***Pastor Hagop Haroutunian~ Senior Pastor***

***The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian~ Minister Emeritus***

***Mrs. Susan Harrison~ Choir Director and Organist***

**Telephone: (248) 352-0680 - Email:** Office@accdetroit.org.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**11:00 A.M. December 19, 2021**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL***: #120 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

 *(in English Vs. 1-2, in Armenian Vs. 3)*

**\*INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (in unison)**

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you that you love us without any conditions. You sent us the greatest gift of all, your Son, Jesus Christ. We love you because you loved us first. We can never repay your love, but we want to do all that we can to give you back our heart, our mind, and our spirit so that we love you with all that we are all the days of our lives. We are forever grateful for the gift of eternal life through Jesus our Lord and Savior. Your infinite and unconditional love for us amazes us every day. How precious is your love toward us. We rejoice and are glad that we have a God like you, who will always love us and never leave us. We give you all the glory and honor, who taught us to pray, “Our Father, Who art in heaven….”

**\*GLORIA PATRI**- *#79* *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

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**LIGHTING OF THE FOURTHADVENT CANDLE –*Hasmik & Natalie Arslanian***

 *Scripture Reading: John 1:9-14 (p. 1646)*

**\*RESPONSIVE READING**

**PASTOR**: Heavenly Father, the whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little four-letter word…LOVE. You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas.

**PEOPLE**: **Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem. All of your love, God, was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes.**

**PASTOR:** This final week of Advent helps us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus.

**PEOPLE:** **You are King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Messiah, and Ruler of All, yet you came not as a lion but as a lamb.**

**PASTOR:** You came as an innocent baby whose purpose was to walk this earth in complete love and then to sacrificially give your life as an atonement for the sins of your children. Emmanuel. God with us. Love in the form of a man.

**PEOPLE:** **There is no greater gift than this, that a man should lay down his life for his friends.**

**PASTOR:** You willingly gave the gift of your life because of your love. Your righteous blood covered our sin.

**UNISON:** **You redeem and restore us when we confess you as Lord and Savior of our life. In that moment, you give us the gift of your love for all eternity. We receive grace upon grace and mercy upon mercy in that moment.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL:** *#130 “What Child Is This?” (Vs. 1-3)*

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE:** *John 3:1-18 (pp. 1649-1650)*

**ENGLISH SERMON:** **God Gave It All**

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE**: *John 15:9-13 (p.1677)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: No Greater Love**

**\*HAYR MER:** *#275*

**\*BENEDICTION**

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

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WE WELCOME ALL WHO ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US,** especially guests. We extend a very cordial welcome to newcomers to take part in the worship, to engage in the activities of the Church and make this your church home.

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** is today following the Morning Worship Service. A complimentary luncheon will be served sponsored by Dr. Richard Marburger in memory of his late wife Mrs. Mary Marburger.

**THE FAMILY CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** will be held Friday, December 24th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. After the Service, there will be a reception sponsored by the Board of Deacons.

**CHURCH JOYS AND CONCERNS:** Please continue praying for Aram Kakousian, George and Ann Krikorian, Jan Janigian, Lee Savalle (Dan and Sandra Haroutunian’s sister), Glenn Harrison, Artsakh, Armenia, our government and the pandemic.

**IS YOUR ANNIVERSARY, BIRTHDAY OR GRADUATION** approaching? Why not share your celebration with the Church Family by sponsoring the Fellowship Hour or Altar Flowers. Please sign your name on the Bulletin Board, call the Church Office or email Souzanne at Office@accdetroit.org.

**1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8** Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.  Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

**SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON**

The love of God through Christ is not something we can write down in a paragraph, it is a lifelong experience that we taste, discover, and understand each day as we grow in the presence of God.

**Here are three points that Jesus makes about His love toward us:**

1. **First Jesus says, “As the Father has loved you, so have I loved you.”** If we think about this for a moment, Jesus is literally saying that the Father has loved us as much as he loves his Son. This is incredible! God has poured all his love in our hearts because we believe in His Son, Jesus Christ.
2. **Then he says, “If you keep my command, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”** The only way we can prove our love to someone being genuine is by living out that love every day. Obeying Christ is what we are called to do. When we do that, then all is well. He also had to prove his love to the Father in order to show he is in the Father. It is no different for us, we need to grow in this ocean of love by doing what he commands us.
3. **Third, he says, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay one’s life for one’s friends.”** The absolute love that Christ showed us is by leaving his heavenly throne and being born in a manger. This level of humility is hard to fully comprehend but he truly poured out all he had for us.