

Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit  
26210 W. 12 Mile Road ~ Southfield, MI 48034  
Telephone: (248)352-0680; Fax (248)352-5568  
*The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian-Minister*

**SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE**

**11:00 A.M.**

**July 3, 2005**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN: # 5 "Come Thou Almighty King"**

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**PASTOR:** Thank you, God, for today.

**PEOPLE:** Today we have had the strength to come to your house for worship.

**PASTOR:** Today we have met friends whose smile and sharing has brought us hope.

**PEOPLE:** Today we praise you in hymns.

**PASTOR:** Today you teach us.

**PEOPLE:** Today you challenge us beyond our low aims.

**PASTOR:** Today we will relax at home and be prepared for tomorrow's witness to the world that You are our Redeemer and Lord.

**PEOPLE:** Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and is pursued with courage.

**UNISON:** Thank you for showing us that. Thank you for giving us today. In Jesus' name Who taught us to pray:

"Our Father, Who art in heaven..."

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

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**A LITANY OF COMMEMORATION: (ON INDEPENDENCE DAY)**

**PASTOR:** Our Heavenly Father, as we commemorate the anniversary of the founding of our Republic, our prayer is that all people be free of the bonds that crush, free of those things that prevent even one single person from realizing his or her capacity, his or her potential.

**PEOPLE:** Freedom is such an important right, and yet how often is it misunderstood! Help us in our commitments to, and in our understanding of, this inherent right of all men.

**PASTOR:** For some, freedom means that they may do as they wish while others may not.

**PEOPLE:** For others, it may mean destroying all the laws that exist, and living in chaos.

**PASTOR:** To many, freedom is selfish;

**PEOPLE:** And yet to others it means spending a lifetime of dedication to help break the chains that bind others.

**PASTOR:** Dear God, move us toward dedicating ourselves to care as much for others as we care for ourselves. Help us become committed to the freeing process.

**PEOPLE:** Renew in us the fortitude of our fathers.

**PASTOR:** Encourage us to go back to the basic words of the Bill of Rights of the Ten Commandments.

**PEOPLE:** And help us spend our lives understanding and living up to these words.

**PASTOR:** Guide us in freeing people from injustice and inequality. Help us see each man, woman and child as a creature full of Your Spirit, as a beautiful person.

**PEOPLE:** Help us see them not as a race, a color, a liberal, a radical, a member of the establishment, poor trash or any of those words that label people and block freedom and caring.

**UNISON:** All these we ask in the name and for the sake of our lord Jesus Christ, amen.

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*HYMN: # 257 "My Country, 'Tis Of Thee"**

**SCRIPTURE READING: II Corinthians 8:7-9, 13-15 (p. 1802)**

**ARMENIAN SERMON: What Does July 4<sup>th</sup> Symbolize?**

**\*HYMN: # 255 "O Beautiful For Spacious Skies"**

**SCRIPTURE READING: English : Psalm 33:12-22 (pp. 870-871)**

**ENGLISH SERMON: The American Dream**

**\*HAYR MÉR - # 133**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: "Park Kéz Dér, Asdvadz MÉR"**

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***\*Congregation is requested to stand.***

***\*\*\* Latecomers may be seated.***

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE COFFEE HOUR TODAY** is sponsored by Miss Emma Bagdasarian in memory of her mother Mrs. Yergeniya Bagdasarian.

**WE WELCOME TO OUR CHANCEL** this morning our guest pianist, Dr. Taline Hagopian.

**ACC GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE** a donation of \$30.00 from Miss Ossanna Derwartanian in memory of her father.

**A WORD OF PLEDGES:** In any mature and responsible household, it is proper to confront all members with their responsibilities for the good of all. It is the same for the Church also, which is, after all, a household of faith. For this reason, we remind each and all that the Church depends upon all doing their best to keep up to date on pledge payments in order to help the church balance its annual budget and maintain its programs. If you are behind and if it will not work undue hardship, won't you kindly make every effort to catch up? For your thoughtfulness, your church thanks you!

### SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN MESSAGE

July 4, the Independence Day, celebrations remind us of the following important things:

1. **July 4<sup>th</sup> symbolizes a commitment to freedom.** Freedom without responsibility is a disaster. The name of the game is not freedom **from** but freedom **to** something. Freedom does not mean absence of restraint and authority.
2. **July 4<sup>th</sup> symbolizes a commitment to justice.** Without justice no nation can survive or grow strong. The Bible says, "Righteousness exalts a nation.
3. **July 4<sup>th</sup> symbolizes a commitment to the larger patriotism.** There are two kinds of patriotism: **narrow** and **large** patriotism. Narrow patriotism is fanaticism, chauvinism. It is the philosophy, "America love it or leave it" America needs open-minded patriots.
4. **July 4<sup>th</sup> symbolizes a commitment to Religious faith.** "In God we trust," is not and should not be lip service.

The truth of the matter is that the American declaration of independence was, is, and should be, a declaration of our dependence on God.