***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.

**11:00 A.M. January 7, 2024**

**ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS – EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE**

 **LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN- #***120 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

**\*INVOCATION and The HAYR MER:** (in unison)

 O Lord, the Christmas light reveals to us all that we need to live right. We have celebrated its arrival; now help us to see where it probes, understand what it illumines, and help us to walk steadily on the path it shows us. And, O Lord, let the Christmas light put radiance around life in this New Year and in all our days and nights. Through Jesus Christ, Who taught us to pray:

**\*HAYR MER** - *#275*

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**A RESPONSIVE REFLECTION OF CHRISTMAS:**

**PASTOR:** Think of the Wise-men’s journey. Out of all the billions of the stars in the sky, they followed the one star that brought them to Christ;

**PEOPLE: Out of all the great religious teachers under heaven, Christ is the one “Star” who draws us out of our darkness into the light.**

**PASTOR:** The ancient world believed that the star you were born under shaped your whole life. Little wonder that the early church taught that Jesus was born under a new star. His life was unlike any other life in human history.

**PEOPLE: He brought the very light of God into the darkness of our human world.**

**PASTOR:** God revealed His Son to the Wise Men from the East in terms that they could understand. We pray today that God will make Jesus more fully known to us. Almighty God, we pray for those of us who see Jesus only as the crucified Savior, that we recognize Him as our Risen Lord.

**PEOPLE:** **Almighty God we pray for those of us who see Jesus as a kindly Friend, that we recognize Him as a Demanding Master.**

**PASTOR:** Gracious Lord, we pray for those of us who see Jesus as the Holy Child, that we recognize Him as the Ideal Man.

**PEOPLE:** **Gracious Lord, we pray for those of us who see Jesus as the Church’s Lord, that we recognize Him as the Universal Christ.**

**PASTOR:** Lord God, we pray for those who see Jesus as a Stern Judge, that we recognize Him as a Merciful Teacher.

**PEOPLE:** **Lord God, we pray for those of us who see Jesus as a Personal Savior that we recognize Him as our Guiding Light.**

**PASTOR:** Father God, we thank You for revealing Your Son to us as the Light by which we understand ourselves and our world. Help us to walk in that Light in faithfulness and obedience all our days.

**UNISON:** **We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE – “Soorp Asdvads”**

**ANTHEM**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

1. Giving of the Bread 2.Giving of the Cup

 (Ours is an open Communion, and all who believe in, and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are cordially invited to share this Sacrament with us. In accordance with our customs, we suggest that as an act of Christian community, each communicant hold the element (first, the bread; then the cup) until all have been served. Then, with the Minister, partake together, so that none may be first and none last at the Table of the Lord.)

**\*HYMN -** *#398 “Blest Be The Tie That Binds” (vs. 1, 4)*

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 2:9-12 (p. 1498)

**ENGLISH SERMON: Like the Wise-Men**

**\*HYMN- #***181 “We three Kings” (v. 1)*

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2:16-20 (p. 1591)

**ARMENIAN SERMON: Taking the Spirit of Christmas with Us**

**\*HYMN -** *#30 “Silent Night” (in Armenian)*

 ***Loor keesher, soorp keesher***

 ***Yerk mu aha hovdeen verah***

 ***Hreshdag-neroon anteev khoompeh gehrke***

 ***Yerk vor tzunds-mump avedis gu pereh***

 ***Dehru prgeechuh yegav***

 ***Dehru prgeechuh yegav***

 ***Loor keesher, soorp keesher***

 ***Ov too yergeer, al artuntzeer***

 ***Koo ortnoot-unet art ver togh yelle***

 ***Park Astoodsoh ee partzoon-us yerkeh***

 ***Khagh-agh-ootune ashkharee***

 ***Khagh-agh-ootune ashkharee***

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: “*Park Kéz Dér, Asdvadz Mér”***

 ***ORGAN POSTLUDE***

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 ***\*Congregation is requested to stand. \*\*\* Latecomers may be seated***

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE NEW YEAR AND ON ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS** we wish you all a Happy New year and a Blessed Armenian Christmas.

**WE WELCOME TO OUR PULPIT** our Minister Emeritus Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian. Our Minister is not with us today due to illness. God willing, he will be with us next Sunday.

**THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be held on Sunday January 28, 2024.

**SYNOPSIS OF THE ARMENIAN SERMON**

**The Spirit of Christmas is the Spirit of Praise.** As we sing the carols of Christmas our hearts should be filled with the spirit of praise to God for His manifold blessings to us and to the world in the gift of His Son.

**The Spirit of Christmas is the Spirit of Joy.** There is a deep of undertone of joy running throughout the whole Christmas message. The Christmas Gospel is keeping the message of the one who said: “These things I have spoken to you that my joy be in you” (John 15:11).

**The Spirit of Christmas is the Spirit of Giving.** We express the spirit of true Christmas giving when we give in love and the spirit of sacrificial service.

**The Spirit of Christmas is the Spirit of Peace.** The gift of the Prince of Peace to those who truly abide in Him is peace with God, peace with one’s fellowmen and peace within the heart.

**The Spirit of Christmas is the Spirit of Love.** Christ has shown his sacrificial and redeeming love by dying on the cross for us. The loving Savior commended his disciples to show this kind of love to one another.

As Christians we are to take the Spirit of Christmas to the whole world.