**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

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11:00 a.m. April 6, 2025

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN - #302 “Sing Them Over Again to Me”**

**vs.1-2 English; vs.3 Armenian transliteration**

**Tzan da siro Avedaran Hrashalee khosk guenatz**

**Tzan toghootyas Khaghaghootyan Hrashalee Khosk Guenatz**

**Ov Hissoush Prgitch miyayn, Srpatschoor mez Havidyan**

**Khosk keghetzik, Khosk Hrashali**

**Hrashali, khosk guenatz**

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

**Almighty God, as we gather in this time of worship, let us share in the power of Your Holy Spirit. And by this power, fill our faith with goodness; our goodness with knowledge; our knowledge with godliness; our godliness with kindness; and our kindness with love. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray: “Our Father, Who art in heaven…”**

**\* GLORIA PATRI - #79**

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**RESPONSIVE READING AND PRAYER**

**PASTOR: No promise can be proved true, except in the living. A**

**promise binds the future, which does not yet exist, so there can**

**be no proof of a promise.**

**PEOPLE: We must make promises on faith and take promises on**

**trust. We must have faith in ourselves to make good on our**

**promises.**

**PASTOR: We must have trust in the strength of the other, who makes us a promise.**

**PEOPLE: We have our citizenship in heaven, which means that we**

**must live on the promises of our faith, through the unpromising times of life in this world.**

**PASTOR: Making and taking promises have a way of shaping the future. We help create the future through the promise we make and**

**take. Let us pray for the courage to accept the promises of God**

**in unpromising times. Our Heavenly Father, we pray that we**

**might trust Your promise of eternal life in a time of fading life.**

**PEOPLE: Lord God, we pray that we might trust Your promise of a**

**promised land in a time of doubt.**

**UNISON: Our loving Father, help us not to give up on the promises,**

**but use the trying times to build faith and trust in Your word.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**\* DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 21:28-32 (p.1533)**

**ENGLISH SERMON: The Parable of the Two Sons**

**\*HYMN - #434 “When All My Labors and Trials Are O’er” (vs.1,3)**

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

**ARMENIAN SERMON: The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids**

**\* 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 MEETING**: Today, April 6th, after the Church Service, at 12:30pm.

**NEXT SUNDAY IS PALM SUNDAY**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY: Service will be held on Thursday, April 17th, at 6:30pm, to be followed by a reflective supper.**

**APRIL 24 TH -- 110 th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN**

**REMEMBRANCE: by the four Armenian churches of Greater Detroit, is being held at St. Sarkis, at 7:00pm. A light afterglow will follow.**

**Synopsis of the Armenian Sermon**

**According to the Armenian Church calendar, the Fifth Sunday of Lent is called Advent Sunday (Kalstyan Kiraki). Christ came to this world for the Salvation of mankind; and particularly on Advent Sunday, Christians should ponder about Christ’s Second Coming. Christ will come again for the judgment of sinners, when the righteous will become worthy of entering the Kingdom of God. The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids deals with his Second Coming. Jesus urges people to be prepared, because he would come unexpectedly, like a thief. He also**

**promises to return in order to claim his own and reward them (Luke 21:34-36).**

**In the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids, Jesus teaches the following**

**valuable lessons:**

**1. Being unprepared can be a serious matter. Life takes many strange**

**twists and turns. Are we prepared for those challenging times? It is**

**just good, common sense to make reasonable allowance for the**

**unexpected.**

**2. In life, those are things that cannot be borrowed. We cannot borrow**

**another person’s preparation and wisdom, honesty and**

**determination. We better build these spiritual qualities on our own.**

**3. Be prepared for his return. Those who are unprepared will be**

**excluded from the Kingdom when Jesus returns. They are the**

**unwise and foolish, who are not prepared.**

**Preparing to meet God is not something we ought to do the last minutes of life. It is the Jesus life style, living by the Kingdom principles.**