**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

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11:00 a.m. July 20, 2025

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN** - #23 “When Morning Gilds the Skies”

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

Voch Chee Hokneer Léh-zoos Yérkél Soorp Aleloos

Park Hissoosi Anvahn Gérkém

Ays Yérk Tsundz-mahn Khantov muh Ansahman

Park Hissoosi Anvahn.

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

 Father, we are thankful, that we are one in Christ, that we can share with all believers everywhere the treasures of the Gospel.

 We come now to worship, and in so doing we tell our friends, neighbors, and children that God is our priority. Bless this worship, and bless us in Jesus’ name, Who taught us to pray:

*“Our Father, Who art in heaven…”*

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

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**RESPONSIVE CONFESSION AND LITANY OF INTERCESSION:**

**PASTOR:** It is amazing to hear people brag about what they have accomplished all by themselves. They forget that they are the beneficiaries of a thousand years of higher learning, of a stable and safe society of law, of a benevolent nature that gives sunshine and rain.

**PEOPLE: None of us is self-made, or self-justified. We have received more than we earned or deserved.**

**PASTOR:** It is hard to tell the difference between a nominal Christian and a non-Christian. They pretty much live and look the same. But there is one dramatic measure of a true Christian. Those who seek justice and do mercy are Christ’s own.

**PEOPLE: Almighty God, we thank You, that You want justice and mercy more than pious words and rituals.**

**PASTOR:** O God, we pray that you will help us to follow the example of Jesus, who always sided with the poor, the ill, and the lonely people of His day.

**PEOPLE: We pray that the Church will renew its pledge to walk in the sure steps of Christ, Who leads us in holiness.**

**PASTOR:** We pray that we may not abandon our support, for those who are in trouble or are in need of our encouragement and care.

**PEOPLE: We pray that our neighbors and co-workers will realize their common responsibilities and shared opportunities.**

**PASTOR:** O Lord, we find in Your Holy Word the secret of a meaningful life. Our commitments are the carriers of all the things we value most – love, justice, peace, and hope!

**PEOPLE: Hear our prayers, O God, as we recommit ourselves to these great treasures.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANTHEM**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING:** *John 6:60-66 (p.1658)*

**ENGLISH SERMON:** *“If You Leave Out Christ”*

**\*HYMN** #181*“My Faith Looks Up” (vs.1,3)*

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING:** *Psalm 84:1-5, 10-12 (p.922-923)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON:** *“The Loveliest Place On Earth”*

**\*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.

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

**PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING**: Tomorrow, Monday, at 6:00pm.

**Synopsis of the Armenian Sermon**

 The Psalmist tells us that God’s House is the loveliest place on earth. And He tells us why:

1. **God’s House is a place of superior pleasures.** The Psalmist found his highest happiness in God’s house. Hear him as he says, “Blessed are those who dwell in your house… Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere.” Can you imagine that, finding it fun to go to church? If the Psalmist was telling the truth, then many of us have lost the path to pleasure. We chase after thrills to stimulate our senses. But they fail to bring fulfillment. The pursuit of happiness is a legitimate quest. But it can never be found in the senses alone, because they represent only a fragment of our nature. The superior pleasures lie in the realm of the spirit, where the soul stands face to face with God.
2. **The House of God is the place of unconditional acceptance.** “Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young.” The Psalmist remembered how those tiny creatures took up residence in the eaves of the temple. If they were accepted, how could any human being ever be turned away. My Prayer for our Church is that it will always be a place where anyone can find a home.
3. **The House of God is the loveliest place, primarily because He is here.** I say this not with any notion that we can localize the Infinite God, or that any little temple can contain the Lord of the universe; but He is here because this place is dedicated to Him. We believe in the Church, not primarily because of the pleasure it gives us or the acceptance it extends to us, but because of the One we find here and the One Who finds us here.

INFORMATION

Please tear off and place in the collection plate.

Name

Phone

Address

 I have recently moved into this area. I have moved; new address.

 I am interested in membership. I wish to be on the mailing list.

 I would appreciate a visit from the minister.

This person is sick: