***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.

**11:00 a.m. February 26, 2023**

 **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:** *#175 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*

 *(vs. 1-2 English, vs. 3 Armenian)*

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

Dear Lord, thank you for allowing us to come before your holy presence. We stand before you with awe and devotion. We worship and adore you for your beauty and majesty. We glorify your name and praise you for your everlasting love. We pray that you teach us to be fully devoted to you and to one another. Help us deny our sinful nature and submit to your will and your Spirit. 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.*

**RESPONSIVE READING: *Psalm 51:1-12***

**PASTOR:** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

**PEOPLE:** **Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**

**PASTOR:** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

**PEOPLE: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.**

**PASTOR:** Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

**PEOPLE: Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.**

**PASTOR:** Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

**PEOPLE:** **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**

**PASTOR:** Hide your face from my sins and blot all my iniquity.

**PEOPLE:** **Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

**PASTOR:** Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

**UNISON: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** *#12 “Step By Step”*

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE**: *Matthew 16:21-27 (p.1524)*

**ENGLISH SERMON: The Path of Denial and Devotion**

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE:** *Psalm 42:1-5 (p. 881)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: Yearning for The Presence of God**

**\*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 COFFEE HOUR TODAY** is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Roger and Nancy Berschbach, in honor of Nancy’s birthday.

**CHURCH JOYS AND CONCERNS:** Please continue praying for Dr. Richard Marburger, George and Ann Krikorian, Jan Janigian, Glenn Harrison, Artsakh, Armenia, Ukraine, victims of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, and of the MSU tragedy.

**MEN’S AND WOMEN’S BREAKFAST AND FELLOWSHIP,** Saturday, March 4th, at 10am. Please sign up after church in the Social Hall. After breakfast, the men and women will break into their own separate Bible Study groups.

**WOMEN'S BI-WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP & BIBLE STUDY** will be held Saturday, March 4th at 10:00 a.m. in person and online via Zoom app.

**Church Schedule:**

1. **Monday prayer** 6:30 p.m. online via Zoom app.
2. **Wednesday Bi-Weekly Bible Study** 6:30 p.m. Next study will be held on Wednesday, March 8th, in person and online via Zoom app.

**ARMENIAN AND ENGLISH LIVE RADIO PROGRAM** this evening at 6:00-7:00p.m. with Pastor Hagop, hosted by Vaughn Masropian. Be part of the show by calling at 248-557-3300 for Armenian and English prayer requests, also Bible discussions and related topics are welcomed. The Theme this Sunday is **“Devoting Our Lives To God”** on Facebook live at <https://www.facebook.com/ArmenianCongregationalChurch> and at WNZK 690AM, or go to Armeniaradioprogram.com, scroll down to the bottom and click on “Listen Live Now.” A new page will open, click on “WNZK 690AM.” For more information or questions you can contact Pastor Hagop at pastorhagop@accdetroit.org

**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**

The sons of Korah, who wrote this Psalm, did not follow the example of their father Korah who rebelled against Moses and died. Instead, they sought the living God with all of their heart. They yearned for the presence of God and would not live a moment without Him. They truly sought God with all of their heart.

**Here are two points about thirsting after God:**

1. **“My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.”** This was the cry of the sons of Korah who were being persecuted by their enemies. They sought for the presence of God for strength, comfort, peace, love, and joy. We too can approach our God when we feel lonely, threatened, fearful, anxious, worried, and distressed.
2. **“I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.”** Even though the sons of Korah were going through hardship, they put their full trust in God and praised Him while they were still being chased by their enemies. We don’t have to wait for deliverance to trust and praise God; we can do that while we wait patiently for Him to answer us.

**INFORMATION**

Please tear off and place in the prayer box in the narthex.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 I have recently moved into this area I have moved, new address:

 I am interested in membership I wish to be on the mailing list

 I would appreciate a visit from the minister This person is sick

 Requesting prayer for\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Need Counseling