**Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit**

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Minister Emeritus

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11:00 a.m. July 27, 2025

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**ORGAN PRELUDE, QUIET MEDITATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

**CHOIR INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN** - #395 “Children Are We of One Father Above”

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

Ee Mia seen hon hahvidian

Bee dee pnagink Ménk hahmats sign

Oosdi seerenk hoss még us még

Még seerd ellank yév még Khorhoort

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

 Our Heavenly Father, because of Your great love, we can come into Your house. Because of You, we are truly happy. Your kindness protects us like a shield. Make Your way clear to us now, as we gather to be led by Your Word. Through Jesus Christ, Who taught us to pray:

*“Our Father, Who art in heaven…”*

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

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**MORNING MEDITATION AND PRAYER:**

**PASTOR:** We have seen the greatness of God’s love revealed to us through the words and deeds of Jesus Christ. Let us look to his life as an example of how we should express love in our daily life. His life on earth was a witness to the power of God, and his words gave praise to Him for all things.

**PEOPLE: Let us praise God for all His gifts to us, and express our gratefulness through our Christ-like living.**

**PASTOR:** Jesus expressed love for those who had sinned and treated them as equals when they repented of their sin.

**PEOPLE: Let us not be critical of those who have fallen, but express our love for them and help them grow in faith.**

**PASTOR:** Jesus indicated that love should motivate our actions with those in need, regardless of their status in life.

**PEOPLE: Let us not forget that all men are brothers to us, and that our love and concern should include them.**

**PASTOR:** Jesus even loved those who hated him and led him to the cross, and asked the Father to forgive them.

**PEOPLE: Let us be willing to forgive all men of their sins against us, no matter how bad they might be.**

**PASTOR:** Jesus died upon the cross, that he might reveal God’s love for us as sinners and as his children.

**PEOPLE: Let us see the potential greatness of all men, and of what they can contribute to the Kingdom of God.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**

**NOTICES AND CONCERNS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH CHOIR**

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**ANTHEM**

**ENGLISH SCRIPTURE READING:** *Matthew 22:34-40 (p.1535-1536)*

**ENGLISH SERMON:** ***The Twin Commandments***

**\*HYMN** #146*“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (vs.1,3)*

**ARMENIAN SCRIPTURE READING:** *I Corinthians 12:12, 26-27 (p.1785-1786)*

**ARMENIAN SERMON:** ***The Responsible Christian***

**\*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. What a nice way to have a remembrance for your loved one. Thank you.

**ARMENIA FESTIVAL FOR ARTSAKH**: We will have a booth at Armenia Fest 17 on Saturday, August 23rd, and will be selling baked goods. If you would like to bake something for this event, please see Ann Zartarian after church. You can make a financial donation. Please make your check payable to: **ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**, and in the memo write: **ARMENIA FEST**. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Synopsis of the Armenian Sermon**

 Each Christian is unique and each is important in the sight of God. No human individual is apart from society or social group. There is no such thing as an individual Christian all by himself or herself. The individual Christian does not create the Christian faith. The New Testament knows nothing about solitary Christians.

1. **Responsible Christians are consciously involved individuals.** Paul states that, “we are members of one another” (Ephesians 4:25); he also adds, “If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all members rejoice with it.” (I Corinthians 12:26) Responsible Christians know that every success or failure of their society is partly their success or partly their failure.
2. **Responsible Christians are those who know the world does not so much owe to them, as they owe the world their best.** Responsible Christians receive as well as give. They are not parasites.
3. **Responsible Christians are those who find their own fulfillment, not through ruthless self-seeking, but through the courageous giving of themselves in service to others.** Jesus phrased it, “He that seeks to save his own life shall lose it. He that loses his life for my sake, shall find it. People do not care for selfish people. They are attracted to those who give of themselves finely, whose concerns are for others. And in giving of themselves, they find tranquility and satisfaction.
4. **Responsible Christians are those who know that they have not yet arrived, not yet attained, but continue to grow and strive.** They know that maturity is not a place at which one arrives and stops, but is rather a process and a direction toward which one strives. They know that as long as they live their lives, their task and privilege is to grow toward mature persons, “to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:13)