***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. January 8, 2023**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL:** *# 138 “Angels We Have Heard on High”*

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

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

Dear Lord, we come before your presence to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank you for loving us sacrificially and sending Jesus to become the savior of our soul. We pray that our hearts will always rejoice in you and praise you for your wonderful deeds. We ask that you open the eyes of all people to see the glory of Jesus and receive Him as their Lord and Savior. We thank you that through Christ we have the gift of eternal life, and have entered into an everlasting covenant with 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:** *Psalm 2*

**PASTOR:** Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

**PEOPLE:** **The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.**

**PASTOR:** “Let us break their chains,” they say, “and throw off their fetters.”

**PEOPLE: The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.**

**PASTOR:** Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, “I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

**PEOPLE: I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father.**

**PASTOR:** Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

**PEOPLE:** **You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”**

**PASTOR:** Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.

**UNISON: Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:** *#160 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”*

*(vs. 1-2 English, vs. 5 Armenian)*

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE**: *John 1:1-21 (pp.1645-1646)*

**ENGLISH SERMON: God’s Infinite Love**

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE:** *Luke 2: 4-7 (p. 1590) and Luke 23: 50-54 (p. 1642)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: Born To Die**

**\*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 lifetime Deacon**,** Mr. David Terzibashian, he will be delivering the Armenian Sermon.

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

**Church Schedule:**

1. **Monday prayer** 6:30 p.m. online via Zoom app.
2. **Wednesday Bible Study** 6:30 p.m. in person and online via Zoom app.

**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](mailto:Office@accdetroit.org).

**SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON**

During the Christmas Season unfortunately many of us, instead of concentrating on the essence of the nativity of Christ, we become preoccupied and carried away by mundane things, such as decorating our homes, getting stressed out trying to buy presents, planning trips and dinner parties etc. and somehow we forget that Christmas is Jesus’ Birthday.

Can you imagine, the Creator of the universe, the King of Kings was born in a damp cave and was wrapped in swaddling clothes and was placed in a manger. Let us dwell for a moment on the symbolism of this nativity scene.

-The damp cave and the manger symbolize His grave and the swaddling clothes His burial shroud. Yes my friends Jesus was born to die as the sacrificial Lamb of God for the salvation of mankind.

According to ancient Jewish customs, whenever people travelled a distance of more than 3 days journey they carried with them their burial clothes. So most probably Joseph and Mary used their burial clothes to wrap the new-bone baby Jesus. And the manger in which Jesus was placed was not made of wood but rather carved in stone which is common throughout the Middle East the manger symbolizes the rock hewed tomb in which Christ was buried.

The Prophet Isaiah 700 years before the Birth of Christ proclaimed that “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.” Who is this son? He is God’s only begotten son who came to die on a cross for our salvation.

During WWII a grieving father who lost his son in battle confronts the battalion’s chaplain and says,

“where was your God when my son died”. The chaplain in a quiet voice says “God was there on the battle field as He was there on Calvary when His only begotten Son died on the cross for you and for me”.

On Christmas Day our God the Father gave us the greatest and most precious gift of all, His Son as a sacrifice to die for the redemption of our sins and to grant us everlasting life. AMEN!