

Armenian Evangelical Church  
of New York

Monthly Bulletin

The Rev. Haig Kherlopian, Pastor



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*Վեր. Հայկ Խրլորեան, Հովիւ*

Volume 107

JANUARY 2019

No. 4

# The Monthly Bulletin

Published by

The Armenian Evangelical Church of New York

152 East 34th Street, New York, NY 10016

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**F**ounded in 1896, the AECNY, a Congregational Church affiliated with the United Church of Christ, is dedicated to serving the spiritual needs of the Armenian-American community, friends and neighbors in the metropolitan New York City area and around the world.

We aim to provide a variety of ministries in Christian education, music, outreach and fellowship.

All articles submitted for publication are subject to acceptance, rejection and editing by the Publication Committee with no obligations to return the unpublished articles to their authors.

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The Monthly Bulletin of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York

Editor: Mr. Mesrop Borekjian

Published monthly, except in July and August, by the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York, 152 East 34th Street, New York, NY 10016

Yearly subscription: \$40.00

Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Armenian Evangelical Church of New York, Attn: The Monthly Bulletin*, 152 East 34th Street, New York, NY 10016

# Our Daily Bread

*“Give us this day our daily bread.”*

*- Matthew 6:11*

**H**aving moved from the hallowing of God’s name and invocation of God’s kingdom, we arrive this month at the line of the Lord’s prayer concerning the provision of our needs: “Give us this day our daily bread.” The phrase “daily bread” may be amply familiar to us from sermons, prayer guides, and devotional publications (including the AMAA’s Mer Hanabazort), so I would like to focus on the opening sentiment of the verse: Give. When we ask God to meet us in our physical or spiritual hunger, we are pleading for daily nourishment as a gift.

Many people, in going about their ordinary lives, expect bread and related goods not as gifts but as purchases. Under capitalist norms, there is a commercial transaction in which money and products are exchanged. Adam Smith famously captures this system by stating, “[i]t is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker, that we expect our dinner but from

their regard to their own interest” (Wealth of Nations, Modern Library, p. 15). We don’t go to the bakery or the grocery store as supplicants, begging the baker or grocer for food. Rather than appealing to their compassion, we appeal to their pocketbook. In this system, people with money have purchasing power and control. Buyers, not beggars, enjoy the ability to specify the amount, timing, and kind of their purchases. A loaf of bread or a roll? Daily runs to the market or a jumbo haul from a Costco? Brioche or baguette? Or, more to the point: lavash or pita? It’s up to you.

By contrast, when the Israelites were wandering in the desert as refugees from Egypt, they had to rely on God’s grace for meat and manna. They were humbled by their circumstances, unable to dictate the frequency of their gatherings of food or the type of food given. Whatever bread of heaven was collected against the Lord’s will on the sabbath would rot (Exodus 16). And the demand for quail did not go well (Psalm 78:21–31). (Though in this gift economy, the people were able to adjust the amounts of manna that they took according to their needs: “... those

who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed” (Exodus 16:18)).

I wonder if when people follow Jesus in praying “give us this day our daily bread,” we occupy a similar posture to that of the wandering, displaced Israelites or even the animals and young ravens of Psalm 147:9 that God feeds. Absolutely dependent on God, we seek His provision in whatever way He deems fit—not as entitled consumers or buyers empowered according to their social class but as the equal, claimless subjects of a benevolent Lord. The kingdom of heaven does not operate according to the logic of work and wages; it runs on pleading, meek prayers like “give us this day our daily bread.” Lord Jesus, bread of life and eternal word, please give us of yourself and so sustain us (Deuteronomy 8:3).

But it could be that gift will one day be overcome by purchasing of a paradoxical sort. For, Isaiah offers an eschatological vision where the poor come to possess things in an altogether

new and unrecognizable way: “Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price” (Isaiah 55:1). What, one wonders, is the special moneyless currency of this realm? How can you buy wine and milk without money and without price? More than that, what’s the benefit of being able to buy these things in this way rather than receiving them as gifts? It is Christ who both cancels the price and enables the exchange through His own blood of inestimable worth. I imagine that—because of Christ’s gift of salvation—there will be a day where every basic need (like water) and every good thing (like wine and milk) that had been barred to the world’s poor will open up to them. Poverty will no longer be a constraint, a constant frustration, a source of pain. The promise of Christ’s gospel includes the overturning of oppressive economic orders. One day, divine love will subsume earthly inequalities so that gift and purchase meet.

*—Heather C. Ohaneson*

**CHRISTMAS SUNDAY POINSETTIAS PRESENTED:**

*In loving memory of **Mrs. Diranouhi Arukian**,  
by Hratch & Negdar Arukian.*

*In loving memory of **Barbara Brothers**,  
by Jon Brothers.*

*In loving memory of **Puzant & Homosie Cherkejian**,  
by RoseMarie Ashbahian.*

*In loving memory of **Nazaret Cherkejian**,  
by Michael & Donna Cherkejian, Children & Grand-  
children.*

