***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. June 25, 2023**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:** *#222“Amazing Grace”*

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

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

Dear Lord, we worship you this morning as we gather together in your presence. It is to you that we lift up our voices because you are the God of love and mercy. We ask that you answer us when we call on your name in our distress. We trust that you will always be with us no matter what circumstance we may be in. We pray that you help us remain faithful to you when we are tested for our faith. Help us spread your word courageously without fear. Strengthen us to share the Gospel to all those we encounter.  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 91:1-11***

**PASTOR:** He who dwells in theshelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

**PEOPLE:** **I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”**

**PASTOR:** Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence.

**PEOPLE: He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.**

**PASTOR:** you will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.

**PEOPLE:** **A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.**

**PASTOR:** You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

**PEOPLE:** **If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the Lord, who is my refuge.**

**PASTOR:** Then no harm will befall you; no disaster will come near your tent.

**UNISON:** **For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** *#10 “Refiner’s Fire”*

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE**: *Acts 6:8-18, 7:51-60 (pp1700-1701, 1704)*

**ENGLISH SERMON: The Glory of God in The Midst of Hardship**

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE:** *Acts 8:1-8 (p. 1704)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: Blessings in The Midst of Persecution**

**\*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.

**THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** this morning are sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Dennis and April Tini in honor of her mother Suzanne Arabian's 90th birthday.

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

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

**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.

**CHURCH RETREAT** We are excited to inform you that 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, California. 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.

**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**

After the stoning of Steven, a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem and so the believers were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. God allowed this because He had a plan in mind.

**Here are some points about the persecution of the church:**

1. **“Saul began to destroy the church.”** Saul is introduced to us as a Pharisee who could not tolerate this new “sect” called “Christianity” that was so rapidly growing. It threatened the religion of Judaism and so he started to drag believers from their houses and put them in prison. While he succeeded in doing so, God was doing something great through those who were scattered all over Israel; He was empowering them to preach the word of God without fear.

**2. “Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.”** The believers were scattered away from their homes but God’s word continued to spread. The believers were not afraid from persecution; on the contrary, they were more encouraged to preach the word of God whenever they seized the opportunity. Fear can become our number one enemy. Satan tries to threaten us in many ways to quiet us down from speaking the word of God, but God’s word must never cease to be spoken of in any given day and time. As Paul tells Timothy, “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. (2nd Timothy 4:2)

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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