**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

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11:00 a.m. March 16, 2025

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** - #13, “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

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

Almighty God, who is forever with us, we praise you for all those who have preserved the foundation of the Christian Church, and especially this congregation. As we celebrate this great heritage, we pray that you will give us the courage to continue as a serving congregation. Guide us as we share our faith and witness before others in this community and in the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who taught us to pray: *“Our Father, Who art in heaven…”*

**\* GLORIA PATRI** - #79

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**MORNING MEDITATION AND PRAYER:**

PASTOR: An engine without fuel will not run. A computer without power will not work. An engine or a computer is nothing more than an object that cannot function as it was intended to, without its power source.

**PEOPLE**: **We human beings are pretty much the same. We cannot live our lives fully and freely, without the power of God’s Spirit within us.**

PASTOR: Without the Holy Spirit, we cannot function as God intended us to. The disciples knew that Jesus had kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit to them after He left this world.

**PEOPLE**: **The disciples saw the Holy Spirit at work in their preaching and healing. They healed the sick and converted the lost, by the Power of the Holy Spirit.**

PASTOR: We are heirs of that same promise, more than two thousand years later. Let us claim the gift of the Spirit, by doing the works of the Spirit. Our Heavenly Father, we pray that the Church may bear witness to the world, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**PEOPLE: Our Heavenly Father, we pray that the Church may seek peace in the world, through the power of the Spirit.**

PASTOR: O Lord our God, You lead us through the prompting of Your Holy Spirit to do the work of Christ in this world.

**UNISON: O Lord our God, give us Jesus’ eyes of love and hope. In His holy name we pray. Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**PRAYER**

**\* DOXOLOGY**-#1

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 13:6-9 (p.1620)

**ENGLISH SERMON:** Lessons from a Fig Tree

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** - #295 “Rise Up, O Men of God,” (vs.1,2)

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 15:11-16 (p.1624)

**ARMENIAN SERMON:** The Parable of the Lost Son

**\* HAYR MER:** #275

**\* BENEDICTION**

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

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

**\* Congregation is requested to stand**

**\*\*\* Latecomers may be seated**

**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.

**BOARD OF DEACONS**: There will be a Board of Deacons meeting at 12:30pm today.

**FOOD DRIVE – LAST TWO WEEK OF MARCH:** Bring non-perishable food for Cass Community Social Services. Your items may be left on the Lobby table, as you come in. Thank you!

**ACC COUNCIL MEETING**: Sunday, March 30th, after the Church Service, at 12:30pm.

**Synopsis of the Armenian Sermon**

 The Second Sunday of the Lenten Season, on the Armenian Church’s calendar, is dedicated to the Parable of the Prodigal (Anaraki Kirak).

 One of the most emotionally moving passages in the Bible is the parable of the Prodigal Son; and it might better be called the Story of the Forgiving Father.

 The younger son violates the most basic standards of Judaism, reducing himself to the level of animal groveling in a Gentile’s pigpen. Jesus describes the prodigal utterly insensitive to his religious heritage, and as “undeserving” as a human can be.

 Yet the parable’s main focus is not on the youth’s unworthiness but on the father’s love. Notice that when the prodigal is “a long way off,” his father sees him and forgetting his dignity, rushes to meet the returning son. Note too, that the father expressed no anger at his shameful behavior, and inflicts no punishment. Ignoring the youth’s request to be hired as a servant, the parent instead orders a lavish celebration in his honor.

 The conversation between the father and his older son, who complains about the partiality shown to his sibling, makes the parable’s theme even clearer. The father explains the unlimited quality of his affection. The parable expressed the view of the divine Father, who “is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.”

**EASTER LILIES:** If you would like to donate one or more Easter lilies to be displayed on the Church Altar, please write Easter Lily in the memo of your check, before placing in the offering plate; and include the name information below. The deadline is March 16th. The price is $20.00 each.

I wish to order Easter Lilies for the Church Altar (#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

In Memory of

In Honor of

My Name is