*By Rev. Berj & Mrs. Louise Gulleyan.*

*In loving memory of **George Mazmanian**,  
by Merze Mazmanian.*

*In loving memory of **Jon Andrew Wolohojian**,  
by John & Anita Wolohojian.*

*In loving memory of **Azniv Ajamian**,  
by Vanouhi Janian.*

*In loving memory of **Mehran & Lucy Cherkejian**,  
by Ms. Rosanne Cherkejian.*

*In loving memory of **Rev. Nerces & Mrs. Gulenia Khachadourian**, by Ms. Anie Khachadourian.*

*By Rose K. Hartunian.*

*In loving memory of **Dr. Jirayr Tezel and Hagop & Bertha Hovagim**, by Ms. Louise Tezel.*

*In loving memory of parents **Zaven & Mary Megerditchian**, by Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Picone & Family.*

*In loving memory of husband **Shnork** and daughter **Taline**,  
by Ankine Dadian.*

*In loving memory of **Alfred & Betty Halebian**,  
by Paul & Karen Navarra.*

*In loving memory of **Berge & Adrina Kayaian**,  
by Sarah, Andrew, Lauren, & Rob Kayaian.*

*In loving memory of **Krikor & Anoush Keyishian**,  
by Richard Keyishian.*

*In loving memory of **Erol Fisekci**,  
by Rose Fisekci.*

*In loving memory of **her beloved ones**,  
by Haigouhi Makhouljian.*

*In loving memory of the **Dogramajian Family**,  
by Pearl Vazeos.*

*In loving memory of parents **Mihran & Mary Dokouzian**,  
sister **Sarah**, wife **Doris**, and grandson **Simon**,  
by Jack Dokouzian.*

*In loving memory of **Hamo Darmanian**,  
by Nina Darmanian.*

*In loving memory of **Dikran & Laurice Buchakjian**,  
by Gilda Kupelian & Family.*

*In loving memory of **Carolyn Louise Nahabedian**,  
by Dick Goetjen.*

*In loving memory of **John & Alice Margosian, Vartan &  
Estella Margosian, and Lillie Margosian**,  
by Sherry Margosian Stoutner.*

*In loving memory of **Matilda Larchian**,  
by Madia Artinian.*

*By Dr. Armen Kherlopian.*

## **GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED WITH GRATITUDE**

### For Christmas and Tertig:

*Jennifer Telfeyan-LaRoe, Louise Tezel, RoseMarie Ashbahian, Michael & Donna Cherkeztian, Merze Mazmanian, Anahid Iskian, Vanouhi & Antwan Ahad, John & Barig Kherlopian, Ms. Anie Khachadourian, Rose K. Hartunian, Peggy Dingilian, John & Zara Yalenezian, Yvonne Shakarian, Claire Kedeshian, Susan & George Bashian Jr., Mariana Hamparian, Andy & Rose Torigian, Zaven & Sona Khanjian, Vicky & Nurhan Becidyian, Takouhi & Arshag Tarpinian, J. Mardirossian, Anoush Haig, Vahig & Karine Shnorhokian, Steven Nahabedian, Rose Fisekci, Pearl Vazeos, Jack Dokouzian, Nina Darmanian, Berc & Armine Araz, Bayard Ludlum, Margaret Cherkeztian, Dorothy D. McKinnon, Warren Holopigian, Heather Ohaneson, Donna Dorian, Virginia Arpiararian, Ann Yazejian, and Haig Kalfaian*

### For Thanksgiving Social Hall Renovation Fundraising:

*Nurhan Becidyian, Harry Salibian, Herair Mouradian, Debra Halejian-Duckman, Louise Tezel, Karen Dokouzian-Spencer, Esther Tavetian, Roseanne Cherkeztian, Raffi Zohrabian, Barbara Keljikian, John & Joan Dilsizian, Pat & Andrew Chaglasian, Maria Elyse Rabar, Mike & Eunice Gick, Nurhan Helvacian, Hasmieg Yankelovich, Armen Janjigian, Susan Keoleian, Stephen Pilibosian, John & Zara Yalenezian, Ani Derkazarian, Levon Kevorkian, Kathrine Dadukian, Dr. Antwan Ahad, Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Vartkes Kassoumi, Lucy Janjigian, Berjouhi Gulesserian, Margaret Cherkeztian, and H. Hrant Agbabian*

## **GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED WITH GRATITUDE**

*(cont.)*

In loving memory of **Carolyn Nahabedian**, by Steven Nahabedian, and Louise H. Tezel.

## **CHANCEL FLOWERS PRESENTED**

**December 23** - In loving memory of **Serpouhie Mardirossian, & Carolyn Nahabedian**, by the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York.

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Christmas tree presented in loving memory of **Helen Chadirjian and Dickran & Kohar Davidian**, by Claire Chadirjian-Cecchi, Michael Chadirjian, & Family.

## **FELLOWSHIP HOUR**

We wish to express our gratitude to the following for their generous contribution towards Fellowship Hour in the month of December:

*Ruby Kherlopian, Jennifer Telfeyan, Nancy Kherlopian, Peggy Dingilian, Beverly Gantt, and David Boyajian.*

## UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

### Join us for:

*Sunday Morning Worship at 11:00 AM*

*Tuesdays Night Bible Study at 7:30 PM*

**Feb 5**      **Bible Study Resumes**

*All are welcome!*

**Feb 10**      **Church Congregational Meeting**

*Members must attend.*

For More Information, Contact The Church Office:

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*Email: [info@aecnyc.org](mailto:info@aecnyc.org)*

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