**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

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11:00 a.m. May 4, 2025

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN** - #7 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

vs.1-3 English; vs.4 Armenian transliteration

*Meyatsek médz yerk-cha-khoom-peen ahravod-yahn ahsd-gheroon*

*Seerogh Hi-ren deereh vrah mér, gah-beh yegh-pire-rootyan sér*

*Own hah-ratch yerkov tsen-dsountyan bi-kareeh métch Hagh-tah-gan*

*Rah-viratz yérkn oorakh yergnee tsen-dsountyan yerkn ahrévi*

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

O God, Creator and Father of us all, Who has planned that we should dwell together in homes and families: grant that we may bring about love and harmony within our families, so we can share in the joys of human comradeship and be a blessing to each other, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught us to pray:

*“Our Father, Who art in Heaven…”*

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**THE LITANY FOR FAMILY SUNDAY:**

**PASTOR:** Blessed are they who rejoice in their children.

**PEOPLE: To them is revealed the Fatherhood of God.**

**PASTOR:** Blessed are they who know the power of love;

**PEOPLE: They dwell in God, for God is love.**

**PASTOR:** Blessed are the songful of soul;

**PEOPLE: They carry light and joy to shadowed lives.**

**PASTOR:** Blessed are they that see visions;

**PEOPLE: They shall rejoice in the hidden ways of God.**

**PASTOR:** Blessed are they that have understanding hearts;

**PEOPLE: To them shall be multiplied kingdoms of delight.**

**PASTOR:** Blessed are the childless, loving children still;

**PEOPLE: Theirs shall be a mightier family – even as the stars of heaven.**

**PASTOR:** Bless are they whose memories we cherish;

**PEOPLE: Our thoughts add jewels to their crowns.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANTHEM**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING:** Ephesians 5:22-30 (p.1823)

**ENGLISH SERMON:** *“Building a Happy Home”*

**\*HYMN** - #363 *“Jesus Loves Me”* (vs.1,3)

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING:** Mark 10:13-16 (p.1570)

**ARMENIAN SERMON:** *“Make Me a Child Again”*

**\*HAYR MER** - #275

**\*BENEDICTION**

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

**ORGAN POSTLUDE**

**\*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 to make this your church home.

**THE BOARD OF DEACONS MEETING:** will be held in the conference room, following the worship service today, at 12:30 p.m.

**A PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:** is scheduled for this Friday, May 9th, at noon.

**MOTHER’S DAY, MAY 11TH:** This is an invitation to join us in the morning worship service, to pay tribute to our mothers. Following the morning worship service, at 12:30 p.m., join us for a complimentary luncheon. We need donations. Please give your name and donation to Dr. Taline Hagopian, Chairperson for the Mother’s Day Luncheon.

**FATHER’S DAY PICNIC, SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH:** Please sign-up on the sheet in the Social Hall, if you are going to be at this fun gathering. It will be at Kensington Metro Park, at noon.

**Synopsis of the Armenian Sermon**

There are some characteristics that we should never put away. We should hold on to them forever:

1. **The first characteristic of childhood worth keeping alive is OPENNESS.** Every little child has the windows of life open to the morning. Children are curious; they are inquisitive. This is one thing we should retain as a permanent part of life. The closed heart and the closed mind are inventions of the adult world. To become a follower of Christ is to enroll in a school from which you will never graduate. There is so much to be learned, so much to be that we have never yet become. Our prayer to God should be, “Make me a child again.”
2. **A second characteristic of childhood worth keeping alive is TRUST.** Every day that a child lives, he expresses, in many ways, his need for help and his willingness to rely on those he trusts to meet those needs. For food and clothing, for shelter and protection, for companionship and comfort, he looks in faith to his parents, teachers and friends, and ultimately to God. If we keep life in proper perspective, we, too, will find trust a natural part of living.
3. **A Third characteristic of childhood that should be carried throughout life is LOVE.** Normal children seem ever ready to love and be loved. They show little capacity for holding a grudge. They simply accept persons as persons, and are willing and eager to share with them. It is those of us who have reached adulthood who have cluttered up life with resentments and grudges and hatreds.

In the matter of such things as openness, trust and love, our daily prayer should be, “Lord, make me a child again.”