**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

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11:00 a.m. August 3, 2025

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN** - #4 “We Praise You, O God”

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

Mishd Park oo Kovést, Dank Zohvadz Karnookeen Vor Mér

Méghkeh Chenchetz oo Nérétz Tartsogheen Ahlé

Looyah Méhr Prgeecheh, Alelooyah Ahmen Ahlé

Looyah Koog-déh parkeh, Srpéh Méz Nohrén

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

God of vision and marketplace, be with us today as we come here to worship, so we will have the power of Your Spirit when we return to our work. Make this day, as well as all our days, holy, by helping us to receive every day as a new chance to be like Jesus. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who taught us to pray: *“Our Father, Who art in heaven…”*

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

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**RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**PASTOR:** We confess our sins to God, not to increase the weight of guilt, but to feel the weight of glory in God’s forgiveness.

**PEOPLE: Let us, therefore, bring ourselves before God, that we may hear this pardon.**

**PASTOR:** God of compassion, we bring our anxious cares to You today. We are worried with our personal concerns, about our nation and the world.

**PEOPLE: Father, receive our anxieties as a sign of our humanness, and as a confession that we do not trust You as we should.**

**PASTOR:** We admit that we do things we ought not to do, and fail to do what we know is right. We are distressed by our failures.

**PEOPLE: God, deliver us from this bondage to death, and help us to live again.**

**PASTOR:** Sometimes we feel good about ourselves; sometimes we hate ourselves, and the hate makes us bitter and mean.

**PEOPLE: God, forgive the ways we hurt other people, because we are caught in the mire of self-doubt and self-disgust.**

**UNISON: O Lord, hear us, as in silence we open ourselves to You and tell You what we do not like about ourselves. Help us, O God, 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:** *John 15:9-17 (p.1677)*

**ENGLISH SERMON:** ***Friendship and Our Greatest Friend***

**\*HYMN** #223*“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” (vs.1,3)*

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING:** *Matthew 7:21 (p.1506)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON:** ***Do You Really Belong to Jesus?***

**\*HAYR MER**

**\*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.

**SPONSOR COFFE HOUR OR ALTAR FLOWERS:** Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. What a nice way to have a remembrance for your loved one. Thank you.

**NEXT SUNDAY WE ARE GOING TO HONOR:** The Armenian American Veterans, in our Church. At 2:00 p.m. a public ceremony will be held at Manoogian Manor, on Middlebelt Road, between Five and Six Mile Roads, in Livonia.

**ARMENIA FESTIVAL FOR ARTSAKH:** We will have a booth at Armenia Fest 17 on Saturday, August 23rd, and will be selling baked goods. If you would like to bake something for this event, please see Ann Zartarian after Church. You can make a financial donation. Please make your check payable to: **ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**, and in the memo write: **ARMENIA FEST**. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Synopsis of the Armenian Sermon**

You claim to be a Christian. A true Christian belongs to Jesus. Do you really belong to Jesus? The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ will return to this world someday. When He returns to earth to claim His own, will you be one of them? How would you demonstrate that you know Him and belong to Him? Jesus taught on this subject. He said in Matthew 7:21, “Not everyone who says to me ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father, Who is in heaven.” How does your life reflect doing the will of God?

Here are some questions to enable our lives to reflect the will of God: Am I diligent and faithful in personal devotion? Do I read my Bible and pray every day? Do I meditate on God’s Word, and have I hidden His law in my heart, that I might not sin against Him? Am I diligent and faithful in my corporate devotion? Do I worship with God’s people, joyfully singing His praise, and eagerly offering prayers for the needs of people? Do I cheerfully give my tithes and offerings for the work of His Church? Do I enjoy the fellowship of God’s people regularly? Do I keep the Great Commandment? Do I love God with all my heart, soul, mind and being? And do I love my fellow humans as myself? Finally, do I bear witness to Jesus in my work, play, and neighborhood? Do I act Christ-like in my relationship with others?

What will Jesus think of our excuses for not doing His Father’s will? “I am too tired. There isn’t enough time. It’s not fun. The people who are supposed to be Christians are mean and don’t like me. The service is too long. The organ is too loud. The sermon is too long and very boring. No one is nice to me at Church. I won’t have any time to spend with my family.” Jesus answered that question in the next verses in Matthew 7:23, “And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you evil-doers.’”