***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.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**11:00 a.m. December 18, 2022**

 **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL:** *# 125 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (vs. 1-3)*

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

 O God of Love, we come to you with gratitude for your Son Jesus Christ who came and poured out His love for us. His birth brought hope, joy, and abundant love to all mankind. We pray that you pour out your everlasting and unconditional love to all those who do not know you. We pray that you open their eyes to see the love of Jesus for them. We pray that you help us share your love with them and that we also love one another as believers. May your unfailing love continue to guide our lives and continue to fill us with your love so we will always love you and one another with all of our heart. We pray that you open everyone’s eyes to see the joy of knowing you and following 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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**LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE*-*** *Mr. Rouben Arslanian will be reading the advent scripture for Love from 1st Corinthians 13:1-13.*

**\*RESPONSIVE READING:** *A Litany of Love*

**PASTOR:** We have seen the greatness of God’s love revealed to us through the words and deeds of Jesus Christ. Let us look to his life as an example of how we should express love in our daily life. His life on earth was a witness to the power of God, and his words gave praise to him for all things.

**PEOPLE:** **Let us praise God for all his gifts to us, and express our gratefulness through our Christ-like living.**

**PASTOR:** Jesus expressed love for those who had sinned and treated them as equals when they repented of their sin.

**PEOPLE: Let us not be critical of those who have fallen, but express our love to them and help them grow in faith.**

**PASTOR:** Jesus indicated that love should motivate our actions with those in need, regardless of their status in life.

**PEOPLE: Let us not forget that all men are brothers to us, and that our love and concern should include them.**

**PASTOR:** Jesus even loved those who hated him and led him to the cross, and asked the Father to forgive them.

**PEOPLE:** **Let us be willing to forgive all men of their sins against us, no matter how bad they might be.**

**PASTOR:** Jesus died upon the cross that he might reveal God’s love for us as sinners and as his children.

**PEOPLE:** **Let us see the potential greatness of all men, and of what they can contribute to the Kingdom of God.**

**UNISON: O gracious Father, who through your love and by your Son has worked out the reconciliation of mankind: grant that by following his commandments and allowing love to motivate us in action, word and deed, we may be united to you and to all your children, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**CONGREGATIONAL CAROL:** *#127 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (vs. 1-3)*

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE**: *1st John 4:7-18(pp. 1902-1903)*

**ENGLISH SERMON: God’s Love Made Complete in Us**

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE:** *1st John 4:19-21 (p. 1903)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: God’s Initiative Love**

**\*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.

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

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

**THE FAMILY CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** will be held on Saturday, December 24th, at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. After the Service, there will be a light reception sponsored by the Board of Deacons. Please sign your names on the sign-up sheet with Carole Basmadjian in the Fellowship Hall.

**SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON**

It is always important to remember that God initiated His love to us, and in turn, we responded and accepted His love. God did not wait for us to make the initiative because His love is infinite toward us even when we are far from Him.

**Here are some points about God’s Love**

1. **“We love because He first loved us.”** The Apostle John makes known to us that God initiated this love relationship between us and Him by sending Jesus into the world for us. In turn, all we need to do is respond to His love. In doing so, the relationship becomes complete and fruitful.
2. **Vertical and Horizontal Love.** Vertical love is our love toward God. Horizontal love is our love for one another. Jesus had said loving God with all of our heart and loving our neighbor as ourselves are the two greatest commandments. Love is made complete when we fulfill these two requirements, which are only possible by nourishing and feeding our spirit and mind by God’s Word and His Holy Spirit through the reading of Scripture and prayer.

**UNISON READING: “Love Never Fails” 1ST Corinthians 13:4-8**

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.  Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.  It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.