORNING are given by Mrs. Nella Lommert, in loving memory of Jan Lommert, on his birthday.

THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE DEACON'S will be held today, following the Coffee Hour.

PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING DATE: Friday, February 11, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. for a Family Night, for all ages. Donation is \$12.00 for adults; \$6.00 for children 6-12 years old; no charge for children under 6 years. Delicious menu, games, Armenian Folkloric dances. Please write your names on the sign up sheet on the bulletin.

THE GREATER DETROIT ARMENIAN CHURCHES ARE SPONSORING A UNITED VARTANANTZ OBSERVANCE, on Thursday, February 3, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church, 29125 Six Mile Road, (South East of Middlebelt) in Livonia. The host church is St. Vartan Armenian Catholic Church. All are invited to attend.