***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.

**11:00 a.m. July 2, 2023**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:** *#240 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”*

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

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

Dear Lord, Thank you for giving us this land and this sanctuary where we can worship you in freedom. We thank you that Christ has set us free and given us the gift of eternal life. We pray that this nation of ours will put its trust fully in your love and mercy, by living in accordance with the principles of your holy word. We pray that our government will revere and honor you in the way they lead this nation. May your love guide us all in the path of righteousness. 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:** *Independence Sunday*

**PASTOR:** O God, we praise you for the greatness of our nation, where people have always had the freedom to worship you.

**PEOPLE:** **As our forefathers were led to our shores by your guiding hand, we would ask you to guide us that we might use properly our own freedom.**

**PASTOR:** Forgive us, Lord our sin of taking for granted the freedom and liberty we enjoy in our nation, denied to many in our world.

**PEOPLE: Forgive us for failing to remember the ideals of those who founded our nation, and of the presence of your guiding hand in the development of it.**

**PASTOR:** Be merciful to us for forgetting to make the truth of our Christian faith predominant in our lives as citizens of this land.

**PEOPLE:** **Forgive us for failing to pray for those who lead us, that they might always be guided by you.**

**PASTOR:** O Lord, with wisdom of the Holy Spirit, guide the leaders of our land.

**PEOPLE:** **Guide those who direct the enforcement of the laws of our nation, protecting our freedom.**

**PASTOR:** Guide those who influence our thinking and those who seek to lift the moral standards of our people.

**PEOPLE: Help us to appreciate the faith of those leaders of the past, who sacrificed in many ways with the hope that future generations might enjoy true freedom.**

**UNISON:** Guide us all, to become faithful Christians and loyal citizens of our country, for your glory and for the betterment of humankind. Amen.

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** *#4 “Here I Am To Worship”*

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE**: *John 8:31-47 (p. 1663)*

**ENGLISH SERMON: True and Lasting Freedom in Christ**

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE:** *Galatians 5:1, 13 (p. 1815)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: No Longer Slaves to Sin**

**\*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.

**CHURCH JOYS AND CONCERNS:** Please continue praying for Susan Mousigian, Dr. Richard Marburger, George and Ann Krikorian, Jan Janigian, and Glenn Harrison.

**ARMENIA VICTIMS OF WAR FUNDRAISER** if you wish to donate to the Armenian families, who lost their loved ones during the war with Azerbaijan, please make your donations to ‘Armenian Congregational Church.’ In the memo, please write, ‘Families of the Victims of War.’ Your donations are very much appreciated. The donations will be delivered to the families by Pastor Hagop, together with his wife Nune, Rouben, and Hasmik, on their missionary trip, on Saturday, July 9th, to Armenia. Please give your donations to Hasmik Arslanian after the church service in the Social Hall. The deadline to donate is today, (July 2nd).

**CHURCH RETREAT** We will be having a two day retreat, Friday and Saturday, August 25-26, at the Maryville Retreat Center, in Holly, MI. The cost is $100. The guest speaker will be Pastor Richard Afhsarian, from the Armenian Brethren Evangelical Church, in Pasadena, CA. The retreat will include a one night stay and four meals. The theme and topic will be, ‘Living with Eternal Perspective’ The cost for Saturday only is $80.  A deposit of $50 is required when you sign up. Please sign up with Hasmik Arslanian, after the church service, in the Social Hall.

**ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP (**AEWF) Eastern Region Fall Conference, Friday through Sunday, September 15-17, 2023, at the Radisson Hotel in Southfield. Guest speaker, Lara Cholakian Khoury. Theme: Abundant Life Through The Power of the Holy Spirit. Saturday midday outing. Sunday, breakfast here at A.C.C., at 10AM, followed by 11AM Worship Service. Cost: Single Room $365. Shared one king size bed $253. Shared Double Sized Beds $268. Quad: Double Sized Beds $200 (Must have three roommates). For questions, you may contact Nune Haroutunian at 201-919-2352, or Hasmik Arslanian at 248-953-3817. Email: office@accdetroit.org. To register and more information visit [http://aeuna.org/aewf-er 2023](http://aeuna.org/aewf-er%202023).

**IS YOUR ANNIVERSARY OR BIRTHDAY** 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**

Apostle Paul reminds us of our Christian roots by telling us that it is for freedom that Chris has set us free. What did he mean by that? Freedom from what? Paul tells us throughout the chapter, how we ought to always remember that sin shall not rule over us, because Christ has purchased us from the slavery of sin, into His heavenly kingdom.

**Here are some points to remember about our freedom:**

1. **“You were called to be free.”** When we speak of freedom, we can’t help but remember all those people who were or are slaves. It must be very hard to imagine being controlled by someone. In the same manner, when we are far from Christ, our sinful nature takes over our lives and we start to do everything that is contrary to the word of God.
2. **“Do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh. Rather serve one another humbly in love.”** It is tempting when we are set free from something to take advantage of it and sometimes misuse or abuse that thing that made us free. For example, if you received a free car as a gift, you may drive it like you don’t care, because you didn’t pay for it. But, if you appreciate the donor, then out of respect and appreciation, you will take care of it well. In the same manner, we have the free gift of eternal life, and we are called to honor, protect, and keep holy that which we received from Christ.

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**INFORMATION**

Please tear off and place in the prayer box in the narthex.

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 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

 Requesting prayer for\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Need Counseling