**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

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11:00 a.m. May 11, 2025

**Mother’s Day**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN** - #379 “There Is Beauty All Around”

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

*Véhrn yergink geh Dzee-Dza-ghee, yérp sér gah dahn métch*

*Varn yérgeer Sirov- eh- lee, yérp sér gah dahn métch*

*Zov choorern anoosh yérkérn, yév Jah-jahn-chah-kegh yétérn*

*Dérn al geh hahvni parts-rérn, yérp sér gah dahn metch, sér dahn métch*

*Sér dahn métch, Dérn al geh hahvni parts-rérn, yérp sér gah dahn metch*

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

We thank you for mothers, who by the example of their faith have challenged us to build a stronger spiritual foundation for our lives. Bless them and bless the labors of their hands. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught us to pray: *“Our Father, Who art in Heaven…”*

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**LITANY FOR MOTHER’S DAY:**

**PASTOR:** Our Heavenly Father, we thank You that You have so planned that we should dwell in homes and families. We are grateful to You for our mothers, whose love has sustained family life over the centuries.

**PEOPLE: We thank You for motherhood, that is a symbol of strength and unselfishness.**

**PASTOR:** We thank You for all the mothers, whose wisdom has guided their children through the developing years of life.

**PEOPLE: We thank You for all the mothers, whose trust has inspired youth to strive for high ideals, and whose lives have been a signpost pointing them to Christ.**

**PASTOR:** Grant that we may express our gratitude to our mothers and honor them, as we recall their loyalty and love, their kindness and patience, their sacrifice and perseverance.

**PEOPLE: Grant that their example may motivate us to love and serve You more, and reach out and touch the lives of our neighbors.**

**PASTOR:** We pray that You will bless our mothers today, as we honor them, and bless the memory of those who are with You in glory.

**PEOPLE: Help us, O Lord, to grow in the love which gave us birth and guided our early steps.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANTHEM**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING:** Proverbs 31:10-31 (p.1032-1033)

Michael Marburger

**ENGLISH SERMON:** *“Motherhood and Good Mothers”*

**\*HYMN** *“Faith of Our Mothers”* (Tune: Hymn #401 “Faith of Our Fathers”

Faith of our mothers, living yet

In cradle song and bedtime prayer

In nursery love and fireside lore,

Thy presence still pervades the air.

Faith of our mothers, living faith

We will be true to Thee till death.

Faith of our mothers, Christian faith

In truth beyond our man-made creeds,

Still serve the home and save the church,

And breathe their spirit through our deeds.

Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,

We will be true to Thee till death.

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING:** Proverbs 31:28-31 (p.1032-1033)

Lara Koundakjian

**ARMENIAN SERMON:** *“Virtuous Mothers”*

**\*HAYR MER** - #275

**\*BENEDICTION**

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

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

**\*Congregation is requested to stand. \*\*\*Latecomers may be seated.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY TO ALL MOTHERS:** Our Mother’s Day Luncheon will be held today at 12:30 p.m., in the Social Hall.

**HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!** Please feel free to use the lovely backdrop in the Narthex, for a photo.

**FATHER’S DAY PICNIC, SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH:** Please sign-up on the sheet in the Social Hall, if you are going to be at this fun gathering. It will be at Kensington Metro Park, at noon.

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

**Synopsis of the Armenian Sermon**

There are all kinds of mothers in this world: good, bad, virtuous and sinful. Motherhood is not only a biological phenomenon; it is a calling. Mothers not only give birth and raise children; they are called to educate them.

Throughout history, virtuous mothers have played a decisive role of being makers and molders of their children’s character. They have been the greatest teachers in the first and foremost school of life, the home. They still play a crucial role in shaping the fate of their offspring. They hold the fate of humanity in their hands, to the extent that what they build, no force can destroy; and what they destroy, no power is able to build.

In spite of all their shortcomings, they still are the stabilizing force in our public life. They continue to be the chief architect and builder of the home.

They are not perfect, but they still symbolize the qualities of life that we all admire the most in others and desire the most for ourselves. The good they have been doing will never be undone, but will live on forever as a testimony to their faith and good deeds.