

Makarios Darawi, Pastor
Mrs. Susan Harrison, Choir Director and Organist

11:00 A.M.

February 27, 2011

We welcome all who are worshiping 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.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMNS & SONGS – #88 “Faith Of Our Fathers” (vv. 1,2,3)
#263 “Once To Every Man And Nation” (1,2,3)

*UNISON READING- *Romans 10:8-15*

But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blessed all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

How, then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

PRAYER

*HYMN – #25A “All I have Is Christ” (seated)
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ENGLISH MESSAGE: Exodus 19:5-6, 1Peter 2:9-10 (p.116, 1888)

“You’re Chosen”

SANCTUARY CHOIR

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

OFFERING – *offertory music*

ARMENIAN MESSAGE: Exodus 19:5-6, 1Peter 2:9-10 (p.116, 1888)

“You’re Chosen”

REMINDERS

*HAYR MER – #133

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: “*Park Khez Døer, Asdvadz Møer*”

POSTLUDE

***Congregation is requested to stand**

*** Latecomers be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BOARD OF DEACON’S February meeting will be held *today* following the fellowship hour.

VARTANANTS The Greater Detroit Armenian Churches are sponsoring a united Vartanants observance, on Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church, 29125 Six Mile Road, in Livonia. The host church is St. Vartan Armenian Catholic Church. We invite all of you to join us for this special gathering.

COMPASSION SUNDAY. Compassion International is a Christ-centered, child-focused, church-based, evangelical Christian child development ministry that has reached out to children in need for more than 50 years. They assist over 600,000 children in more than 20 countries. Next Sunday, March 6, will be Compassion Sunday.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY.

Pray for strong godly marriages, and for E.A.C.H campaign (www.eachtoday.com).

Synopsis of the Messages

Last week we learned that **God lost something, and He wants it back.** But . . . **God uses people to help Him in the search and rescue mission.** God started with the nation of Israel and the first person God chose was Abraham. He invited him into a great partnership to change the world. Right at the outset, however, God made it clear that this new nation, Israel, WAS NOT being chosen as an end in itself. Rather, it was being chosen as a means to a greater end. These words are a key to understanding the entire Old Testament.

The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 12:1-3)

God promised Abraham a great land, a great nation, a great name and . . . that this nation would be a great blessing to all peoples on earth. That last line is the key. God chose one nation so that He could bless all nations of the Earth. That becomes clear in the 2nd book of the Bible, Exodus. When the book of Exodus opens up, Israel has become a big nation of 2 million people. They are slaving away making bricks for Pharaoh, until a guy named Moses comes along and leads them out of Egypt; Then God has the nation stop at Mt. Sinai and He gives them the nation's guiding rules, the Law. In Exodus 19 we find the Prologue to all the commandments God gave to this chosen nation. This is the key you need to understand the Old Testament and how God will use Israel to bless the whole world.

"Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel" (Exodus 19:5,6).

Why was Israel chosen? To be a kingdom of priests. What does a priest in the Old Testament do? A priest stands between God and man and brings the two together. A priest brings people back to God. A priest is part of the search and rescue mission.

So what in the world can any of this have to do with you? Well, the fact is that you and I have been chosen just like Israel was chosen. Listen to what Peter wrote to the first Christians:

"But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy" (1Peter2:9,10).

We are now priests! Christ-followers are now God's plan to save the world! We have been chosen to be part of the search and rescue mission. We are to: *"proclaim to our world the excellent qualities of the God who has saved us; the God who has transferred us out of darkness into His wonderful light."*

WE ARE PRIESTS! Priests bring people back to God. God wants to use you and me to bring people back to Him. We who have received mercy from God are now the bearers of good news to everyone else: they too can receive mercy from this amazing God of love! And that has everything to do with you. Because you go into the world as CHOSEN PEOPLE; as PRIESTS, as MEDIATORS OF GOD'S AMAZING LOVE, as WITNESSES to what He has done for YOU!

The world needs to see God through our lives! That's why our character matters. That's why our lifestyle, our actions, our words, our reactions, matter. Obedience to Jesus is NOT intended to make US look good for God. Our obedience to Jesus is intended to make God look good to the world. He's trying to show the world Himself . . . through us! His method has always been to use people to reach people. Just the main actors in the story have changed. It was their turn. Israel was the chosen nation, trying to do their own version of E.A.C.H. in their day. Now, it is our turn. We're a bunch of priests! That might be the biggest promotion you've ever received!

God always uses people to reach people. And that's what this E.A.C.H. thing will come down to. We have been chosen, to be God's witnesses to a world desperately in need of His love.

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