**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

Susan Harrison, Choir Director and Organist

26210 West Twelve Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan 48034

(248) 352-0680, office@accdetroit.org

11:00 a.m. June 8, 2025

**PENTECOST**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN** - #219 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

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

Voh yérp beedee ménk zine bashdénk ee métch kntats yérgnitz

Ahnor yérkénk oo zine gochénk Ahrkah Déhr Ahmen-nits

Ahnor yérkénk oo zine gochénk Ahrkah Déhr Ahmen-nits

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

God of all peace and consolation, Who did gloriously fulfill the great promise of the Gospel by sending down the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost to establish the Church, mercifully grant us this same gift of the Spirit, to renew, illuminate, refresh and sanctify our souls; to be over us and around us like the light and dew of heaven; through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, in Whose name we pray: *“Our Father, Who art in heaven…”*

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

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**MORNING MEDITATION AND PRAYER:**

**PASTOR:** When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place, and each of the many foreigners heard the witnesses speaking in his own tongue.

**PEOPLE: Come, Holy Spirit, witness to us, too, in our several languages.**

**PASTOR:** Speak in the language of our need. Let us hear how our deepest hungers, desires, and aspirations can be fulfilled by Your goodness and in Your service.

**PEOPLE: Come, Holy Spirit, give us that good news again.**

**PASTOR:** Speak in the language of our gratitude. Let us hear how our honest thanks relate us not only to those with whom we live, but God Himself, giver of all life.

**PEOPLE: Come, Holy Spirit, give us that enlarging news again.**

**PASTOR:** Speak to us in the language of joy. Let us hear how our gladness and our delight not only brighten this world, but honors You, Who made the world.

**PEOPLE: Come, Holy Spirit, give us that enlivening word again.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANTHEM**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING:** *Acts 2:1-4, 46-47 (p.1692, 1694)*

**ENGLISH SERMON:** *“The Fiftieth Day: Pentecost”*

**\*HYMN** #241*“Holy Spirit, Light Divine”*

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING:** *Philippians 4:4-7 (1830)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON:** *“Christianity: A Religion of Joy”*

**\*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 TODAY! 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 join us 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 number of people attending.

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

**Synopsis of the Armenian Sermon**

 Christian joy is not blind optimism, nor is it a denial of the reality of pain and sorrow, but it is an inner quality which enables one to transform stumbling blocks into steppingstones.

 For a Christian, joy is not synonymous with what people ordinarily and superficially call happiness. Joy and happiness for Christians are not dependent on external happenings. Paul and Silas sang songs of praise in a jail at midnight, not because they were happy about being in jail, but they knew the Christian joy that jail could not destroy.

 What really brings a Christian real joy and happiness?

1. **First of all, real joy is obeying Christ’s commands**. Jesus said, “If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love; my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.” (John 15:9-11) In obeying him, living in accordance with his commands, we will find true fulfillment in our lives.
2. **Secondly, real joy is loving people.** Loving our fellow humans implies empathy, trying to identify with them, trying to put ourselves in their shoes. Loving is self-giving and sharing. A person’s greatest joy comes when he or she brings happiness to someone else.
3. **Thirdly, real joy is reaching out and leading a productive life.** Jesus said, “I have appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. (John 15:16) As we serve others and try to meet their needs, and as we bring cheer into their lives, we will find joy that surpasses all understanding.