

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

11:00 A.M.

July 17, 2005

ORDER OF WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN - # 13 *"What A Friend We have in Jesus"*

***INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER** (In unison)

God of grace and glory: We have gathered together in the awareness of your everlasting love. We thank you for the presence of your Spirit, which enables us to live with confidence and joy. As we lift up our words of prayer and our songs of praise, we give ourselves to you in a spirit of true worship. In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ who taught us to pray: " Our Father, Who art in heaven..."

***GLORIA PATRI**

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RESPONSIVE READING AND MORNING PRAYER:

LEADER: Laws are important because they maintain minimal standards of decency.

PEOPLE: Laws require us to treat other people as equals, even if we don't think they are as good as we are.

LEADER: But there is a higher virtue that goes well beyond the law and that is the virtue of a loving attitude.

PEOPLE: Keeping the law does not guarantee a creative and compassionate society. Keeping the law is the least we can do to make and keep life human.

LEADER: The Apostle Paul drew a distinction between spiritual maturity and immaturity. Like young children, those who are spiritually immature need firm rules by which to live.

PEOPLE: But the spiritually mature go beyond the letter of this law to fulfill its underlying spirit, which is love.

LEADER: Jesus held up a higher standard of righteousness than mere obedience to moral laws. He taught that God wants people with pure hearts as well as clean lives.

PEOPLE: He wants people who do good for the sake of love, as well as out of a sense of duty.

LEADER: We are community who lives out of a sense of love, rather than of law. We are not constrained by a grim sense of duty or a stern fear of punishment. We are compelled by love that goes beyond all reason and deserving. Let us pray for the courage to live up to our calling: O God, we pray that we will treat all persons as equals, not in grudging obedience to law, but out of brotherly love.

PEOPLE: O God, we pray that we will keep ourselves as pure as a pledge to love, rather than out of fear of a guilty conscience.

LEADER: O Lord, we pray that we will pay our debts as a point of honor, rather than as a legal necessity.

PEOPLE: Our Heavenly Father, forgive us for not going beyond what the law demands.

LEADER: Lord God, we are grateful for the continuing presence of Christ, Who has shown us the way to live, without counting the costs of claiming the rewards of a loving life.

PEOPLE: Lord God, help us to love as Jesus Christ loves.

UNISON: In Jesus' Holy Name, we pray. Amen.

NOTICES AND CONCERNS

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCRIPTURE READING: John 3:1-8 (in both languages)

ARMENIAN SERMON: *The Importance of Being Born Again*

***HYMN - # 76** *"Blessed Assurance"*

ENGLISH SERMON: *The Way to Heaven*

***HAYR MER - # 133**

***BENEDICTION**

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

**Congregation is requested to stand.*

**** Latecomers may be seated.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME TO OUR CHANCEL THIS MORNING our honorary life Deacon David Terzibashian. Our Minister is in New Jersey for the AMAA meetings.

A WORD ON PLEDGES: In any mature and responsible household, it is proper to confront all members with their responsibilities for the good of all. It is the same for the Church also, which is, after all, a household of faith. For this reason, we remind each and all that the Church depends upon all doing their best to keep up to date on pledge payments in order to help the church balance its annual budget and maintain its programs. If you are behind and if it will not work undue hardship, won't you kindly make every effort to catch up? For your thoughtfulness, your church thanks you.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, JULY 31, 2005. We will vote on a resolution recommended by the ACC Council. The resolution is a gesture of deep appreciation honoring Rev. Tootikian for his many years of devoted service and numerous contributions to the Armenian Congregational Church. Here is a summary of the points of the resolution: -- Bestow on him the title of "Minister Emeritus" -- Invite him to continue using the ACC Armenian Heritage Committee Fund to promote Armenian culture -- Continue to provide for his family's health insurance premiums through the end of 2007 -- Dedicate the ACC Social Hall as the "Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Hall."

ACC Council

INFORMATION

Please tear off and place in the collection plate.

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

I have recently moved into this area. I have moved, new address

I am interested in membership. I wish to be on the mailing list

I would appreciate a visit from the minister This person is sick