**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

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11:00 a.m. June 29, 2025

**INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN** - #78 “Holy, Holy, Holy!”

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

Soorp yes, Soorp Yes, Soorp Yes, Ov Hzor Asdvadz Mér

An-hah-mar Kord-zért Géh Koh-vén Kou Véh Anoon

Soorp Yes, Soorp Yes, Soorp Yes, Ov Ahmén-no-ghorm Déhr

Ov Too Yeryag Ahnts, Me Asdvadz Ahn-hoon.

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

God, our Father, we come to you this day, a people who have valued freedom. As a country, we have fought to gain and maintain our independence. As a people, we have placed a high value on those personal freedoms that Americans hold most dear. Help us, Father, to understand the rights and duties attached to being a free people, who are also Christian. This we ask through Jesus your Son, who taught us to pray:

*“Our Father, Who art in heaven…”*

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

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**A LITANY OF COMMEMORATION: (ON INDEPENDENCE DAY)**

**PASTOR:** Our Heavenly Father, as we commemorate the anniversary of the founding of our Republic, our prayer is that all people be free of the bonds that crush; free of those things that prevent even one single person from realizing his or her capacity, his or her potential.

**PEOPLE: Freedom is such an important right, and yet how often is it misunderstood! Help us in our commitments to, and in our understanding of, this inherent right of all men.**

**PASTOR:** For some, freedom means that they may do as they wish, while others may not.

**PEOPLE: For others, it may mean destroying all the laws that exist, and living in chaos.**

**PASTOR:** To many, freedom is selfish.

**PEOPLE: And yet to others, it means spending a lifetime of dedication, to help break the chains that bind others.**

**PASTOR:** Dear God, move us toward dedicating ourselves to care as much for others as we care for ourselves. Help us become committed to the freeing process.

**PEOPLE: Renew in us the fortitude of our fathers.**

**PASTOR:** Encourage us to go back to the basic words of the Bill of Rights, of the Ten Commandments.

**PEOPLE: And help us spend our lives understanding and living up to these words.**

**PASTOR:** Guide us in freeing people from injustice and inequality. Help us see each man, woman and child as a creature full of Your Spirit, as a beautiful person.

**PEOPLE: Help us see them not as a race, a color, a liberal, a radical, a member of the establishment, poor trash or any of those words that label people and block freedom and caring.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANTHEM**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING:** *Psalm 33:12-22 (p.870-871)*

**ENGLISH SERMON:** *“What Are We Celebrating On July Fourth?”*

**\*HYMN** #385*“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee” (vs.1,4)*

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING:** *Galatians 5:1,15-18 (p.1815)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON:** *“Freedom”*

**\*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.

**Synopsis of the Armenian Sermon**

The fourth of July marks the birth of the U.S.A. It was on that day in 1776, that representatives of the 13 colonies signed the document named, “The Declaration of Independence,” declaring themselves to be a free and independent nation.

The greatest legacy that we have received from the signees of “The Declaration of Independence,” is the inheritance of the dream of freedom. Freedom is everyone’s desire. Freedom means to be yourself, to live your own life, to think your own thoughts, and to decide your own destiny.

There is no freedom without discipline. Freedom has its limitations. Christian freedom must be exercised within certain boundaries. Christians belong to Christ and must recognize his sovereignty over them.

Freedom is not only a privilege; it is also a responsibility. Without a sense of responsibility to our families, communities and nation, we waste away emotionally, morally, spiritually. Freedom and loyalty walk hand in hand. No democracy can survive and thrive without the loyalty of its citizens.

The founding fathers of U.S.A. recognized their dependence upon God. “Blessed is the man who trusts the Lord.” (Jeremiah 17:7) “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” (Psalm 33:12)