**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 29, 2024

**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 transliteration

Park, Ishkhan Kha-gha-ghoot-yan, park Ahrév Ahr-ta-root-yan

Pérav looys gyank ahm-mé-noon, hee-vahn-tatz pzhehsh-goo-tune

Togh-oots parkn eer yerg-nah-yeen, vor martig hah-ved –abreen

Dze-nav vor martehn Parts-rah-nah, oo yergnitz zhah-rank ella

Lh-set-tsék gérkén hreshdahk, Norahd-zeen Arkayeen park.

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

Dear Lord, as we reach the end of this year, we want to express our gratitude for your faithfulness, goodness, love, and grace. We know that it is only through your grace we have our being and are able to accomplish our goals. We thank you for blessing us throughout the year. We pray that you grant us the right spirit to press on toward the New Year with a new outlook for life, to seek your will in our lives, to come to know and love you more intimately, and to love and support one another. We give you all the glory and honor, who taught us to pray: *“Our Father…”*

**\* GLORIA PATRI**, #79

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Ending of the Year Sunday

LEADER: O God, in the quietness of your house we await the closing moments of another year.

**PEOPLE**: **We lift up our hearts to you, O Lord.**

LEADER: For your presence to be with us during the past months, we thank you, our Father.

**PEOPLE**: **For the pleasant signs of your presence, we thank you.**

LEADER: Thank you for successes long anticipated; happiness long hoped for; pleasures long looked forward to.

**PEOPLE**: **But even more, we are grateful for satisfactions we had little reason to expect, joys that surprised us, sudden delights that seemed to come from nowhere.**

LEADER: Your presence, Father, was comforting, but not always comfortable.

**PEOPLE**: **O Lord, some things that happened in this year reminded us again of your mystery, of how your will is not always our will, of how much more you know than we do.**

LEADER: But here we are, going into the New Year, rejoicing and wondering, and talking to you.

**PEOPLE: Accept our gratitude for all the obvious marks of your goodness.**

LEADER: Help us to make amends in the New Year for whatever wrong we did in the old.

**UNISON: And grant us humility and courage to live with the mysteries that remain, trusting you, the beginning and the end, in whom we have all our beginnings and endings. Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**PRAYER AND \* DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

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

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

Inchbés lehrig oo kha-gha-ghig drvad-zeh ice shnorh

Ehs-kahn-chélee Ahsd-vahd-dzah-yeen, park soorp anvahn ahnor

Ice-béss mahr-toon sir-deen dah mehr Dehr havih-deneetz,

Ahn-bahd-mé-li seerov ahn-hoon orh-noo-tune-nér Yérg-nitz

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING**: Isaiah 43:18-21 (p.1127)

**ENGLISH SERMON**: “New Year with New Blessings”

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING**: Philippians 3:12-14 (p.1829)

**ARMENIAN SERMON**: “Pressing On Toward the Goal for the Prize”

**\* 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, Jan Janigian, Susan Mousigian, Dr. Richard Marburger, Alice Kakousian, April and Nicole Tini, Susan Harrison and family.

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

**NEXT SATURDAY, JANUARY 4th, MONTHLY BIBLE STUDIES:** 10:00am Breakfast, and separate Bible studies for Women and Men at 11:00am.

**NEW BIBLE STUDY EVERY THURSDAY:** A six week study, beginning January 9th at 6:30pm. Men and Ladies will study the letters of Colossians and Philemon, using “The Lordship of Jesus,” by Dr. David Jeremiah. Please sign-up in the Social Hall, and mark if you wish to purchase the book or have the church purchase it for you. The cost is $8.00.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVANT’S HEART:** Thank you to all who sang and lead our worship, and to those who prepared the dinner after our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!

**ARMENIAN SYNOPSIS**

Paul had great ambition to reach his goal in life; it was a spiritual goal. He wanted to ensure he accomplished everything God had called him to do. It is the same with us – we need to also know God’s will in our lives and aim at what God has for us ahead in the New Year.

**Here are some points about setting goals in our lives:**

1. **“*Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me*.”** Paul seems to always be proactive in his life about prioritizing God’s call for him. He aimed at the goal and mission God had set before him. We too need to be able to understand God’s will in our lives by spending time with Him in prayer and reading His Word.
2. **“*I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus*.”** Paul’s goal was not aimed at earthly things, but rather on heavenly and eternal things. While we have short term earthly goals on this earth, we, like Paul, should more importantly aim at the eternal values that matter most.