**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. February 2, 2025

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL HYMN**: “We Praise You, O God,”

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

Mishd Park oo Kovést, Dank Zohvadz Karnookeen Vor Mér

Méghkeh Chenchetz oo Nérétz Tartsogheen Ahlé

Looyah Méhr Prgeecheh, Alelooyah Ahmen Ahlé

Looyah Koog-déh parkeh, Srpéh Méz Nohrén

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

Dear Lord, we are gathered this morning to worship you because you have anointed us with the oil of the Holy Spirit, who is the source of our love, joy, and peace. We thank you that you promise to pour out your Spirit on us, to empower us to continue to do your will, by keeping our lamps continually burning. You said we are the light of the world. We want to shine your light and to be ready to meet you with our lamps filled with oil, so that our light will never run out. We give you all the glory and honor, who taught us to pray: *“Our Father…”*

**\* GLORIA PATRI**, #79

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Psalm 23 and Psalm 133

PASTOR: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

**PEOPLE**: **He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.**

PASTOR: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

**PEOPLE**: **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

PASTOR: Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**PEOPLE: How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!**

PASTOR: It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down upon the collar of his robes.

**PEOPLE: It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.**

**UNISON: For there the Lord bestows His blessing, even life forevermore.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**PRAYER**

**\* DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL SONG**: “Here I Am To Worship,” #4

**THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING**: Matthew 25:1-13 (p.1540-1541)

**ENGLISH SERMON**: “The Oil of Readiness”

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING**: Leviticus 24:1-4 (p.193)

**ARMENIAN SERMON**: “The Oil of Light and Life”

**\* 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, California Fires’ Disaster.

**TODAY’S COFFEE HOUR:** Is sponsored by Rev. Hagop, in honor of his beloved wife, Nune Haroutunian. We want to extend our warmest wishes to Nune for a very blessed birthday! May the Lord continue to bless her with good health, joy, and peace. We invite you to join us in the Social Hall to celebrate Nune’s special day, with the cutting of the cake.

**ARMENIA MISSION TRIP PRESENTATION:** This afternoon, after the church service, at 12:30pm in the Social Hall. Rev. Hagop and Nune will share their experience from the Armenia Mission Trip last September. They will have a PowerPoint presentation of photos and videos of all that God did through them.

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

**WEEKLY THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY:** 6:30pm, in person and zoom.

**ARMENIAN SYNOPSIS**

The tabernacle for the Jews was a prototype of the temple that was later built. It consisted of three parts: the outer court, the holy place, and the holy of holies. In the holy place, there was the table of showbread where there was fresh bread daily; the altar of incense, where the priest would burn incense every morning and evening; and there was a seven-branched golden lampstand that needed to remain burning at all times.

**Here are some points about the meaning of oil and the lampstand:**

1. **“*Command the Israelites to bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light, so that the lamps may be kept burning continually.’*”** (Leviticus 24:1) The tabernacle of the Lord was to always be lit, never to be in darkness. This is because God’s presence is there and since He is the light of the world, as Jesus had stated, light must always be present. The key for the lamp is the oil. Without oil, the lamps would not give any light. Without the filling of the Holy Spirit, our lives would not shine that light of Christ.
2. **“*The lamps on the pure gold lampstand before the Lord must be tended continually*.”** (Leviticus 24:4) The priest had to tend the lamps and put new oil every day, so that there would always be light. We too, must continually tend our spirit and be filled by the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control). Galatians 5:22-23