***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.

**CHRISTMAS SUNDAY**

**11:00 a.m. December 24, 2023**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE/QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL:** *#121 “Joy to the World”*

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

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

Heavenly Father, You are the God of love, apart from You, love would not exist. Your love extended to the point of sending Your only Son into the world to save us from our sins. All of Your love was put in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent, helps us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus. You are King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Messiah, and Ruler of All, yet You came as a humble baby; You became the greatest gift of love that we could ever receive. 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 CHRIST ADVENT CANDLE –** *Rouben Arslanian*

**RESPONSIVE READING:** *1 John 4:7-21*

**PASTOR:** Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God, and knows God.

**PEOPLE: Whoever does not love, does not know God, because God is love.**

**PASTOR:** This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him.

**PEOPLE: This is love; not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

**PASTOR:** Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**PEOPLE:** **No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.**

**PASTOR:** We know that we live in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

**PEOPLE: And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.**

**PASTOR:** If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.

**PEOPLE: And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in Him.**

**PASTOR:** In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the Day of Judgment, because in this world we are like Him.

**PEOPLE:** **There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.**

**PASTOR:** We love because He first loved us.

**PEOPLE:** **If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother or sister is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God. Who they have not seen.**

**UNISON: And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love their brother and sister.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**CONGREGATIONAL CAROL:** *#118 “Go Tell it On the Mountain” (vs. 1&2)*

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE**: *John 1:1-18 (pp. 1645-1646)*

**ENGLISH SERMON: The Ultimate Love of God**

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE:** *Ephesians 3:14-21 (p. 1820)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON: The Immeasurable Depth of Christ’s Love**

**\*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 ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH** gratefully acknowledgesMr. and Mrs. Kevin and Pam Czartoryski for their Christmas flowers, which so beautifully grace our altar, in honor of Alec and Kyle Czartoryski, and Anastasia Sibanova. “Three of our many blessings”

**THE FAMILY CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** will be held tonight, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. After the Service, there will be a light reception sponsored by the Board of Deacons.

**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

**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.

**SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON**

Paul, who had come to know the love of Christ in a very personal way, understood who Christ is and the infinite love He had shown him when he persecuted those who followed Christ. But He was changed and now he shares this love with us.

**Here are a few points about the love of Christ:**

1. **“You may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”** Have you ever thought about the measure of Christ’s love? One of the ways love can be measured is by the measure of its sacrifice. Jesus left His heavenly throne and put on flesh. Now to take a moment and think about this, it makes us wonder why He would leave His heavenly dwelling, where countless angels worshiped Him? The answer, simply put, is because He loved us beyond our understanding. He would do anything possible to take us back unto Himself because He created us to have an everlasting relationship with Him.
2. **“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.”** Because God the Father has given His Son, everything else naturally comes with this great gift because not only does He want us to have Christ but also all the benefits and blessings that come with Him. In return God asks of us to submit to Him and say thank you for such a love that He has poured out on us without measure.

**"Kristos dzenav yév haidnétzav; tzézi mézi méds avédis."**

**"Christ is born and revealed; good tidings to you and to us."**