***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. July 9, 2023**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:** *#327 “I Would Be True”*

 *(vs. 1-2 English, vs. 31Armenian)*

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

Dear Lord, we thank you that you are the God of love and justice. We thank you that you have called us to be commissioned to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people. Thank you that you have entrusted us with this great work of evangelism to be the light and the salt to a world that so desperately needs your touch and healing. Help us be courageous and strong to speak of your name to others with love and respect. 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: *Commissioning Of Church Workers***

**PASTOR:** Let us consider our responsibility before God for using our lives in his service. To a renewed sense of our dependence upon you for life, for knowledge, for forgiveness, and for our salvation.

**PEOPLE:** **We dedicate ourselves, O Lord.**

**PASTOR:** To have zeal to do your will more perfectly and to serve our fellowmen more faithfully.

**PEOPLE: We dedicate ourselves, O Lord.**

**PASTOR:** To greater kindness in our relationship with others, to a better disposition as we live among our families and our friends.

**PEOPLE:** **We dedicate ourselves, O Lord.**

**PASTOR:** To renewed concern that we be ambassadors of Christ, and carriers of the Good News of God’s love.

**PEOPLE:** **We dedicate ourselves, O Lord.**

**PASTOR:** To our particular tasks—as students, teachers, preachers, as comforters of the sorrowing and counselors of the confused.

**PEOPLE: We dedicate ourselves, O Lord.**

**PASTOR:** To all the tasks that are ours—in our churches, in our communities, in our nation, and in the world.

**PEOPLE:** **We dedicate ourselves, O Lord.**

**PASTOR:** To renewed concern for the suffering of the peoples of the world, to greater zeal for justice and equality among all human races.

**PEOPLE:** **We dedicate ourselves, O Lord.**

**UNISON:** **Unite us in your love, O Lord, and bind us together as you guide us into greater service to you and our fellowmen, through Christ. Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG:** *#14 “You Are My All In All”*

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE**: *Acts 9:1-19 (pp. 1706-1707)*

**ENGLISH SERMON: Being a Good Instrument in God’s Hand**

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE:** *Acts 9:20-22 (p. 1707)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: Growing Stronger in Opposition**

**\*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.

**CHURCH JOYS AND CONCERNS:** Please continue praying for Susan Mousigian, Dr. Richard Marburger, George and Ann Krikorian, Jan Janigian, and Glenn Harrison.

**PASSING OF PASTOR HAGOP’S MOTHER**, Elizabeth Haroutunian. We are saddened to inform you that Mrs. Elizabeth went to be with the Lord last Wednesday, July 5th. Mrs. Elizabeth's Funeral Service will take place in Los Angeles, California on August 2nd. Pastor Hagop will be officiating the funeral service. Please remember the Haroutunian family in your prayers.

**ACC WISHES** safe travels and God’s blessings to Pastor Hagop, Nune, Rouben and Hasmik as they travel to Armenia. Emeritus Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian will be leading us in worship on Sunday, July 16th and 23rd.

**ARMENIA FEST FOR ARTSAKH:** We will have a booth at Armenia Fest on July 22nd, and will be selling baked goods. If you would like to bake something for this event, please see Sheryl Marburger after church.  Half of the proceeds will go to Artsakh, and half will go towards the AEUNA’s Armenian Evangelical Women's Fellowship Conference that will take place here in Southfield, September 15-17. You can also make a financial donation. Please make your check payable to "Armenian Congregational Church." In the memo line, please write, "Armenia Fest."  You can also donate online at "[accdetroit.org](http://accdetroit.org/)." Thank you in advance for your support.

**ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP** Eastern Region Fall Conference, with guest speaker. Lara Cholakian Khoury, will be held on Friday through Sunday, September 15-17, at the Radisson Hotel in Southfield, and here at A.C. C. To register and more information visit [http://aeuna.org/aewf-er 2023](http://aeuna.org/aewf-er%202023). Please also register with Sheryl Marburger after the church service in the Social Hall.

**CHURCH RETREAT** We will be having a two day retreat, Friday and Saturday, August 25-26, at the Maryville Retreat Center, in Holly, MI. The cost is $100. The guest speaker will be Pastor Richard Afhsarian, from the Armenian Brethren Evangelical Church, in Pasadena, CA. The retreat will include a one night stay and four meals. The theme and topic will be, ‘Living with Eternal Perspective’ The cost for Saturday only is $80.  A deposit of $50 is required when you sign up. Please sign up with Sheryl Marburger, after the church service, in the Social Hall. Deadline to pay in full is Sunday, July 30th.

**IS YOUR ANNIVERSARY OR BIRTHDAY** 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**

After Jesus appeared to Saul on his way to Damascus, he had a dramatic change from his old life into the new life in Christ. It didn’t take long for Saul, later known as Paul, to begin his journey of persecution due to his firm faith in Christ.

**Here are some points about staying strong under persecution:**

1. **“At once he (Saul) began to preach in the synagogues.”** Saul wasted no time to start the mission God set before him. Sharing the gospel can be intimidating but when we trust in the Lord, He will guide us and strengthen us to be courageous to speak of His great name to all people.
2. **“Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews.”** While Saul was being persecuted for his faith early on, instead of backing off, he became stronger and more confident to share the good news. Satan tries to threaten us, sometimes even through people, but God is greater than him and any circumstance we may be facing.

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**INFORMATION**

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

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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