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

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

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

***Ms. Souzanne Pope ~ Office Administrator***

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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF THE NEW YEAR**

**11:00 a.m. January 1, 2023**

 **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:** *#86 “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”*

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

Eternal God, You are the same yesterday, today and forever. As you have brought us through the trials and turmoil of the closing year, we know that Your ever present Spirit will guide us into the unknown experience of this new year, so that we can enter into it without fear or anxiety. May we follow You through the one who is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ our Lord, 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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**THE CONFESSION OF SINS**

**PASTOR:** Let us examine ourselves, humbly confessing our sins before God and seeking His forgiveness: If we have wasted much of our time this past year on things of little value, failing to do those things that were really important,

**PEOPLE:** **Forgive us, Lord.**

**PASTOR:** If we have failed to use our talents in your service, thereby hindering the growth of Your kingdom,

**PEOPLE: Forgive us, Lord.**

**PASTOR:** If we have been selfish with our material gain, forgetting to share it with those in need,

**PEOPLE: Forgive us, Lord.**

**PASTOR:** If we have yielded to those numerous temptations, failing to be steadfast in our faith,

**PEOPLE:** **Forgive us, Lord.**

**PASTOR:** If we have been hasty in our condemnation of others, lacking in our desire to bring about their redemption,

**PEOPLE:** **Forgive us, Lord.**

**PASTOR:** If we have kept busy with endless run of activities, forgetting to take time to pray,

**PEOPLE:** **Forgive us, Lord.**

**PASTOR:** If we have followed the desires of our own hearts, failing to do that which was Your will,

**UNISON: Forgive us, Lord, and have mercy upon us, according to Your lovingkindness. Create in us a clean heart, Lord, and renew a right spirit within us.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYER FOR ARTSAKH**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

Giving of the Bread

 Giving of the Cup

(Ours is an open Communion, and all who believe in, and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior 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 element {first, the bread; then the cup} until all have been served. Then with the Minister, partake together, so that none may be first and none last at the Table of the Lord.)

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE**: *Hebrews 12:1-2 (p. 1877)*

**ENGLISH SERMON: How to Observe the New Year**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:** *#356 “Father, Here We Dedicate This New Year” (vss. 1,2)*

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE:** *Psalm 39:4 (p. 878)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: The Measure of Life**

**\*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.

**WE WELCOME TO OUR PULPIT** this morning our Minister Emeritus Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian.

**PASTOR HAGOP AND NUNE** are in California, they will be returning on Saturday, January 7th.

**THE COFFEE HOUR TODAY** is sponsored by Mrs. Lena Bouladian, in honor of Mr. Jano Bouladian’s birthday.

**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.

**SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON**

 This Sunday is the first Sunday of the New Year (2023). It is a stage of our lives that gives us an opportune time to do some sober thinking about our lives: What has it been? What is now? What will it be in the future?

 David, the Psalmist, asks two basic questions:

**First, How long is life?** Nobody knows. Life hangs by a slender thread. David writes: “There is but a step between me and death.” Just a step. People in perfect health are suddenly snatched away. They take one step in this world, and the next one out of it. How can we pray what David prayed: “Lord, make me to know my end, and the measure of my days?” The answer is tied in with the fact that our days are measured. Time is short, regardless how long people live. Because it is short, it should not be wasted. We should live fully each day and make the most of life while it is with us.

**Second, How much content to life?** Life is not only measured in length of days. Some people life “longer” in 30 years than others do in 60. Their days cover more ground. Their reach is greater. They put more in life and get more out of it. Look at Christ’s earthly life. 33 years by human measure was very short. But it was a complete life, fulfilled in every respect—fully packed with content. Jesus knew the measure of his life. He knew how fleeting life is and made the most of life because of its brevity and fragility.

 The real value of things is not in their quantity but in their quality.

 David’s prayer to God is: “Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12). We may gain a heart of wisdom when we put content and quality of life. When we seek the will of God in our lives, and when we share our love in practical ways.

**Շնորհաւոր Նոր Տարի**

**Happy New Year**