***Rev. Hagop Haroutunian ~Senior Pastor***

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

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

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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**11:00 a.m. December 17, 2023**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL:** *#138 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (vs. 1-2 English, vs. 3 Armenian)*

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

Dear Lord, we come before Your presence with joy, because You are the God of hope, peace, joy, and love. You are the source of all good things. It is through Your Son Jesus Christ that we have this lasting joy in our heart, because You sent us Your Son to save us from our sin. We will always rejoice in You, knowing that You have forgiven us and we are forever Your children. May Your everlasting salvation and joy be known to the ends of the world. May we find our true purpose and joy in You, alone.  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.*

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**LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE – *Yeretzgeen Rosette Tootikian***

**RESPONSIVE READING:** *Joy*

**PASTOR:** Keep me safe, O God, for in You I take refuge.

**PEOPLE: I said to the Lord, “You are my Lord; apart from You I have no good thing.”**

**PASTOR:** As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom, is all my delight.

**PEOPLE: The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods. I will not pour out their libations of blood or take out their names on my lips.**

**PASTOR:** Lord, You have assigned me my portion and my cup; You have made my lot secure.

**PEOPLE:** **The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.**

**PASTOR:** I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

**PEOPLE:** **I have set the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.**

**PASTOR:** Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

**PEOPLE: because You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will You let Your Holy One see decay.**

**UNISON: You have made known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**CONGREGATIONAL CAROL:** *#127 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (vs. 1&3)*

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE**: *Luke 1:26-45 (pp. 1588-1589)*

**ENGLISH SERMON: Leaping for Joy in Jesus**

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE:** *Matthew 2:1-12 (pp. 1497-1498)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: Exceeding and Inexpressible Joy**

**\*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 Armenia, Glenn Harrison, Jan Janigian, Susan Mousigian, and Dr. Richard Marburger.

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** will be held today following the Morning Worship Service. A complimentary festive Christmas luncheon will be served following the program, generously sponsored by Dr. Richard Marburger in loving memory of his late wife Mrs. Mary Marburger.

**THE FAMILY CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** will be held on Sunday, December 24th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. After the Service, there will be a light reception sponsored by the Board of Deacons. If you plan to attend, please sign up after the Morning Worship Service in the Social Hall, with Hasmik Arslanian.

**YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND COMPLIMENTARY DINNER** will be held on Saturday, December 23rd, at 6:00p.m., in the Christian Education Room. All parents are encouraged to invite their young men and women to attend. For more information or questions, please see Jacob Arslanian.

**REV. HAGOP AND NUNE** will be going to California from December 25th to January 5th. Rev. Tootikian will cover the pulpit for Sunday, December 31st. You can reach Rev. Hagop at office@accdetroit.org or at his personal phone, at 818-749-2781

**REV. DR. VAHAN H. TOOTIKIAN’S LATEST BOOK** “Vertical and Horizontal Relations” is published, if you wish to obtain a complimentary copy, please see Rev. Tootikian.

**ACC** is looking for volunteers to set up or cleanup for Coffee Hour**.** If you are interested in helping, please sign up after the Morning Worship Service in the Social Hall, with Carole Basmadjian.

**SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON**

The story told by Mathew, about the birth of Jesus, is a very interesting one because it mentions the wise men who were seeking the coming of the Messiah. God showed them the way, through a star. He does the same for us when we seek Him out; He makes Christ known to us when we seek Him.

**Here are some points about the birth of Jesus:**

1. ***“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.”*** When the wise men found Jesus with Joseph and Mary, they were exceedingly joyful. There is a great message here for all of us to learn. Because these wise men came all the way from a far distance, God honored them to be the very first eye witnesses to see the newborn Jesus. When we seek Jesus in our everyday life, He will reveal Himself to us. It may not be through a star, but He certainly makes His presence known to us one way or another.
2. ***“They bowed down and worshiped Him.”*** Not only were they filled with joy, but they also worshiped the baby Jesus. When the joy of the Lord fills our heart, we naturally fall on our knees and worship Him joyfully, because He fully deserves all praise and honor for coming into the world, to save us from our sins.

**POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS:** If you would like to donate one or more Christmas poinsettias for the Church Altar, please submit the form below, to place your order. Deadline is Wednesday, December 20th. The traditional red Poinsettias are $20.00 each.

I wish to order Red Poinsettias for the Church Altar (#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My Name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_