**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

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11:00 a.m. August 24, 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)

 Lord God, because of Your great love, we can come into Your house. Because of You, we are truly happy. Your kindness protects us like a shield. Make Your way clear to us now, as we gather to be led by Your word. Through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

*“Our Father, Who art in heaven…”*

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

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**RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**PASTOR:** Forgive us, Lord, if we have shown a lack of love in our public and private lives.

**PEOPLE: We need Your forgiveness, Lord. Forgive our sins if we have been irritable and impatient, unwilling to cope with small inconveniences.**

**PASTOR:** If we have been unforgiving and unforgetting, harboring grudges and nursing insults,

**PEOPLE: Forgive us, O Lord.**

**PASTOR:** If we have been self-centered and selfish, looking only after our own interests,

**PEOPLE: Forgive us, O Lord.**

**PASTOR:** If we have been sharp-tongued and offensive, speaking in angry haste,

**PEOPLE: Forgive us, O Lord.**

**PASTOR:** If we have been grumpy and morose, responding with stony silence,

**PEOPLE: Forgive us, O Lord.**

**PASTOR:** If we have been touchy and oversensitive, unpleasant to live with,

**PEOPLE: Forgive us, O Lord.**

**PASTOR:** If we have, in short, failed to exemplify the kindness, the patience, and the love of Jesus of Nazareth,

**PEOPLE: Forgive us, O Lord. Fill us with Your love and Spirit.**

**UNISON: In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANTHEM**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING:** *Luke 4:14-16 (p.1596)*

**ENGLISH SERMON:** ***Habitual Religion***

**\*HYMN** #245 *“Savior, Who Dying Gave” (vs.1,2,3)*

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING:** *Exodus 16:6-9 (p.112)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON:** ***A Cure for Complainers***

**\*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.

**THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS:** Will be held on Sunday, September 7th at 12:30 p.m., in the Conference Room.

**AEWF – STRENGTH IN EVERY SEASON CONFERENCE:** September 19-21 at Paramus, NJ. See the flyer in our foyer.

**Synopsis of the Armenian Sermon**

 Moses had to put up with a whole people of complainers. The Bible says: The people were “murmuring.” Have you ever heard people murmuring? Someone described complainers like this: “They are always building dungeons in the air.” The ironic thing is that, often it is people who have the least to complain about, who are the worst murmurers.

 The children of Israel were in the wilderness, but at least they were free. They were heading toward their own homeland. Still they grumbled, “What has God done for us today?”

 Is there any cure for complainers?

1. **First of all,** it would help us if we confessed our pettiness. Many of us simply do not have grounds for murmuring. We have been blessed far beyond what we could ever deserve. Every day we ought to offer a testimony of thanksgiving and praise. But still we complain.
2. **Secondly, we need to acknowledge God’s provisions**.

 Sometimes when our children seem ungrateful, we respond defensively. We are angered by their attitude. But it is not God’s response.

 God heard the people murmuring, and He provided for their needs. He provided manna, quails, water. He guided them with a cloud during the day and with a pillar of fire at night.

1. **Thirdly, we should discover God’s purpose for our lives**. God’s purpose for our lives is that we are to serve others. We should go out and find someone who needs our assistance. We should begin to share God’s blessings with others.