**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

Susan Harrison, Choir Director and Organist

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11:00 a.m. May 25, 2025

**MEMORIAL SUNDAY**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN** - #413 “Blessed Assurance”

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

Ahl zis hahnts-nadz yém ahnor paz-gatz,

hooyj yérchanig yém anvakh angas-gadz

Eer parout-yamp éh létzoon hokees,

meeyag eer séhréh nute éh yerkees

Beedee bahdmém minch shoonchés vercheen ,

oo yérkém séhrn anhoon eem perg-chin

Beedee bahdmém minch shoonchés vercheen,

oo yérkém séhrn anhoon eem perg-chin

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

God, our Father, on this day we come together to remember those who gave their lives for our country and, in our own way, to say thank you. We remember also all of our loved ones who have died, for they have left no less a mark on our individual lives. May this time of prayer renew our gratitude and love for these people who have fought the good fight and entered into Your kingdom. This we ask in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

*“Our Father, Who art in Heaven…”*

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

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**LITANY FOR MEMORIAL DAY:**

**PASTOR:** Our Lord and our God, on this day we come together to praise Your holy name and to remember those who gave their lives for our country.

**PEOPLE: We praise You, O God, for the gift of memory.**

**PASTOR:** We remember, also, all of our loved ones who have departed from us, and gone to receive their reward in eternal life.

**PEOPLE: We thank You, O Lord, for these people who have fought the good fight and entered Your Kingdom.**

**PASTOR:** We lift our hearts in gratitude for all who have lived valiantly, and for all who have died bravely for truth, liberty, and righteousness.

**PEOPLE: We praise You, O Lord, for those who served their country in her hour of need, and especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice.**

**PASTOR:** Help us, O God, to prize highly and to guard carefully the gifts which, through loyalty and devotion, have been passed on to us.

**PEOPLE: Grant to us the wisdom and grace that, having them always in remembrance, we may emulate their faithfulness, and with them inherit the Promised Land.**

**PASTOR:** Confirm our faith in Your promises of eternal life; that, “if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built with human hands.”

**PEOPLE: We thank You, O God, that Jesus Christ our Lord is the resurrection and the life; that those who believe in him will live, even though they die; and whoever believes in him will never die.**

**UNISON: Praise, glory and honor be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit now and always. Amen.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANTHEM**

**MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING:** *Ecclesiastics 3:1-8 (p.1037)*

**ENGLISH SERMON:** *“What Does Memorial Day Teach Us?”*

**\*HYMN** #245*“Savior, Who Dying Gave” (vs.1,3)*

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING:** *Galatians 5:15-18 (1815)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON:** *“Christianity: A Religion of the Spirit”*

**\*HAYR MER**

**\*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.

**FATHER’S DAY PICNIC, SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH:** Please RSVP by June 8th. Sign-up on the sheet in the Social Hall, email office@accdetroit.org, or call the Church at 248-352-0680, if you are going to be at this fun gathering at Kensington Metropark. There will be a $10 entrance fee to the park.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 22, IS REV. TOOTIKIAN’S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON:** at 12:30 p.m. Please email or call the Church office with the names and amount of people attending.

**SPONSOR COFFEE HOUR OR ALTAR FLOWERS:** Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

**Synopsis of the Armenian Sermon**

Christianity is a religion of the spirit. The characteristics of the spirit are not corporeal; they are invisible. People only see its workings, the effects and results of the spirit.

1. **Christianity is a religion of the Spirit in its view of God**. It affirms that God is Spirit. When we talk about God being “Spirit,” we imply that He is personal. He is Supremely good. He is a loving Father. In a sense, believers carry God around within them every day they live and every place they go.
2. **Christianity is a religion of the Spirit in its view of human beings.** It recognizes that human beings are more than physical bodies; they have spiritual capacity. The spirit of a person survives physical death. The whole story of human life is not told between physical birth and death, for man is also spirit.
3. **Christianity is a religion of the Spirit in its view of revelation – the means by which God makes Himself known to us.** God reveals Himself not only in physical creation – in the universe – but also through persons and their spirit. Above all, we come to have the finest revelation of God in and through Jesus Christ.
4. **Christianity is a religion of the Spirit in that it holds the primacy and priority of Spirit over matter.** It maintains that material things are temporal and temporary. The invisible things are eternal and enduring. A person is not his or her body; rather a person is a spirit.