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

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

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

**Telephone: (248) 352-0680 - Email:** [Office@accdetroit.org](mailto:Office@accdetroit.org).

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**11:00 A.M. December 12, 2021**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN***: #121 “Joy to the World”*

*(in English Vs. 1-2, in Armenian Vs. 3)*

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

Dear Lord, we thank you for your great love that we celebrate today and every day. We also thank you for your joy that you instilled in us through your Son Jesus Christ. We rejoice in knowing that Jesus came into this world to fill us with the joy of the Holy Spirt. We rejoice greatly that the birth of your Son gave us the hope of salvation. Father, we thank you for Jesus, who is the best gift we ever received. May your joy always remain in our hearts in all circumstances. We give you all the glory and honor, who taught us to pray, “Our Father, Who art in heaven….”

**\*GLORIA PATRI**- *#79* *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

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**LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE –*Ovsanna Dervartanian***

*Scripture Reading: Psalm 98:1-6 (pp. 934-935)*

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

**\*RESPONSIVE READING:**

**PASTOR**: Let us remember that the good news of Jesus’ birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season.

**PEOPLE**: **Our joy isn’t dependent on what is going on in our life, in our world, or the people that we are with.**

**PASTOR:** It doesn’t depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from you.

**PEOPLE:** **That joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing.**

**PASTOR:** Father, you offer the joy to us to recognize Jesus as our Savior and Lord. You gave us a reason to celebrate when you gave us the unspeakable gift of Jesus Christ.

**PEOPLE:** **You came to dwell among us. You went to Calvary’s cross for us. You overcame death and rose from the dead for us. You forgive our sins and give us eternal life when we believe in you.**

**PASTOR:** Our joy doesn’t come from our jobs, our family, our relationships, our finances, or our success. Our joy doesn’t come from what we have on earth or who we are with. Our joy is a gift.

**UNISON:** **It is the gift that you gave us that first Christmas in Jesus Christ. Our joy is encompassed in our Savior, King Jesus. Flood our heart with joy this Advent season as we reflect on the good news of Jesus’ birth.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS:** *#7 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”*

*(in English Vs. 1-3, in Armenian Vs. 4)*

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE:** *Luke 1:39-50 (pp. 1588-1589)*

**ENGLISH SERMON:** **Mary’s Joy in the Lord**

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE**: *1Peter 1:8-9 (p.1887)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: The Inexpressible Joy of Jesus**

**\*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 ALL WHO ARE WORSHIPPING 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.

**THE COFFEE HOUR** today is sponsored by Jacques and Rose Beylerian in memory of their parents, Hagop and Yeranik Houlian, Parsek and Azadouhi Beylerian, and their loved ones.

**ENTERED HIS REST** Harout Eurdekian on Monday, December 6th. Funeral service was held on Friday, December 10th at A.C.C. We extend our condolences to Eurdekian and Muawad family.

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** will be held next Sunday, December 19th, following the Morning Worship Service. A complimentary luncheon will be served following the program sponsored by Dr. Richard Marburger in memory of his late wife Mrs. Mary Marburger.

**THE FAMILY CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** will be held on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. After the service, there will be a reception sponsored by the Board of Deacons.

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

**IS YOUR ANNIVERSARY, BIRTHDAY OR GRADUATION** approaching? Why not share your celebration with the Church Family by sponsoring the Fellowship Hour or Altar Flowers. Please sign your name on the Bulletin Board, call the Church Office or email Souzanne at [Office@accdetroit.org](mailto:Office@accdetroit.org).

**SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON**

Peter speaks of the joy that we possess as believers that lasts forever and no one should be able to rob it away as long as we remain close to the heart of Jesus.

**Here are some points Peter makes about this “glorious joy” that we have in Christ:**

1. **He says, ‘though you have not seen him, you love him.”** How do you love someone you do not see? It takes faith and trust to do that, doesn’t it? Just like any distance relationship, if you have doubts, it will not withstand trials. In the same manner, this love bond with Jesus, who is unseen, becomes more real when we come to know Him through His Word and His Spirit how much He loves us.
2. **Peter also says, “You believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.”** Do we believe in Jesus with a blind faith? That would not be good or healthy. Why do we have faith in Jesus? What evidence has he shown? The answer is obvious; no one has ever died for me on the cross. This and many other characteristics of Jesus prove his eternal love for us. This is why we are drawn to him and are filled with such indescribable joy. It’s the joy of knowing that Jesus loves us without ending!