

Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit  
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Mr. Matthew deRaad, Organist-Choir Director  
The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian-Minister

## EASTER SUNDAY

11:00 a.m.

March 27, 2005

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### ORGAN PRELUDE

#### CHIMES

#### LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

#### CHORAL INTROIT

\*HYMN: #42 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

#### \*RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION

PASTOR: Christ is risen!

PEOPLE: He is risen indeed!

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts!

PEOPLE: We will lift them up unto the Lord.

PASTOR: Sing unto the Lord; for He has done excellent things.

PEOPLE: Sing, O heavens, and be joyful, O earth, for the Lord has comforted His people.

#### \*INVOCATION (in unison)

Almighty God, Who has brought from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, and Who used His death upon the cross to bring about our redemption, grant us the faith to believe that every good which seems to be overcome by evil, and every love which seems to be buried in darkness and death, shall rise again to life immortal; through Christ, the risen Lord, Who taught us to pray:

\*HAYR MER - #133

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#### CHILDREN'S EASTER MESSAGE - Hourig Jacobs

#### THE EASTER MEDITATION AND PRAYER

PASTOR: Death seems to have the upper hand everywhere we turn. War rages throughout the world.

PEOPLE: Violence tears at the fabric of our cities. Accidents and disease claim the young before their time.

PASTOR: It's easy to become discouraged in this dangerous world.

PEOPLE: Truth seems to be on the scaffold; might, seems to be on the throne.

PASTOR: But God is in the shadows, keeping watch over His own. Let us pray for those whose lives are overshadowed by despair on this Easter Sunday.

PEOPLE: We pray for those who are battling life-threatening illness, that they may renew their hope through Christ's resurrection.

PASTOR: We pray for those who are gripped by the chains of addiction, that they may renew their hope through Christ's resurrection.

PEOPLE: We pray for those who are dragged down by the weight of despair, that they may renew their hope through Christ's resurrection.

PASTOR: We pray for those who are suffering from the ravages of war, that they may renew their hope through Christ's resurrection.

PEOPLE: We pray for those who are shut off in chambers of loneliness, that they may renew their hope through Christ's resurrection.

PASTOR: O Lord, You have shown us the way through all the little deaths that we suffer in our daily lives.

PEOPLE: May we trust the Father to save us as He saved His Son.

UNISON: In the name of the Risen Christ. Amen

#### CHORAL RESPONSE - "Soorp Ásdvâdz"

#### ANTHEM

#### NOTICES AND CONCERNS

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH SOLO - Gayaneh  
Kachadourian

#### \*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#### SCRIPTURE READING :

*Armenian: John 20:1 - 10 (pp. 1685 - 86)- George Terterian*

*English: Matthew 28:1-10 (pp. 1549-50) - Robert Kachadourian*

#### SOLO - April Arabian Tini

#### ARMENIAN SERMON: *Easter Then and Now*

HYMN\* # 195 "He Lives" (v.1)

#### ENGLISH SERMON: *Is Christ Truly Alive?*

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN - #41 "Low in the Grave He Lay"

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### ORGAN POSTLUDE

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*\* Congregation is requested to stand*

*\*\*\* Latecomers to be seated*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ***HAPPY EASTER TO ALL !***

***"Kristos Haryav Ee Mérélots, Orhnyal Eh Harootyunen Kristosee!"***

**WE WELCOME TO OUR CHANCEL** Robert Kachadourian, George Terterian, Hourig Jacobs, and our own soloists April Arabian Tini and Gayaneh Kachadourian.

**THE COFFEE HOUR TODAY** is sponsored by Ms. Marjorie Nanian, on the occasion of her daughter's Mary Ann's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**MANY THANKS TO OUR YOUTH GROUP (A.C.Y.F.)** for the Easter Breakfast, and thank you for those who helped them in the kitchen.

**OUR EASTER OFFERING THIS YEAR** will be used for two purposes: one half will go to Armenia for needy families; the other half, for our youth ministry.

**DETROIT UNITED COMMITTEE FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE** invites all to the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, located on 15801 Michigan Ave. Dearborn, (between Greenfield and Southfield Roads), on Sunday, April 17, 2005 at 2:00-4:30 p.m. for the observation of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

**SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON:** What Easter meant then, in the first century, and what Easter means to us now in the twentieth century, are not different. It could be summarized in the following ways:

**1. *First, Easter confronts us with the reality of death.*** On that first Easter morning, while it was dark, Mary Magdalene went to visit Jesus' tomb. She was crying over the death of Jesus. Separation by death is a terrible experience, and the cemetery confronts our own mortality. The message of Easter is that life is a gift of God, and it is fragile. We appreciate it most when we are faced with the reality of death.

**2. *Second, Easter brings us good news from the graveyard.*** It brings us the good news that Jesus has defeated mankind's greatest enemy, death, and those who have experienced the power of Christ's Resurrection shall live forever.

**3. *Third, Easter is a time of letting go.*** When Mary encountered the Risen Christ, Jesus told her, "Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father," Mary would have to let the mortal Jesus go if she wanted to claim the immortal Christ. Easter tells us that there is a time to let go, so that one day, that which has been lost might be restored.

**4. *Finally, Easter calls us out of the tombs of life and into the light of God's love.*** When Mary encountered Jesus personally, tears of sorrow changed into tears of joy. Personal encounter makes Easter a meaningful experience. That happens when and if one allows the Living Christ into his or her life.