**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

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Rev. Hagop Haroutunian, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

Susan Harrison, Choir Director and Organist

11:00 a.m. August 11, 2024

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**CONGREGATIONAL HYMN**: “Fairest Lord Jesus” #228,

vs.1-2 English; vs.3 Armenian transliteration:

Bérj Looys Arékagan, Bérjakooyn éh Loossen-gahn,

Yév Buss-bu-ghoon Asdghig-nérn Kohar, Hissoos éh Kéghapile

Hissoos éh Hokéz-mile, Kahn Polor Hréshdagnérn Yérgnitz.

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

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for this day that we have come together to worship You. We are grateful that You have sown Your seed, Your eternal Word into our hearts, so that we can live in the light of Your glory. We pray that Your Word will continue to grow in us to transform us more and more into Your likeness. We want to obey Your Word and follow You wherever You take us. May Your Spirit guide our steps according to Your Word, the Bible, that You have given us to live by. We give You all the glory and honor, Who taught us to pray:

*“Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.*

*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts,*

*as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation*

*but deliver us from evil.*

*For Thine is the kingdom and the power,*

*and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.”*

**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:** Psalm 119:57-72

PASTOR: You are my portion, O Lord; I have promised to obey Your words.

**PEOPLE**: **I have sought Your face with all my heart; be gracious to me, according to Your promise.**

PASTOR: I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to Your statues.

**PEOPLE**: **I will hasten and not delay to obey Your commands.**

PASTOR: Though the wicked bind me with ropes, I will not forget Your law.

**PEOPLE**: **At midnight I rise to give You thanks for Your righteous laws.**

PASTOR: I am a friend to all who fear You, to all who follow Your precepts.

**PEOPLE**: **The earth is filled with Your love, O Lord; teach me Your decrees.**

PASTOR: Do good to Your servant according to Your Word, O Lord.

**PEOPLE**: **Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I believe in Your commands.**

PASTOR: Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey Your Word.

**PEOPLE**: **You are good, and what You do is good; teach me Your decrees.**

PASTOR: Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep Your precepts with all my heart.

**PEOPLE**: **Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in Your law.**

PASTOR: It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.

**UNISON**: **The law from Your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND PRAYER**

**DOXOLOGY**, #1

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**CONGREGATIONAL SONG**: “Thy Word,” #15

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING**: Mark 4:26-29 (p.1558)

**ENGLISH SERMON**: The Growing Seed

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING**: Mark 4:30-32 (p.1558)

**ARMENIAN SERMON**: The Impact of the Mustard Seed

**HAYR MER**: #275

**BENEDICTION**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**: “Park Kez Der, Asdvadz Mer”

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

**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 to make this your church home.

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

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WEEKLY PRAYER**: Every Monday, via Zoom at 6:30 p.m.

**BI-WEEKLY THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY**: Our next study is this Thursday, August 15 at 6:30 p.m., in person and on zoom.

**COFFEE HOUR OR ALTAR FLOWERS**: Please sign-up at the bulletin board.

**COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**: Please sign-up in the social hall.

**USHER GREETERS NEEDED**: Please see Chuck.

**ARMENIA MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER**: Rev. Hagop and Nune will be going on a missionary trip to Armenia from September 15-27. They plan to visit several churches to evangelize. You can make donations to those churches and their family members who have various needs, such as church renovation, sound system, the less fortunate, the sick, etc. Please make your check donation to the Armenian Congregational Church. In the memo section, write: “Armenia Mission Trip.” Thank you.

**ARMENIAN SYNOPSIS**

Jesus spoke the parable of the growing seed, to illustrate the impact God’s kingdom can have on us and even the people all around us, whether believers or unbelievers.

**Here are some key points about the mustard seed**:

1. **“It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth.”** Jesus described and compared to the people listening to him, how the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. A mustard seed is about one millimeter in size, but it will grow up to approximately ten feet long. Mustard seeds are rich in nutrients like vitamins, minerals, fiber, and bioactive compounds. Similarly, the Christian life starts small but is expected to grow large and to be fruitful, impacting the world with the Gospel of Christ.
2. **“It grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”** When we, as Christians, grow and mature, we impact all those we are surrounded by, just like the birds that rest in a grown mustard shrub. Our impact on the world should be so powerful that it brings the attention of the world to Jesus, by the way we live and witness.