

Pastor Makarios Darawi
Mr. John Chance, Pianist and Organist

11:00 A.M.

September 21, 2008

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMNS & SONGS – #8 “Holy, Holy, Holy” (Vv. 1,2)
#148 “Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing”

PRAYER

*HYMN - #22 “How Great Thou Art” (Songbook – Vv.1, 2,3)

SCRIPTURE IN ENGLISH: *Matthew 22: 34-38 (Pp. 1535-36)*

MESSAGE IN ENGLISH: “Loving God”

ANTHEM

JOYS & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

OFFERING

*HYMN – #233 “Faith Is The Victory” (Vv. 1,3)

SCRIPTURE IN ARMENIAN: *1 Thessalonians 2:13-16 (Pp. 1838-39)*

MESSAGE IN ARMENIAN: “Sharing In Suffering”

*HAYR MER – #133

***BENEDICTION**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: “*Park K0ez D0er, Asdvadz M0er*”

**Congregation is requested to stand*
**** Latecomers may be seated*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER TIME. Come join us today for a prayer time right here in the sanctuary following the worship service.

THE A.C.C. WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP September business meeting will be held today following the fellowship hour in the Christian Education room. All ladies are welcome!

THE MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY will begin this Wednesday, September 24th at 7:00 p.m. We invite you all to join us as we study the book of John.

ARMENIAN HERITAGE MONTH. The ACC and the University of Michigan-Dearborn Armenian Research Center present professor Azat Yeghiazaryan for a lecture on Monday, October 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Fellowship Hall.

A HARVEST PARTY will be held Saturday, October 25, 2008. Please reserve this date, and come and enjoy delicious food, fun and games. All ages are welcome.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY.

- Continue to pray for Hovie Krikorian, nephew of Steve and Doris Krikorian.
- Pray for Judy, Ruth Pinto's mother who is having shoulder surgery.
- Please pray for the Nuyujukian, and Momjian family as they mourn the death of the Rev. Dr. Soghomon Nuyujukian who passed away on Sunday, September 14, 2008 in Pennsylvania.

Synopsis of the Armenian Message

In this section Paul comes back to the Thessalonians response to His preaching. He thanks God that when they heard the message they received it as the word of God. He was entrusted with the Gospel by God and was glad that these believers accept his message not as coming from him, but from God. The result of this acceptance was that they were able to remain steadfast in the face of the persecution they suffered from their countrymen just like the churches in Judea who suffered persecution from the Jews. These same Jews over the centuries have persecuted God's prophets, then they killed His Son, Jesus, and they also drove Paul and other apostles out of Judea. Not only they have rejected the message themselves, they were intent on silencing Paul and others, so that the Gentiles will be prevented from hearing the message of the gospel and being saved. By doing this they were adding to the sins of their fathers until God's judgment comes on them.

Passages such as this have been used to accuse the apostle Paul of being anti-Semitic. Let me briefly say that Paul here was not talking about "all Jews", but about a small group of Jewish religious leaders of his day who were actively opposed to the Christian message and were not satisfied with having Jesus crucified, but also persecuted His followers. In some translations the word "Jews" has been changed into "those people who killed the Lord Jesus" this is not a bad translation. Second, Paul was a Jew who loved his people and would do anything to see them being saved by Christ (Romans 9:1-3). Third, the main purpose of this passage was to encourage the Thessalonian believers who were under persecution just like their brothers and sisters in Judea.

Friends, anti-Semitism is unchristian, and is unacceptable under any circumstances. We have historical, fundamental theological differences, (Christians acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, most Jews do not), but these are religious matters and should never be used to advocate anti-Semitism or any other form of racial discrimination for that matter. Paul in this passage does not teach the Thessalonians to hate, or persecute their persecutors or anything like that. He simply encourages them to live exemplary Christian lives. Finally let us remember that as Christians we are called to love and not hate.