**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 23, 2025

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL HYMN**: “He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought,”

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

Déhr Tsérket Tsérkis Métch Yes Prném Aysoo

Hedev Che Dérdénchém, Koh Yem, Vijagés

Inch Vor Eh, Zi Déres Eents Garachnorté

Garachnorté, Garachnorté, Eer Soorp Tsérkovéh Zihs Goo-ghéh

Yes Ashagérd Mishd Kundnoovim Yév Hédévogh Havadareem.

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

Dear Lord, we are joyful this morning to be in your presence, to worship and adore you. You alone deserve all praise and honor. We thank you that you are our good shepherd, who protects us from the evil one and nurtures us with your wonderful word, that can build us to be a church that glorifies your name. We pray that you help us grow stronger each and every day, as we face new trials. We know we can conquer all things, through Christ, our Savior. We give you all the glory and honor, who taught us to pray: *“Our Father…”*

**\* GLORIA PATRI**, #79

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Psalm 46

PASTOR: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

**PEOPLE**: **Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.**

PASTOR: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

**PEOPLE**: **God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.**

PASTOR: Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts His voice, the earth melts.

**PEOPLE: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

PASTOR: Come and see the works of the Lord, the desolations He has brought on the earth.

**PEOPLE: He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the shields with fire.**

PASTOR: Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.

**UNISON: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**PRAYER**

**\* DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL SONG**: “The Heart of Worship,” #3

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING**: Acts 20:17-38 (p.1729-1730)

**ENGLISH SERMON**: “The Word That Can Build You Up”

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING**: Luke 6:38 (p.1601)

**ARMENIAN SERMON**: “Giving From the Heart”

**\* 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.

**THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD:** Today’s coffee hour is sponsored by the Trustees, Deacons, and Church family, in recognition of Rev. Hagop and Nune, with gratitude for their years of service to our Church.

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

**FEAST OF ST. VARTANANK:** On Thursday, February 27 at 7:00pm, the four Armenian Churches of Greater Detroit, along with Knights and Daughters of Vartan, invite you to celebrate and commemorate. It will be held at St. Vartan Armenian Catholic Church, 4875 W. Maple Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI. His Eminence Bishop Mikael Mouradian, of the Armenian Catholic Church in the U.S. and Canada, will be the Celebrant and Preacher; with metro Detroit Armenian Church Choirs, directed by Deacon Rubik Mailian. A reception will follow in the Church Hall.

**MEN AND WOMEN’S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY:** (in person and zoom) Next Saturday, March 1st - meeting at 10:00am for breakfast, and the studies begin at 11:00am.

**ARMENIAN SYNOPSIS**

We live in a society that teaches us to receive and save for ourselves. While there is nothing wrong with that, nevertheless, we must remember that Christians are strongly encouraged to live with the principle of giving being more important than receiving.

**Here are a few points about giving:**

1. **“*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.*”** These words of Jesus remind us how our lives will be blessed when we give. You might ask what? We can give a lot of things to a lot of people, who need our support. We can make an effort to give more of our time, finances, love, encouragement, and etc.
2. **“*For the measure you use, it will be measured to you*.”** God is just and fair; He blesses us with the measure we bless others. It is fair and square. The more we give, the more we receive. This is the attitude God wants us to use, toward those we are surrounded by. People need God’s love, every day. We are the hands of God to show His compassion to others.