

**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**  
**26210 W. 12 Mile Road ~ Southfield, MI 48034]**  
**Telephone: (248) 352-0680; Fax (248) 352-5568**  
**Mr. Matthew DeRaad, Organist-Choir Director**  
**Rev. Makarios Darawi**

11:00 A.M.

February 26, 2006

*We welcome all who are worshipping with us, especially guests and newcomers. We invite you to take part in worship, to engage in the activities of the church and make this your home church.*  
*A supervised nursery is available for children age four and under.*

**ORGAN PRELUDE**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*OPENING HYMNS - #21 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**

*#22 "Our God, Our Help In Ages Past" (vs. 1, 2,)*

**RESPONSIVE READING - #376 "A Litany For Commemoration Of  
Vartan And His Comrades"**

**PASTOR:** God of Abraham, we praise you, because early in history you called Abraham, and so won his confidence that he left home for your sake and struck out into the desert not knowing where he was to go. We praise you for his faith and the truth about you that he learned through his obedience.

**PEOPLE:** **God of Sahag, Mesrob, Vartan and his comrades, we praise you, because in our history you revealed yourself as never before. We praise you for their confidence in you, so great that they trusted you to end, and we thank you for the final truth about your love, which dawned on mankind through Jesus Christ.**

**PASTOR:** God of our Fathers, we praise you, because you still come to us, calling us to leave our present security for an unknown future, trusting that you will be with us wherever we go.

**PEOPLE:** **God of our Fathers, as we remember the faith others have had in you, we acknowledge that we are not people of great faith. You promise us life of a new and lasting quality, you promise us deeper relations with others, you promise that we can be complete and healed persons. Open our eyes to see what you can do with us, when we put ourselves at your disposal. Help us to hold firm to your promises.**

**PASTOR:** You said: " You must love your enemies, and do good without expecting any return and without giving up hope for anyone: so will you be sons of the Most High, because he himself is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be compassionate, as your Father is compassionate."

**PEOPLE:** **Master, we hear your call. Lord Jesus, help us to follow you.**  
**PASTOR:** You said: " All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. You, then, are to go and make disciples of all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

**PEOPLE:** **Master, we hear your call. Lord Jesus, help us to follow you. Amen.**

**\*INVOCATION**

**\*GLORIA PATRI - #295**

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**ANTHEM**

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**JOYS & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY**

**PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND OFFERTORY PRAYER**

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**SCRIPTURE IN ARMENIAN:** *Romans 8:31-39 (pg.1758)*

**SERMON IN ARMENIAN:** **"The Vartanants Faith"**

**\*HYMNS #263 "Once To Every Man And Nation" (vs. 1 & 2)**  
*#88 "Faith Of Our Fathers" (vs.1 & 2)*

**SCRIPTURE IN ENGLISH:** *Romans 8:31-39 (Pg.1758)*

**SERMON IN ENGLISH:** **"The Vartanants Faith"**

**\*HAYR MER - # 133**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:** *"Park K0ez D0er, Asdvadz M0er"*

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

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

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE BOARD OF DEACONS** February meeting will be held today following the morning worship service in the Christian Education Room.

**MEMBERSHIP CLASS** will be offered on Sunday March 12, 2006 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Christian Education room. This class is required for those who are either interested in becoming communicant members or transferring their membership from another church to A.C.C. Please speak to Pastor Mak if you are interested in attending the class.

**A.C.C. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL LENTEN LUNCHEON**, will be held on Friday March 31, 2006 at 12:00 noon. Come enjoy a beautiful program and an inspiring message by Mrs. Jennifer Darawi. Make arrangements to bring your friends. Both men and women are welcome. Please add your names on the bulletin board. Donation \$12.00.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE NEXT SUNDAY MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>**. We would like to remind parents to bring their children into the worship service on *every first Sunday of the month*; they will be dismissed following the children's message.

**CHURCH JOYS & CONCERNS** Please continue to pray for Bud Gasser, Mary Ann Gasser, Pat Rorai, Kenneth Saundry, Ann Frontera, and the McCrue family in time of John's illness.

### **A Brief Historical Background of Vartanants**

(Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian)

**Vartanants** derives its name from the hero of the war the Armenians waged against the Persians in 451 under **General Vartan Mamigonian**. It was on May 26, 451 A.D., that 66,000 Armenian soldiers, under the leadership of Vartan Mamigonian fought in the epic Battle of Avarayr, in defense of their Christian faith, freedom of conscience, and freedom of homeland.

In order to understand the significance of this milestone in the history of the Armenian people, a brief historical background is needed. In 387, Armenia was partitioned by two super powers in the area: **Byzantium** and **Persia**. Thus, Armenia became a satellite of these two empires. Although the treaty between the Byzantines and the Persians made provision for religious freedom for the Armenian people, both super powers were eventually unhappy with that. The Byzantines wanted to dominate the Armenian Church, and constantly exerted pressure on it. The Persians at first were more tolerant toward the Armenians, but as time went by they began to be more and more suspicious. For after all, Armenians and Byzantines had a common religion, i.e., they were Christians. Eventually, the Persians tried to force their religion, Zoroastrianism, upon the Armenians. The Armenians resisted. This resistance has come to be known as the Vartanants War.