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

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

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

***Ms. Souzanne Pope ~ Office Administrator***

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

**11:00 a.m. April 23, 2023**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHOIR INTROIT**: *Lord, to You Our People Cry*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:** *# 401“Faith of Our Fathers”*

*(vs. 1-2 English, vs. 4 Armenian)*

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

Dear Heavenly Father, we come before your presence to glorify you because you are our God and we are your people. We remember this day, the horrific genocide that destroyed many of our people under the regime of the Ottoman Empire. The wounds are still with us and we pray that your justice would shine forth. We do not want to have any hatred toward anyone but that we love our enemies as you have commanded us. You said, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay.” We submit all of our sorrows into your hands and ask that you heal our people all around the world and bring them all back 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.*

**RESPONSIVE READING:** *Armenian Martyrs Day*

**PASTOR:** Our loving and gracious Heavenly Father, for all those who stood firm in their Christian faith in the face of persecution, exile and death.

**PEOPLE:** **We praise you, O God.**

**PASTOR:** For all who endured the genocide.

**PEOPLE: We praise you, O God.**

**PASTOR:** For all those Armenian men, women and children who were deported, driven in death marches, and massacred mercilessly because they refused to deny Christ.

**PEOPLE:** **We lift up our cries to you, O God.**

**PASTOR:** For all those who directly or indirectly participated in the murder of this small Christian nation and washed their hands saying. “I am innocent of their blood.”

**PEOPLE:** **We lift up our cries to you, O God.**

**PASTOR:** For all those who continue to trample on truth, justice and human rights.

**PEOPLE:** **We lift up our cries to you, O God.**

**PASTOR:** That this nation may not perish but prosper under your fatherly care.

**PEOPLE:** **We pray to you, O God.**

**PASTOR:** That you may uproot from our hearts every trace of hatred and the spirit of vengeance.

**PEOPLE:** **We pray to you, O God.**

**PASTOR:** That those of us who are the descendants of those noble martyrs may have a deep sense of gratitude and a deep sense of responsibility.

**PEOPLE:** **We pray to you, O God.**

**PASTOR:** That we may recognize they died for their faith that we might live for it.

**PEOPLE:** **We pray to you, O God.**

**PASTOR:** Grant that we may value the freedom and the security we are privileged to enjoy in this beautiful country.

**PEOPLE: Hear our prayer, O God.**

**PASTOR:** Grant that your power of resurrection may inspire us to live as a righteous people prepared for every good work.

**PEOPLE:** **Hear our prayer, O God.**

**PASTOR:** Grant that we may be a compassionate, forgiving and loving people.

**UNISON: Here our prayer, O God, and grant us a right spirit. Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**MISSIONS COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT:** *Carole Basmadjian*

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY**: *Maherk Nahadagats*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** *Land of Our Dreams*

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** *#14“You Are My All In All”*

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE**: *Lamentations 1:1-22 (pp. 1273-1276)*

**ENGLISH SERMON: Suffering With Hope**

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE:** *Lamentations 3:19-26 (p. 1279)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: Hope and Justice for the Faithful**

**\*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**

**CHURCH JOYS AND CONCERNS:** Please continue praying for Susan Mousigian,

Dr. Richard Marburger, George and Ann Krikorian, Jan Janigian, Glenn Harrison.

**A BRIEF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be held today following the Morning Worship Service. The Board of Trustees will present a brief explanation on the Franklin medical Building, and then we will conduct a vote amongst our members.

**BOOK OF LIFE:**

**Ralph and Frances Garabedian** are happy to announce the birth of their grandson *Noah*, born on Monday, April 10th, 2023, to their daughter Alison Garabedian.

**Tony Janigian** is happy to announce the birth of his granddaughter *Bexley Rose,* born on Tuesday, April 18th, 2023. Proud parents are Nico and Jessica Janigian.

**WEDNESDAY BI-WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY** will be held April, 26th at 6:30p.m.

**WOMEN'S BI-WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP & BIBLE STUDY** will be held Saturday, April 29th at 10:00 a.m. in person and online via Zoom app.

**ARMENIAN AND ENGLISH LIVE RADIO PROGRAM** this evening at 6:00-7:00p.m. with Pastor Hagop, hosted by Vaughn Masropian. The Theme this Sunday is **“The Unforgotten Genocide”** on Facebook live at https://www.facebook.com /ArmenianCongregationalChurch and at WNZK 690AM.

**108TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE** Service is tomorrow, Monday, April 24th, at 7:00p.m. at St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY** next Saturday, April 29th, at 12:00 p.m. we would like to invite you to join us in sprucing up the A.C.C. grounds, enjoying some great fellowship. We need help in pruning trees, cleaning Church grounds, balcony, and the parking lot. Please sign your name on the sign-up sheet in the Social Hall.

**SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON**

The prophet Jeremiah laments for his people, the Israelites because of the destruction of Jerusalem and Judea by the Babylonian conquest in 587 BC. We, Armenians, can relate to the catastrophe that our ancestors went through under the Ottoman Empire of the Turkish government in 1915. We lost 1.5 million lives with so many wandering through the Syrian desert. They were deprived of water and food, subjected to robbers, rape, and massacre.

Here are some points about suffering:

1. “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed.” While Jeremiah grieved at the devastation of his people, he recalled that there is always hope in the Lord. He based it on the great love of the Lord. While the past and the present were very painful for him, he looked ahead and believed that the Lord would restore His people. In the same manner, we too can have hope that no matter how devastated our people have been in the past, it is always good to hope in the Lord.
2. “It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.” Yes, it is good to wait on the Lord with trust, not by demand or anxiousness, but in peace and quietness. This is a sign of maturity and trust. We learn to move with God’s timing, not ours, for He knows what is best for us. We don’t wait on the Lord passively, but rather prayerfully and by continuously serving Him until He answers us.