***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.

**11:00 a.m. October 22, 2023**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:** *#351 “God of Our Father”*

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

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

Lord God of heaven and earth, we come before your presence this morning to worship you. We are blessed forever, for having you in our lives. In your sermon on the mount, you said we are blessed, if we are poor in spirit, mourn, are meek, we hunger and thirst for righteousness, are merciful, pure in heart, and peacemakers. We pray that you help and strengthen us to be and do all of these things, so that our lives will impact the world, positively, to bring them to the knowledge and into the light of Christ. Let your light shine through us, to effectively witness to all people, about your eternal love. 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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**RESPONSIVE READING:** *Matthew 5:1-12*

**PASTOR:** Now when He saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, and He spoke to each of them, saying:

**PEOPLE:** **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is kingdom of heaven.**

**PASTOR:** Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

**PEOPLE: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

**PASTOR:** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

**PEOPLE:** **Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**

**PASTOR:** Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

**PEOPLE: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.**

**PASTOR:** Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for there is the kingdom of heaven.

**PEOPLE:** **Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you, because of me**.

**UNISON: Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way, they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** *#8 “Glorify Thy Name”*

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE**: *Matthew 5:1-9 (p. 1501)*

**ENGLISH SERMON: The Blessedness of Being Like Christ**

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE:** *Matthew 5:10-12 (p. 1501)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: The Cost and Reward of Living a Righteous Life**

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

**ACC MISSIONS COMMITTEE -**Please be reminded next Sunday, October 29th, is the final day to bring your donations for the Fall/Winter Clothing Drive for the Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac.  Donations of all types of winter clothing for men, women and children will be accepted.  As always, monetary donations are more than welcome and we will provide a box, on the table in the Lobby, along with a sign on how to make your checks payable to the Grace Centers of Hope.  Your donations are greatly appreciated.

**A SPECIAL THANKS** to the Minister to the Union of the AEUNA, Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian, and Rev. Ron Tovmassian, Field Pastor of the AEUNA, for their visit from California to deliver last Sunday morning's sermons, and for the evening Ordination Service of Rev. Hagop Haroutunian.

**ACC - W.C.F. HARVEST FAMILY NIGHT -**Plan now to attend the Women’s Christian Fellowship Harvest Family Night on Saturday, October 28th, at 6:00 p.m. An evening of fun and fellowship is being planned for both adults and children and a delicious dinner will be served.  For reservations, please sign your names on the sign-up sheet on the Church Bulletin Board or call the Church Office.  For more information, you may contact Carole Basmadjian (248-879-8637).

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

**ARMENIA MISSIONARY TRIP PRESENTATION -**Sunday, October 29th, in the Social Hall, following The Morning Worship Service. Please come join us to see all the wonderful work God did through this Missionary Trip that consisted of a team of Rev. Hagop, his wife Nune, and Rouben & Hasmik Arslanian back in July. They went to Armenia on behalf of the ACC Missions Committee to share the Gospel and help the families of the victims who sacrificed their lives during the war with Azerbaijan. They will share their experiences through PowerPoint videos and photo presentations.

**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.

**AMAA** **CALL FOR ARMENIA SUPPORT**. AMAA has been providing emergency relief aid to the 120,000 Artsakh Armenians who have now migrated to Armenia. If you want to support Armenia, please go to AMAA.org and choose "Donate to AMAA Today". For designation, choose, "AMAA Cares-Artsakh Aid Fund." Or you can mail your check to AMAA, at 31 West Century Rd., Paramus, NJ, 07652. (On your check memo section, please indicate, Armenian Congregational Church) Your donations are greatly appreciated.

**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**

Usually when we think of or use the word ‘blessed’, we immediately think of something we accomplished or something that makes us happy, Jesus had a different definition for the word ‘blessed’. He describes it as the transformation of the inner self that should give us the satisfaction of accomplishment.

**Here are some points about the blessedness of following Jesus**

1. **“Blessed are those who are prosecuted of righteousness, for theirs is**

**the kingdom of heaven.”** The word ‘blessed’ can mean ‘happy’. Jesus calls every believer happy or blessed by God, who does everything possible to uphold righteousness; without bending or compromising the truth. To defend the truth can sometimes be costly, even to the point of losing your life. However, the reward is great for those who stand firm to the end.

2. **“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely**

**say all kinds of evil against you because of me.”**  It is not easy to feel ‘blessed’ or ‘happy’ when people insult us and say evil things about us, but Jesus wants us to see the eternal crown that awaits us in heaven. We should also remember that when we love our enemies, as Jesus commanded us to do, it usually becomes one of the most effective tools to turn the hearts of unbelievers to Christ.