

Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit
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The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian-Minister
Mr. Matthew DeRaad, Organist-Choir Director

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

11:00 A.M.

February 13, 2005

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE

CHIMES

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN - # 4 " *Worship The Lord in the Beauty of Holiness* "

*INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (In unison)

God of grace and glory: We have gathered together in the awareness of your everlasting love. We thank you for the presence of your Spirit, which enables us to live with confidence and joy. As we lift up our words of prayer and our songs of praise, we give ourselves to you in a spirit of true worship. In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ who taught us to pray: " Our Father, Who art in heaven..."

*GLORIA PATRI

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RESPONSIVE READING AND MORNING PRAYER:

PASTOR: Laws are important because they maintain minimal standards of decency.

PEOPLE: Laws require us to treat other people as equals, even if we don't think they are as good as we are.

PASTOR: But there is a higher virtue that goes well beyond the law and that is the virtue of a loving attitude.

PEOPLE: Keeping the law does not guarantee a creative and compassionate society. Keeping the law is the least we can do to make and keep life human.

PASTOR: The Apostle Paul drew a distinction between spiritual maturity and immaturity. Like young children, those who are spiritually immature need firm rules by which to live.

PEOPLE: But the spiritually mature go beyond the letter of this law to fulfill its underlying spirit, which is love.

PASTOR: Jesus held up a higher standard of righteousness than mere obedience to moral laws. He taught that God wants people with pure hearts as well as clean lives.

PEOPLE: He wants people who do good for the sake of love, as well as out of a sense of duty.

PASTOR: We are community who lives out of a sense of love, rather than of law. We are not constrained by a grim sense of duty or a stern fear of punishment. We are compelled by love that goes beyond all reason and deserving. Let us pray for the courage to live up to our calling: O God, we pray that we will treat all persons as equals, not in grudging obedience to law, but out of brotherly love.

PEOPLE: O God, we pray that we will keep ourselves as pure as a pledge to love, rather than out of fear of a guilty conscience.

PASTOR: O Lord, we pray that we will pay our debts as a point of honor, rather than as a legal necessity.

PEOPLE: Our Heavenly Father, forgive us for not going beyond what the law demands.

PASTOR: Lord God, we are grateful for the continuing presence of Christ, Who has shown us the way to live, without counting the costs of claiming the rewards of a loving life.

PEOPLE: Lord God, help us to love as Jesus Christ loves.

UNISON: In Jesus' Holy Name, we pray. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

ANTHEM

NOTICES AND CONCERNS

OFFERTORY CHOIR RESPONSE

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING & SOLO – *Terri Waraniak*

DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Armenian: Matthew 22:34-40 (pp. 1535-6)

English: Genesis 3:1-7 (p. 5)

SOLO: *Terri Waraniak*

ARMENIAN SERMON: *Dimensions of Love*

*HYMN - # 49 "Love Divine, All Love Excelling" (vss. 1,2)

ENGLISH SERMON: *The Problem With Sin*

*HAYR MER - # 133

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: "*Park Kéz Dér, Asdvadz Mér*"

QUIET MEDITATION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

**Congregation is requested to stand.*

**** Latecomers may be seated.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME TO OUR CHANCEL THIS MORNING our guest organist Margaret Benian and our guest soloist Terri Waraniak.

THE COFFEE HOUR TODAY is sponsored by Mrs. Albes Mahlebashian in honor of Mrs. Mary Kumjian's 96th birthday.

THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF A.C.C. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP, will be held today, following the Coffee Hour.

THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES will be held on Thursday, February 17, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in the Christian Education Room.

THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS will be held on Sunday, February 20th, 2005, following the Coffee Hour, in the Christian Education Room.

THE ANNUAL LENTEN LUNCHEON, sponsored by ACC Women's Fellowship, will be held on Friday, March 11, 2005 at 12:00 Noon. Donation is: \$12.00

SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON

There are three different Greek words for "love." One is "*eros*," from which comes the word "erotic." It is physical, carnal love. The second word translated "love" is "*philia*" which is brotherly love. The third is "*agape*," which is altruistic and overpowering love. Thus there is a hierarchy in the concept of love rising from the instinctive to the sublime, from human to divine.

The source of love is God Himself. His love is both universal and personal. Love for God and love for one's neighbor are the foundation principles on which all divine law is based.

We can show our love to others by verbal communication. Beyond mere words, love is a matter of attitude and action. The real love, however, is more than feeling and verbalizing our feelings, it is a lifestyle that we live at home, at school, at work, at the church or wherever we happen to be. Right doctrines, correct theology, biblical knowledge, talent etc. are all important but those things are clashing brass and empty sounds without genuine love. We are caught in a beautiful love triangle – God, others and ourselves. Let us make the most of this relationship.