***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.

**11:00 A.M. December 26, 2021**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL***: #122 “Silent Night”*

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

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

Dear Lord, we thank you that as we continue to celebrate Christmas, we cannot help but thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, who was born as the Savior of the world. He put on flesh and became like one of us so that we become yours. We will never comprehend your infinite love for us, but we do want to give you our heart and ask that you become the Lord of our lives. Help us obey you and please you in all that we do and bring praise to your name. Help us spread the good news of Jesus to those who do not know you. May the light of Christ shine to the whole world, so that they may see your love and turn to you. 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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**\*RESPONSIVE READIN*: “Christmas”***

**PASTOR**: O Lord our God, we thank you for the birth of Jesus Christ, your incarnate Word who hallows life in this world.

**PEOPLE**: **We hail the Prince of Peace, the King of kings, who comes into our world to reconcile us with you and with one another.**

**PASTOR:** On this day of days, we marvel at your wisdom, your coming among us as one of us. This is a mystery beyond our comprehension.

**PEOPLE: We can only stand in awe and thank you for your great and perfect gift to us.**

**PASTOR:** Help us to be grateful on this anniversary of your Son’s birth.

**PEOPLE: Grant that he may be born in us that we may share his joy and peace, and be strengthened to worship and serve you.**

**PASTOR:** Grant that his light and goodness remove the darkness of sin and enlighten our hearts with his love.

**PEOPLE:** **Grant that he may bring us joy in the good news of this day.**

**PASTOR:** Almighty God, we thank you that you loved the world so much that you gave your only begotten Son for the salvation of humankind.

**UNISON: Grant us wisdom and grace to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and proclaim him as “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

*“Turn Your Heart To Christmas “*

 *Dennis Marburger- Soloist*

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL:** *#118 “Go Tell It On The Mountain” (vs. 1-3)*

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE:** *John 3:1-18 (pp. 1649-1650)*

**ENGLISH SERMON:** **The Word Became Flesh**

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE**: *Luke 2:1-7 (p. 1590)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: God’s Unlikely Choices**

**\*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.

**WE WELCOME TO OUR PULPIT** this morning Minister Emeritus Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian; he will be delivering the Armenian Sermon.

**PASTOR HAGOP AND NUNE** will be out of town, on Sunday, January 2nd, our Minister Emeritus Rev. Vahan H. Tootikian will be conducting the Morning Worship Service and the Sacrament of the Communion.

**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.

**SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON**

When we think of the Nativity story we come to the conclusion that sometimes God makes unlikely choices.

**First, God chose an unlikely way of reaching out to mankind.** When humans failed Him, and when it was clear that “The wages of sin was death,” God came to His creatures in person through Jesus Christ. In all major religions, God is transcendent, aloof. In Christian religion, God comes to us personally.

**Second, God chose an unlikely place.** The angel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth—a little town which did not have a good reputation. One might ask, “Why God did not choose Rome, Athens?” God is no respecter of cities. It doesn’t matter where one lives. Some of the loveliest things happen in most unlikely places.

**Third, God chose unlikely persons.** God chose a peasant teenager, Mary to be the mother of Jesus, a simple carpenter Joseph, to be the father of Jesus. Ordinary people to be the relatives of Jesus. The determining factors of history are not necessarily the Caesar’s army, but Mary’s baby.

God works with small things, unlikely places, unlikely people. His ways and plans are completely different than ours.