**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

Rev. Hagop Haroutunian, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

Susan Harrison, Choir Director and Organist

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11:00 a.m. December 1, 2024

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” #111, vs.1-2 English; vs.4 Armenian

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

Dear God of hope, as we start the Advent season, we proclaim our hope in you, because you brought us the hope of salvation through your Son, Jesus Christ, who came into this world to save us from our sins. Now that we have received forgiveness and have the gift of eternal life, we continue to hope in the final redemption, when you return once again, to take us to our heavenly home, where we will live in your presence, forever and ever. We pray that you keep our hope in you alive, until the return of Christ. We give you all the glory and honor, who taught us to pray: *“Our Father…”*

**\* GLORIA PATRI**, #79

**LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE**

**Reading of Scripture by Lena Bouladian:** Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Psalm 42

PASTOR: As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.

**PEOPLE**: **My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?**

PASTOR: My tears have been my food, day and night, while men say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”

**PEOPLE**: **These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.**

PASTOR: Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.

**PEOPLE**: **By day, the Lord directs His love; at night, His song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life.**

PASTOR: I say to God my Rock, “Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?”

**PEOPLE**: **My bones suffer mortal agony, as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, “Where is your God?”**

**UNISON: Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**PRAYER**

**\* DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**MEMBERSHIP CEREMONY:** for Michael Dennis Marburger

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**: “Go Tell It on the Mountain,” #118, vs.1,3

**THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING**: Romans 8:22-25 (p.1757)

**ENGLISH SERMON**: “The Blessed Living Hope”

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING**: Colossians 1:26-27 (p.1833)

**ARMENIAN SERMON**: “The Hope of Glory”

**\* HAYR MER**: #275

**BENEDICTION**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**: “Park Kez Der, Asdvadz Mer”

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

**\* Please stand if you are able**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MEN AND WOMEN’S BREAKFAST, FELLOWSHIP, BIBLE STUDY**: Next Saturday, December 7, 10:00am. Study begins at 11:00am.

**PLEASE FILL OUT SURVEY WITH LENA BOULADIAN**: In Social Hall. Inform us of your interest in a **New Year’s Eve** **Gathering/Celebration**—games, music, fellowship! It would be 6:00-9:00pm on Tuesday, December 31st.

**ACC MEMBERS - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** Next Sunday, December 8th - after worship in the sanctuary. The budget for the following year will be presented, and we will have the election of nominees to the Boards of Trustees and Deacons.

**GOALS TO ACCOMPLISH DURING THE ADVENT SEASON:**

1. Fast once a week, if you can (spend time on self-reflection, meditation, and prayer).
2. Read the Gospel of Luke in the next 24 days (Luke is 24 chapters).
3. Pray at least twice a day (if you are not already doing so).
4. Share Christ with at least one person each week.
5. Visit one sick person a week, and share the Gospel of Christ with them.

**ARMENIAN SYNOPSIS**

The Apostle Paul reminds us of this “mystery” of salvation that was spoken of long ago, by many of the prophets of the Old Testament; that has now been revealed to those who have accepted Christ as their Savior. We, as believers, are part of this group that rejoices in this wonderful and living hope.

**Here are a few points about our hope in Christ:**

1. **“The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but now has been revealed to the Lord’s people.”** For a long time, the Israelites were waiting for the coming of the Messiah, spoken by the prophets, to save them from the bondage of sin. This mystery Paul speaks of was finally revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, who came in the flesh and revealed to us the way to salvation, through His own life, death, and resurrection. We are truly blessed that this “mystery” is no longer a mystery to those of us who now have received this free gift of life.
2. **“To them, God has chosen to make known, among the Gentiles, the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”** These glorious riches and treasures, we have in Christ, are not comparable to any of the worldly riches. Having Christ, is having everything. Christ is the one who brings true meaning to life, true joy, peace, and love. Our lives are truly fulfilled in Him, and Him alone!

**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 18th. 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