***Pastor Hagop Haroutunian~ Senior Pastor***

***The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian~ Minister Emeritus***

***Mrs. Susan Harrison~ Choir Director and Organist***

**Telephone: (248) 352-0680**

**11:00 A.M. October 17, 2021**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN***- # 219 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” (vs. 1-3)*

**\*INVOCATION**

**\*THE LORD’S PRAYER (in unison)**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**- *#79*

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**RESPONSIVE READING:** *#9 “Trust in the Lord”*

**PASTOR:** The Lord is my light and my salvation, I will never be afraid.

**PEOPLE:** **The Lord is my light and my salvation; I will never be afraid.**

**PASTOR:** The Lord protects me from all danger; I will never be afraid.

**PEOPLE: The Lord is my light and my salvation. I will never be afraid.**

**PASTOR:** When evil people attack me and try to kill me, they stumble and fall.

**PEOPLE: Even if a whole army surrounds me, I will not be afraid; even if enemies attack me, I will still trust God.**

**PASTOR:** The Lord is my light and my salvation. I will never be afraid.

**PEOPLE:** **I have asked the Lord for one thing; one thing only I want: to live in the Lord’s house all my life;**

**PASTOR:** To marvel there at his goodness, and to ask for his guidance.

**UNISON: The Lord is my light and my salvation. I will never be afraid.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANTHEM**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE:** *Matthew 25:14-30 (pp. 1541-1542)*

**ENGLISH SERMON: What Do We Do With Our Talents?**

**\*HYMN***-# 272 “Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak” (vs. 1-4)*

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE**: *Matthew 4:1-11 (pp. 1499-1450)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: “Jesus’ Temptations and Ours”**

**\*HAYR MER:** *#275*

**\*BENEDICTION**

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

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

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***\*Congregation is requested to stand. \*\*\* Latecomers may be seated***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WE WELCOME TO OUR PULPIT** our Minister Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian; Pastor Hagop Haroutunian and his wife, Nune are in California to attend an AEUNA Pastors’ retreat.

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR AND THE COFFEE HOUR TODAY** is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Gagik and Margarita Yeghiyan, in loving memory of her mother Greta Petrosyan.

**SPECIAL DONATION MADE TO THE CHOIR FOR PURCHASING MUSIC** by Frances and Ralph Garabedian, in loving memory of their mother Catherine Fogarty.

**A.C.C. MISSIONS COMMITTEE PROJECT:** With the cold weather approaching, the Grace Centers of Hope are in need of warm winter clothing of all types, sizes and colors for men, women and children of all ages, including new and used coats, jackets, sweaters, pants, long-sleeve shirts, scarves, hats, gloves, mittens, shoes, boots, purses and belts. Please be sure used items are clean and in good condition. They are also in need of toiletries, especially razors. We will be collecting these items for the rest of the month. Monetary donations are also welcome; checks payable to “Grace Centers of Hope.” Please contact Carole Basmadjian, Member of the Missions Committee, if you have any questions.

**CHURCH JOYS AND CONCERNS:** Please pray for George and Ann Krikorian, Harout Eurdekian, continue praying for Nancy Berschbach, Jan Janigian, Lee Savalle (Dan and Sandra Haroutunian’s sister), and Glenn Harrison, Artsakh, Armenia, our government and the pandemic.

**SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON**

Jesus was about to enter into his public ministry when the Devil tried to tempt him. He attacked Jesus from three different angles.

1. **The first temptation was to turn stones into bread.** This was to make religion material by giving priority to man’s material wishes. There is an inference that Jesus would use his power to meet man’s material needs and thereby secure his service in God’s Kingdom. Jesus’ response is taken from Deuteronomy 8:3, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.
2. **The second temptation was to make Jesus a wonder worker and thereby attract people to follow him.**  The tempter used Scripture, but took it out of context and bent it to his advantage. He told Jesus, “He will give his angels charge, concerning you; in their hands they will bear you up” (Psalm 91:11-12). But Jesus knew the Scripture well and told the tempter “You shall not tempt the Lord your God.” In other words, do not ask God to do something in order to prove that He is God. Jesus refused to be a wonder worker to gain national leadership.
3. **And the third temptation is to do the easier thing instead of the right thing.** Satan took Jesus to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdom of the world and said, “All these can be yours if you fall down and worship me.” In other words, the Devil was saying: “Just compromise… be practical… take the easy road and do the easy thing in your life.” Jesus’ answer was: “Get behind me Satan.”

In our daily lives as we face and deal with temptations, how can we draw strength from the Lord’s temptations? Here are some facts:

1. **Everyone must face and deal with temptations.** All of us in our own ways, in our own levels are tempted. If our Lord had to struggle with temptation, we can be certain that no one is exempt.
2. **We are assured that temptations, in and of themselves, are not sin.** Temptations become sin when we yield to them and give in.
3. **We can be strengthened by recognizing that temptations are often deceptively subtle.**  This is a diabolical thing about evil. It can seem so reasonable, so necessary, and so beautiful. Dishonesty sometimes disguises itself as shrewd business dealings. Sexual infidelity sometimes will be called free love. Gossip can be passed along under the pretense of prayerful concern for a friend.
4. **In order to resist our temptations we can get our help from God’s word.** Jesus was well versed in the Scriptures. So should we when we face temptations. Through each of his three temptations, he quoted from the Bible. In his first temptation his reply to Satan was: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” To the second temptation his response was: “You shall not tempt the Lord your God.” And to the third temptation he told Satan, “Get behind me Satan! For it is written you shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.”

All of us will face temptations in our daily lives. The question is will we draw from the deep wells of resources of spiritual energy to face our temptations and not yield to them?