**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

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11:00 a.m. May 18, 2025

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN** - #247 “Brightly Beams Our Father’s Mercy”

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

*Krisdonya varéh Gan-téghét, navort-nérn togh hra-veer-veen*

*Geh pundrén Nahvah-han-kis-duh, Voh Mooteen métch chéh gors-veen*

*Togh vareen ahghod Jrakné-réh, Looys ghér-géhn Ahlyatz metchén*

*Dah-Dahn-yal Maradz navort méh, Toon grnahs purgél gors-déhn.*

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

Almighty God, we thank you that you are more ready to hear than we are to pray, and willing to give more than we desire or deserve. Forgive us those things of which our consciences are afraid, and give us those things, which we are not worthy to ask. Enable us to live in accordance with your love. In Jesus’ name, who taught us to pray:

*“Our Father, Who art in Heaven…”*

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

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**RESPONSIVE CONFESSION AND LITANY OF INTERCESSION:**

**PASTOR:** The Church has never depended exclusively on religious orders to do the work of the Church. The laity has always played a crucial supporting role.

**PEOPLE: Never has the need for faith workers been greater than the present.**

**PASTOR:** Both clergy and lay volunteers need to come together to do the work that Jesus has given us – to spread the gospel, to teach the young, and help the needy.

**PEOPLE: Jesus had to depend on his disciples to begin to do the work of preaching and healing. He sent them out as workers in fields that were ready for harvest.**

**PASTOR:** O Lord, send us as workers for Christ, to free the addicted.

**PEOPLE: O Lord, send us as workers, to befriend the outcast.**

**PASTOR:** Lord God, send us as workers for Christ, to cure the diseased.

**PEOPLE: Lord God, send us as workers for Christ, to comfort the dying.**

**PASTOR:** Heavenly Father, we know that your Son Jesus has chosen us as his disciples to carry out his mission and message.

**PEOPLE: Grant us the strength to do the work he has called us to do.**

**UNISON: We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANTHEM**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING:** *1 Corinthians 12:12-20 (p.1785-1786)*

*Ann Bayleran*

**ENGLISH SERMON:** *“Questions Concerning the Church”*

**\*HYMN** #164*“Savior, Lead Me”*

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING:** *1 Timothy 6:6-10 (1850)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON:** *“Christianity: A Religion of Materialism”*

**\*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 TRUSTEES MEETING:** will be held on Tuesday, May 20th, at 6:00 p.m.

**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 two kinds of materialism: A secular materialism, which holds that this chief end of human beings is their material well-being; the other kind materialism recognizes and highly regards the reality, necessity, and usefulness of material things, but does not consider these things as ends but as means of serving human and spiritual values.

Christianity is a religion of materialism in the following ways:

First, Christianity affirms that the material world is created by God. Not only is the world God’s handiwork, but also creation is good not evil. “God saw all that He made, and it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31)

Second, Christianity’s attitude is that our physical bodies are temples of God. (1 Corinthians 6:19) Although the body is not an end in itself, it is held in high regard, because it is the instrument the spirit must use.

Third, Christianity has an objective view about money and material possessions. Jesus’ attitude toward money is very significant in the Gospels. Jesus did not condemn money, but the preoccupation of money. Christianity condemns the love of money. It is no sin to have money, but money should become our “slave, not our master.”