

Pastor Hagop Haroutunian~ Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian~ Minister Emeritus
Mrs. Susan Harrison~ Choir Director and Organist
Telephone: (248) 352-0680, Office@accdetroit.org

INDEPENDENCE SUNDAY
MORNING SERVICE

11:00 A.M.

July 3, 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

***HYMN- #4 "We Praise You, O 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 rights 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: O 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 us that we might use properly 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 citizens of this land.

PEOPLE: **Forgive us for failing to pray for those who lead us, that they might always be guided by you.**

PASTOR: O Lord, with the wisdom on the Holy 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 believe 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 hold 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-# 398 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"**

ENGLISH SCRIPTURE: Galatians 5:13-15 (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**

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: "Park Kéz Dér, Asdvadz MÉR"**

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 Nancy Berschbach, in memory of Trevor McClintock.

July 4, is the United States Independence Day. It is the birthday of the USA. It is the anniversary 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 resolved to be free.

Freedom, for individuals and nations, means to be themselves--to live their own lives, to think their own thoughts, to seek their own answers and to decide their own 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 avoidance of all responsibility, elimination of all constraints to do one's own thing without any regard to the effect on others or society at large. Freedom must be exercised within certain boundaries. True freedom is yoked to responsibility.

Along with responsibilities, liberty demands loyalty. As in personal life, so it is in public life. No democracy can survive 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 servant or a master of their lives; one has to choose. Money, work, sex, social acceptance can serve as beautiful servants or cruel tyrants. All of them have their role and proper place in a person's life, but when they control his or her life, they can destroy one's freedom and diminish one's manhood or womanhood.

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 serve two masters. We have to serve one master, and subject our will to his.

This concept, when properly understood, does not diminish our freedom, but rather protects it. The lordship of Christ is not a tyranny, but a love relationship. It is a voluntary commitment to One who knows us better than we know ourselves, to One who wants nothing but the best for us, and to One who loves us enough to die for us. There is nothing 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 of life's greatest paradoxes: when we subject ourselves to Christ, we find our real freedom. Didn't he tell us, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples: Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31).