**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 12, 2025

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL HYMN**: “Blessed Assurance,”

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

Irn em yes An im Ter yev Arkan,

Kzgam Ir parke andzis mech nerkah,

Surb hreshtakner galov yerknken,

Shnorhats siro yerg ke mrmnjen.

Piti patmem minch shunches verchin,

Oo yergem sern anhun im Prktchin,

Piti patmem minch shunches verchin,

Oo yergem sern anhun im Prktchin

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

Dear Lord, we thank you this morning for gathering us in your presence to praise and worship you. You alone deserve all the honor and glory because you are good. We pray that as we start this New Year, we will see the goals and purposes you have for us. We want to accomplish your will in our lives. We want to see your glory and power work in our lives to transform us more into your likeness in character and nature. We ask for your wisdom to guide us through the Holy Spirit, into the path of love and righteousness in this New Year. We give you all the glory and honor, who taught us to pray: *“Our Father…”*

**\* GLORIA PATRI**, #79

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Psalm 37:1-11

PASTOR: Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.

**PEOPLE**: **Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.**

PASTOR: Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.

**PEOPLE**: **Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause, like the noonday sun.**

PASTOR: Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

**PEOPLE**: **Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.**

PASTOR: For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.

**PEOPLE**: **A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found.**

**UNISON: But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**PRAYER AND**

**\* DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL SONG**: “Because He Lives,” #17

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING**: Philippians 2:12-16 (p.1827-1828)

**ENGLISH SERMON**: “Fulfilling God’s Purpose in Your Life”

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING**: Luke 13:31-33 (p.1621)

**ARMENIAN SERMON**: “Living With a Purpose and a Goal”

**\* HAYR MER**: #275

**\* BENEDICTION**

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

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WE WELCOME ALL WHO ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US**, especially guests. We extend a very cordial welcome to newcomers to take part in the worship, to engage in the activities of the church, and to make this your church home.

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

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

**ACC MEMBERS CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**: Sunday, January 26th, after the Church Service, at 12:30pm. All members of ACC are requested to be present for the purpose of the presentation of the reports of the Senior Pastor, the Church Council by the Clerk, Boards of Deacons, Trustees by their respective Chairmen, the actual income and expenditures by the Treasurer, and the Sunday School by the Superintendent.

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

**ARMENIAN SYNOPSIS**

Jesus was laser focused on what God the Father had sent Him to do. He let nothing distract Him from losing focus of the purpose and goal He came to accomplish. This should be the case for us as well.

**Here are some points about staying focused in God’s will:**

1. **“*I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal*.”** In this story, some Pharisees came and told Jesus that Herod, the king, wanted to kill Him. This threat did not shake Jesus, and so He responded in this way, to show that no human flesh should stop us from doing God’s will. Fear is our worst enemy. We can conquer fear by fully trusting in God’s provision, as did Jesus, Paul, and many others.
2. **“*I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day*.”** Jesus reiterated the importance of aiming at the goal He came to accomplish, which was to die for our sins. We too, must be bold and courageous to fulfill God’s purpose and goal in our lives, no matter what life circumstances may bring.