**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

Rev. Hagop Haroutunian, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

Susan Harrison, Choir Director and Organist

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11:00 a.m. October 27, 2024

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL HYMN**: “Come Now Almighty King,” #15

vs.1-2 English; vs.3 Armenian

Eecheer Ov Soorp Hokee Yév Hima

Dour Mézi Vugah-yoot-yoon

Teh- Dern Mez Guh Seeré, Mér Sirdn Artoon Deeré

Me Hérahnahr Mézméh, Hokee Seeroon.

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

Dear Lord, we thank you on this blessed Sunday, that you have gathered us as your church to worship you. We are grateful to be the body of Christ, your church. We thank you that you have blessed each of us with different gifts to build your church. We pray that you help us to always be supportive and loving of one another. We ask that you strengthen us, as your church, to live a life worthy of our calling. Let us be your light that shines to our community to share your great love with them by our testimony. We give you all the glory and honor, who taught us to pray: *“Our Father…”*

**\* GLORIA PATRI**, #79

**RESPONSIVE READING:** Appreciation of Ministers Day

PASTOR: Heavenly Father, on this Reformation Sunday, we thank you for the privilege of worshiping you.

**PEOPLE**: **We thank you for the great spiritual reformers of the past, who tried to reform the Church and restore it to its biblical purity.**

PASTOR: We thank you for our pastors and spiritual leaders, who walk in the footsteps of the faith of our fathers.

**PEOPLE**: **Heeding the advice of the Apostle, “We remember our leaders who spoke the word of God to us.” (Hebrews 13:7)**

PASTOR: On this Ministers’ Appreciation Sunday, with grateful hearts, we remember our past and present ministers.

**PEOPLE**: **We thank you for the precious heritage of our church, and for its loyal ministry.**

PASTOR: In remembrance of those ministers, who have served our church and have provided spiritual leadership but are now gone to join the Church Triumphant, we thank you, O Lord.

**PEOPLE**: **We thank you for our present minister(s) and his (their) faithful ministry.**

PASTOR: Gracious Lord, today as we acknowledge our gratitude to you and our appreciation to our past and present, active and retired ministers, grant that we may consecrate ourselves anew to the continued service to you and humankind.

**UNISON**: **Lord, unite and strengthen us in your love, and bind us together, for the edification of Christ’s Church and for the advancement of your kingdom. In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Carole Basmadjian**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**PRAYER**

**\* DOXOLOGY**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL SONG**: “Mighty to Save,” #35

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING**: Ephesians 4:1-16 (p.1821)

**ENGLISH SERMON**: “Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ”

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING**: 1 Peter 2:5, 9 (p.1888)

**ARMENIAN SERMON**: “God’s Special Possession”

**\* HAYR MER**: #275

**BENEDICTION**

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

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

**\* Please stand if you are able**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**TODAY IS MINISTERS’ APPRECIATION DAY**! We are grateful to God and will celebrate all of our past and present Ministers, who have served in our Church: *Rev. Misak Aijian, Rev. Yeghiazan Rushdouni, Rev. Haroutune Kartozian, Rev. Edward Tovmassian, Rev. Robert P. Rubyan, Rev. Jirair M. Sogomian, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Rev. Makarios Darawi, Rev. Shant Barsoumian and Rev. Hagop Haroutunian.*

**ARMENIAN RADIO PROGRAM:** Rev. Hagop Haroutunian is a guest clergy, co-host for ‘A Community in Unity Broadcast’ – TODAY, 6:00pm-7:00pm, on **690AM** – Call-in to **248.557.3300** – You may also join through the Armenian Congregational Church Facebook page, where you can watch and write your request for a prayer or ask questions.

**ACC MISSIONS COMMITTEE:** Our Fall/Winter Clothing Drive ends today. Clothing is collected in our foyer for the Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac. Monetary donations are also welcome – there is a box on a table, in the Lobby. Checks - payable to Grace Centers of Hope. Thank you!

**BI-WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY:** Thursday, 6:30PM, in person and zoom.

**THANKSGIVING BANQUET:** Save-The-Date, Sunday, November 24th at 5:00 p.m. We will have a special program and wonderful food catered by Gary Reizian, Uptown Catering!

**Armenian Synopsis**

Peter uses the church as a metaphor of the temple of God, when it once existed with its splendor, as the living stones that build up the Church with its foundation being Christ Himself.

**Here are a few points about the spiritual temple of God, the Church:**

1. **“You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”** In the Old Testament Law of Moses, the priest sacrificed various offerings to God. In the New Testament, these sacrifices are transferred into spiritual sacrifices that believers offer to God through the worship and service to God. This is our calling, to continuously offer our lives to Christ.
2. **“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.”** It is such a joy to know that we, as the church, are God’s special possession. As God dwelled in the ark of the covenant of the temple, so in the new covenant under Christ, He lives in the hearts of His children. One of the primary purposes of this is so that we may declare His praises to all those we encounter. This is a great honor to be able to share Christ, not just in words, but through our conduct.