**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. January 5, 2025

**ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**: “To Us a Child of Hope is Born,”

#119, vs.1-2 English; vs.3 Armenian transliteration

Eer Déroutune-néh Hasdadoun, Ahnhoon yev ahn-vakh-Jan

Eshkha-nou-tiahnnéh Médz-naloon Beedee Chéllah Sahman

Eshkha-nou-tiahnneh Médz-naloon Beedee Chéllah Sahman

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

Holy Father, we come to you through Christ our Lord, to give thanks to you as we remember once again the birth of your Son, Jesus, who came as the ultimate gift of life for us all. Your great love prompted you to send your one and only Son, so that we can receive the gift of eternal life. We thank you that through Christ we have become heirs and have received the full right to be called your children. We thank you and rejoice greatly for this honor you have given us, to be called the children of the most high God. We give you all the glory and honor, who taught us to pray: *“Our Father…”*

**\* GLORIA PATRI**, #79

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Psalm 2

PASTOR: Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

**PEOPLE**: **The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.**

PASTOR: “Let us break their chains,” they say, “and throw off their fetters.”

**PEOPLE**: **The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.**

PASTOR: Then He rebukes them in His anger and terrifies them in His wrath, saying, “I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

**PEOPLE**: **I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”**

PASTOR: Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.

**PEOPLE**: **Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.**

PASTOR: Kiss the Son, lest He be angry with you, and you be destroyed in your way; for His wrath can flare up in a moment.

**UNISON: Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**PRAYER AND \* DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**:

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory,”

#129, vs.1 English; vs.4 Armenian

**THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING**: Galatians 4:4-7 (p.1813)

**ENGLISH SERMON**: “Heirs Through Christ”

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING**: Romans 6:23 (p.1755)

**ARMENIAN SERMON**: “The Gift of All Gifts”

**\* 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.

**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.

**MANOOGIAN MANOR CHRISTMAS VISIT:** The Missions Committee is planning to visit Manoogian Manor on Saturday, January 11th at 1:30pm, to celebrate Christmas with them. You are all invited to join. We will sing Christmas carols, talk and pray with the residents, and present them with goodie bags. Please sign-up with Carole Basmadjian after church, in the Social Hall.

**SPONSOR COFFEE HOUR OR ALTAR FLOWERS:** Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the foyer.

**ARMENIAN SYNOPSIS**

The birth of Christ has become the subject of discussion in the last two thousand years, because it is different from any other birth. It is controversial and offensive to many people and religions, because God’s Word boldly declares that God became a man. We should not forget that this was told long ago in the Old Testament, that the Messiah, the Son of God, would one day become like one of us, in order to bring us back to God.

**Here are a few points about the birth of Christ:**

1. **“*The wages of sin is death*.”** The Bible tells us, ‘*we reap what we have sown.*’ No criminal can escape the punishment due him/her; no bank robber can avoid imprisonment that is due him/her. It is also true that no person will stand before God innocent, unless he/she has been pardoned and released from condemnation. Someone has to pay the penalty, since none of us are able to keep God’s requirements.
2. **“*The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*.”** Christ came and provided the atonement, by giving us the free gift of eternal life. We could not earn God’s favor, so Christ became the bridge to bring us back to God. This gift of eternal life is priceless and we ought to care and protect it from the world’s pollution and harm, until the day we meet Jesus in heaven.