**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 15, 2024

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**:

“O Come, All You Faithful,” #125, vs.1-3

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

Dear Lord, as we come before your presence, there is great joy to know that you love us and have given us your Spirit through Christ, who brought us joy everlasting. Thank you for sending Him into this world to save us from our sins, and fill us with inexpressible joy that only comes from you. We rejoice in knowing that you are always with us and will receive us with joy into your kingdom when Christ returns. May we always rejoice in you and share this great and glorious joy with others. We give you all the glory and honor, who taught us to pray: *“Our Father…”*

**\* GLORIA PATRI**, #79

**LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY**

**and Reading of Scripture by Rouben Arslanian: Luke 2:1-15**

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Psalm 16

PASTOR: Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge.

**PEOPLE**: **I said to the Lord, “You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.”**

PASTOR: As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones, in whom is all my delight.

**PEOPLE**: **The sorrows of those will increase, who run after other gods.**

PASTOR: I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips.

**PEOPLE**: **Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure.**

PASTOR: The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

**PEOPLE**: **I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.**

PASTOR: I have set the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

**PEOPLE**: Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

**UNISON: You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**PRAYER**

**\* DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**: “Joy to the World,” #121

vs.1-2 English; vs.3 Armenian transliteration

Togh See-yon-nee vorteek pérgreen, Hun-chén Pogh

Ho-pél-yan, odz-yal ahn-mah Tah-kahvoreen Yérkén

Yérk Ko-voot-yan, Yérkén Yérk Ko-voot-yan

Yérkén, Yérkén Yerk Ko-voot-yan

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING**: 1 Peter 1:8-9 (p.1887)

**ENGLISH SERMON**: “The Inexpressible Glorious Joy”

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING**: Psalm 16:11 (p.854)

**ARMENIAN SERMON**: “The Fullness of God’s Joy in Us”

**\* HAYR MER**: #275

**BENEDICTION**

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

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHURCH JOYS AND CONCERNS**: Please continue prayers for Armenia, Glenn Harrison, Jan Janigian, Susan Mousigian, Dr. Richard Marburger, Alice Kakousian, April and Nicole Tini.

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

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:** at 6:00pm. We will have a reception after the service. Please sign-up after today’s service with Hasmik Arslanian, to confirm your attendance for the reception. There will also be another sign-up sheet for those of you who want to make or bring something.

**CHRISTMAS SUNDAY SERVICE:** Next Sunday, we will have a special Christmas Sunday. Rev. Tootikian will deliver the English sermon. We hope you can all join us.

**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 simple definition of joy is, ‘a feeling of great pleasure and happiness.’ God created us to rejoice in our relationship with Him. That joy was lost through Adam and Eve’s disobedience, but was fully recovered again in Christ when He came to this earth.

**Here are a few points about the joy of the Lord in our lives:**

1. **“*You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence*.”** David expressed these words because he had experienced God’s blessings in his life. Joy comes in the presence of Christ, when we live in Him. Anything outside of Him is the opposite of joy; it is all dark and full of sadness. When we seek true and lasting joy and happiness outside of Christ, we realize it is temporary and futile.
2. **“*Eternal pleasures are in your right hand*.”** Worldly pleasures come and go, as we know; but from the hand of God comes lasting pleasures that words cannot express. When we are filled by the fruit of the Spirit, we become content and no longer seek anything that is out there, outside of Christ. Jesus is our true joy.

**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