***Rev. 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).

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**11:00 a.m. December 3, 2023**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL:** *#111 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs. 1-2 English, vs. 4 Armenian)*

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

Heavenly Father, Advent is a time for remembering and reflecting on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Father, we pray that you will turn our hearts toward you, as Christmas approaches. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season and miss the chance to celebrate the gift of hope that you sent to us, on that first Christmas. Father God, every word in scripture points to the gift of hope that we have, because of Christ Jesus. The Christmas story wasn’t the beginning of that message of hope, because the Old Testament is full of glimpses of your plan to redeem your people and restore them into a relationship with you, but we are able to truly begin to see and understand just how great your love for us is, when we read the story of Jesus’ birth in scripture. 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 FIRST ADVENT CANDLE-** *Mrs. Margarita Yeghiyan*

**RESPONSIVE READING:** *Advent*

**PASTOR:** O God, Who prepared the hearts and minds of people years ago for the coming of Your Son, prepare now our hearts and minds to receive Him anew, that He might dwell within us.

**PEOPLE: Make our spirits ready for the wonder of Your glory and fullness of Your blessing.**

**PASTOR:** As people of old waited in anticipation of His coming, prepare our minds to receive Him.

**PEOPLE: As they longed for the day when God would reveal Himself through His Son, purify our hearts that He might enter in.**

**PASTOR:** As they looked forward to the day of the promised coming of the Anointed One, draw our spirits nearer to You that we might receive Him.

**PEOPLE:** **As they listened to the prophets foretell the coming of the Prince of Peace, remove hatred and strife from our lives that we might receive Him.**

**PASTOR:** As the messenger, John the Baptist, preached repentance to prepare the way of the Lord,

**PEOPLE:** **so may we live in preparation for the coming of Your kingdom.**

**PASTOR:** As the Wise Men brought their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the Christ Child,

**PEOPLE: so may we offer ourselves and our substance.**

**PASTOR:** O Lord, we pray that the message of the heavenly host, “Peace on earth, good will toward men” ever find echo in our hearts, and be practiced in our lives.

**UNISON: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, come into our minds, our hearts, and our lives, today. Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**CONGREGATIONAL CAROL:** *#124 “The First Noel” (vs. 1 & 5)*

1. Giving of the Bread
2. Giving of the Cup

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE**: *Romans 5:1-5(pp. 1752-1753)*

**ENGLISH SERMON: The Hope of all Hopes**

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE:** *Hebrews 10:23(p. 1874)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: The Unswervingly Hope**

**\*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 Armenia, Glenn Harrison, Jan Janigian, Susan Mousigian, and Dr. Richard Marburger.

**FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be held today, immediately following the Morning Worship Service, All members are encouraged to stay after the Morning Worship Service to participate.

**MONDAY PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP** is held every Monday, via zoom at 6:30p.m.

**AEUNA STEWARDSHIP** Next Sunday, December 10, after the Sunday Service, Rev. Hagop will be doing a PowerPoint presentation about AEUNA Stewardship in the Social Hall. As a member of AEUNA, our church is encouraged to support AEUNA for all of the ministries and mission work they do to help all the 33 churches around the globe, including ours. Please come prayerfully to support and give financially to help AEUNA continue with its vision and goal of serving the Armenian community.

**ACC** is looking for volunteers to set up or cleanup for Coffee Hour**.** If you are interested in helping, please sign up after the Morning Worship Service in the Social Hall, with Carole Basmadjian.

**SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON**

Hope is something every human lives by, because without it, we would not be able to exist in a healthy manner. If we were hopeless of something or someone, it would make us anxious and depressed and it would discourage us from living on. The Bible speaks of a living hope that stands for all times; Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Here are some points about hope:**

1. **“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess.”** To hold unswervingly to something means not to turn aside, not to waver; it means to be precise. The way we become unshakeable in our Christian faith is to hold steadily to God who is trustworthy, someone you can depend your life on. We cannot hope in something or someone who is not reliable. Rest assured, God is that person we can trust for everything.
2. **“For He who promised is faithful.”** In order to trust or hope in someone, they have to prove they are faithful in their promises. God is exactly that. He has shown in past and present that He is someone you and I can rely on for support and everything we need in this life. He is a loving and righteous God. That is why we can hope and lean on Him for anything and everything.

**POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS:** If you would like to donate one or more Christmas poinsettias for the Church Altar, please submit the form below, to place your order. Deadline is Wednesday, December 20th. The traditional red Poinsettias are $20.00 each.

I wish to order Red Poinsettias for the Church Altar (#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My Name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_