**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

Rev. Hagop Haroutunian, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

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11:00 a.m. December 8, 2024

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**:

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” #120, vs.1-2 English; vs.3 Armenian

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

Dear Lord, as we enter the second week of Advent, we celebrate the Peace of Christ, that He brought into our lives. It is through His peace that we have peace with you and with one another. You are the Prince of Peace. Let your peace always rule in our lives. May we always live in peace with one another. Help us spread your peace to the world, so that they may know and taste the true and everlasting peace that only you can bring. Help us never worry or be afraid of anything, because your peace keeps us still, and we trust in your unfailing love. We give you all the glory and honor, who taught us to pray: *“Our Father…”*

**\* GLORIA PATRI**, #79

**LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE**

**And Reading of Scripture by Carole Basmadjian: Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7**

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Psalm 46

PASTOR: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

**PEOPLE**: **Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.**

PASTOR: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

**PEOPLE**: **God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.**

PASTOR: Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts His voice, the earth melts.

**PEOPLE**: **The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

PASTOR: Come and see the works of the Lord, the desolations He has brought on the earth.

**PEOPLE**: **He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the shields with fire.**

PASTOR: ‘Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

**UNISON: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**PRAYER**

**\* DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**: “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” #123,

vs.1-2 English; vs.3 Armenian

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING**: John 16:33 (p.1679)

**ENGLISH SERMON**: “The Inner and Lasting Peace of Christ”

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING**: Isaiah 54:10 (p.1147)

**ARMENIAN SERMON**: “The Everlasting Covenant of Peace”

**\* HAYR MER**: #275

**BENEDICTION**

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

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ACC MEMBERS - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY:** after worship, in the sanctuary at 12:30pm. The budget for the following year will be presented, and we will have the election of nominees to the Boards of Trustees and Deacons.

**PLEASE JOIN WEEKLY PRAYER**: Mondays, 6:30pm on Zoom.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** Sunday, December 15 after worship service, with a luncheon in the Social Hall.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:** Tuesday, December 24th at 6:00pm. Join us for a lovely time of Christmas worship! A light reception will follow, in the Social Hall.

**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**

As we celebrate the second week of advent, with the theme of peace, it is truly a joy to know that we serve a God who is full of peace. Christ is called, “the Prince of Peace.” This peace dwells in the hearts of believers through the Holy Spirit. It is one of the fruits of the Spirit. It is truly an unshakable peace that transcends all understanding.

**Here are some points about the peace of Christ in our lives:**

1. **“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken, nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.** This is a wonderful promise from God to us that stands firm about the covenant of peace and love that we have with Him. Every time we feel like we are losing our peace, we can look at this passage to remind us of God’s unfailing love and peace, that He has given us through Christ.
2. **“You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.”** When we are led by the peace of Christ, nothing will shake us; nothing will take away the inner peace that covers and protects us from worry, anxiety, fear, and whatever else that tries to take away our peace.

**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. Please write on your check envelope Memo: Poinsettias.

I wish to order Red Poinsettias for the Church Altar (#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

In Memory of

In Honor of

My Name is