***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](about:blank).

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

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN:** *#4 “We Praise You, O God”*

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

God of vision and marketplace, be with us today as we come here to worship, so we will have the power of Your Spirit when we return to our work. Make this day, as well as all our days, holy, by helping us to receive every day as a new chance to be like Jesus. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, 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 PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**PASTOR:** We confess our sins to God, not to increase the weight of guilt but to feel the weight of glory in God’s forgiveness.

**PEOPLE:** **Let us therefore bring ourselves before God that we may hear this pardon.**

**PASTOR:** God of compassion, we bring our anxious cares to You today. We are worried with our personal concerns, about our nation and the world.

**PEOPLE: Father, receive our anxieties as a sign of our humanness and as a confession that we do not trust you as we should.**

**PASTOR:** We admit that we do things we ought not to do, and fail to do what we know is right. We are distressed by our failures.

**PEOPLE:** **God, deliver us from this bondage to death and help us to live again.**

**PASTOR:** Sometimes we feel good about ourselves; sometimes we hate ourselves, and the hate makes us bitter and mean.

**PEOPLE:** **God, forgive the ways we hurt other people because we are caught in the mire of self-doubt and self-disgust.**

**UNISON: O Lord, hear us, as in silence we open ourselves to you and tell you what we do not like about ourselves. Help us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF OFFERING**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE**: *John 9:35-41 (p. 1666)*

**ENGLISH SERMON*:* Who is the Blind One Around Here?**

**\*HYMN:** *#223 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” (vs. 1,3)*

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE:** *John 9:41 (p. 1666)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: The Difference Between Jesus and Pharisees’ Attitude Toward the Blind Man”**

**\*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 TO OUR PULPIT** our Minister Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian. Our pastor, Pastor Hagop Haroutunian and his wife, Nune, are in California, he will attend the AEUNA Board meeting and AEUNA ministers’ retreat. He will be back by Friday, March 31.

**THE COFFEE HOUR TODAY** is sponsored by Sheryl, Michael, and Bryan Marburger, in honor of Dennis’s birthday.

**CHURCH JOYS AND CONCERNS:** Please pray for Susan Mousigian’s complete healing. She is still in the ICU. Also 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.

**NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND IS PALM SUNDAY** the commemoration of our Lord’s Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** on Thursday, April 6, at 6:30 P.M. we will remember our Lord’s last hours on earth through a special worship service that will include special music by the ACC Choir, and celebration of the Lord’s Table.

**RESURRECTION SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH** we invite all our members and friends to the Easter Morning Worship Service.

**MEN’S AND WOMEN’S BREAKFAST AND FELLOWSHIP**  will be held Saturday, April 1st at 10:00 a.m. in person and online via Zoom app. After breakfast, the men and women will break into their own separate Bible Study groups.

**A.C.C. WILL BE HOSTING MONTHLY ARMENIAN LANGUAGE CLASS**, free of charge for ages 18 and up. The first session will be held Saturday, April 15th, from 10-11am. For more information and to RSVP by April 7th please contact the Church Office Email: [office@accdetroit.org](about:blank), or Hasmik Arslanian at (248)953-3817.

**EASTER FLOWERS** Forthose wishing to arrange for an Easter flower to place in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please email Souzanne at [Office@accdetroit.org](about:blank), or submit the form below no later than April 5th .

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Number of flowers you wish to purchase: $22.00 x \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_=$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON**

The Gospel reading (John 9) is a story about both kinds of blindness: physical and spiritual. The story revolves around a man who was born blind. Then one day Jesus presented him with the gift of sight. One would think that the entire community would rejoice with the blind man, but it turned into a theological debate. Questions were raised: Who did it? How did he do it? Why did he do it on the Sabbath? The response of the Pharisees to this miracle of healing is a classic example of the old adage, “There is none so blind as he who will not see.”

The healing of the blind man reveals the following lessons:

**First, Spiritual blindness is one of the greatest tragedies in life.** The Pharisees were spiritually blind and did not admit it. Their blindness was their inability to see themselves. For them the observance of Sabbath was more important than the restoration of the sight of the blind man.

**Second, there was a great difference of attitude toward the blind man between the Pharisees and Jesus.** The Pharisees did not accept a handicapped person in their ranks. Jesus Christ was the Great Acceptor of the outcasts, publicans, the poor and the sinner. He sees the intrinsic value of people.

The Pharisees were indifferent to human suffering, whereas Jesus empathized and identified with people. The Pharisees couldn’t care less whereas Jesus couldn’t care more.

The Pharisees were **ego-centric and selfish human beings**, Jesus was selfless and his love was unconditional, His message is to accept others without any reservations, to care and love without ulterior motives.