*I Pa.stor· Hagop Hat·outuni.an- Senior Pastor*

*The Rev. Dr·.Vahan H.Tootikian- Minister·Emeritus*

*Mr·s.Susan Harrison- Choir Director and Organi.st*

Telephone: (248) 352-0680, [Office@accdetroit.org](mailto:Office@accdetroit.org)

Th'I)EPENl)ENCE SIDmAY

MOR NING SERVICE

11:00A.M. July 3,2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

"HYMN- *#4 •we* Praise *You,* 0 *God"*

"INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

God, our Father, we come to you this day as a people who have valued freedom. As a country we have fought to gain and maintain our independence. As a people we have placed a high value on those personal freedoms that Americans hold most dear. Help us, Father, to understand the nghts and duties attached to being a free people who are

also Christian. This we ask in the name of Your Son,Jesus, Who taught us to pray:

'Our father,Who art in heaven...• "GLORIA PATRI- *#79* ...

A LITANY ON INDEPENDENCE DAY:

PASTOR: 0 God, we praise you for the greatness of our nation, where people have always the freedom to worship you.

PEOPLE: As our forefathers were led to our shores by your guiding

hand, we would ask you to guide 1:1§ tbl!we might J:!M.

ergeerly our own freedom.

PASTOR: Forgive us, Lord, our sin of taking for granted the freedom and liberty we enjoy in our nation, denied to many in our world.

PEOPLE:Forgive us for failing to remember the ideals of those who founded our nation, and of the presence of your guiding hand in the development of it.

PASTOR: Be merciful to us for forgetting to make the truths of our

Christian faith predominant in our lives as cit1zens of this land. PEOPLE: Forgive us for failing to pray for those who lead us, that

they might always be guided by you.

PASTOR: 0 Lord, with the wsi dom on thHoly Spirit, guide the leaders of our land.

PEOPLE: Guide those who direct the enforcements of the laws of our nation, protecting our freedom.

PASTOR: Guide those who influence our thinking and those who seek to lift the moral standards of our people.

PEOPLE: Help us to appreciate the faith of those leaders of the

past, who sacrificed in many ways with the hope that future generations might enjoy true freedom.

PASTORAL PRAYER CHORAL RESPONSE NOTICES AND CONCERNS

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER "DOXOLOGY

CHORAL ANTHEM

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

1. Giving of the Bread 2.Giving of the Cup

Ours is an open communion, all who beileve in the lord Jesus are cordially

invited to share this Sacrament with us.In accordance with our customs, we suggest that as an act of Christian community,each communicant JlgJg the elements (first bread,then the cup) until all have been served. Then,with the Minister,partake together so that none may be first and none last as the table of the lord.

"HYMN-l' *398 'Blest Be the Tie That Binds'*

ENGLISH SCRIPTURE:Gaal tai ns5:13-15 (p.1815)

ENGLISH SERMON: What Are We Celebrating on July 4? "HYMN-# *385 'My Country,* 'Tis *of Thee• (vs. 1, 4)*

ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE Exodus 19:5-6 (p. 116)

ARMENIAN SERMON:"What Does Freedom Mean?'' "HAYR MER: *#275*

"BENEDIC TION

"CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: "Park Kez Der, Asdvadz Mer" ORGAN POSTLUDE

*•congregation* Is *requested to stand.*...*Latecomers may be seated*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME TO OUR PULPIT this morning, our Minister Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian; Pastor Hagop Haroutunian is not feeling well. Let us pray for his quick recovery.

THE COFFEE HOUR TODAY is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs.Roger and

Nancv Berschbach.in memorv of Trevor McClintock.

SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON

July 4, is the United States Independence Day. It is the birthday of the USA. It is the anni\·ersary of the day on which the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress July 4, 1776. It is the day when the 13

American States declared their independence from England and resoh·ed to be

free.

Freedom, for indi,·iduals and nations, means to be themsel\·es-to li\·e their O\\n Ji,·es, to think their O\\n thoughts, to seek their O\m answers and to decide their O\\n national destinies. In personal and social life, the basic struggles of human nature can be interpreted as efforts to be free.

But freedom does not mean a\·oidance of all responsibility, elimination of all constraints to do one's own thing " thout any regard to the effect on others or society at large. Freedom must be exercised within certain bouttdaries. True freedom is yoked to responsibility.

Along with responsibilities, liberty demands loyalty. As in personal life, so it is in public life.l\o democracy can sun·ive and thrive without the loyalty of its citizens, not their blind loyalty but their intelligent loyalty.

There are many things in life, which can either make people a sen·ant or a master of their !J,·es;one has to choose.}.Ioney, work, sex, social acceptance can sm·e as beautiful sen-ants or cruel tyrants. All of them ha,·e !heir role and proper place in a person's life, but when they control his or her life, !hey can destroy one's freedom and diminish one's manhood or womarlhood.

Finally, because we are Christians, we belong to Christ. Our life is his domain, where he is to reign supreme. That means that no one else or nothing else in the entire world is to gain control of our life. We realize that we cannot sm·e two masters. We ha\·e to serve one master, and subject our will to his.

This concept, when properly ooderstood, does not diminish our freedom, but rather protects 11.The lordship of Christ is not a tyranny, but a low relationship. It is a ,-oluntary commitment to One who knows us benet than we know ourseh·es, to One who wants no!hing but the best for us, and to One who lo\ es us enough to die for us. There is nothine in that commitment that would limit

our personal growth or set artificial boundaries upon our life.To be mastered by

Christ is to be set free to enjoy and experience life to the fullest. It is one oflife's greatest paradoxes: when we subject ourselves to Christ, we fmd our real freedom. Didn't he tell us, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my

disciples: Then you 1\ ll know !he truth, and the truth 1\l set you free" (John

8:31).