

Armenian Evangelical Church
of New York

Monthly Bulletin

The Rev. Dr. Haig Kherlopian, Pastor



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Founded 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are subject to acceptance, rejection and editing by the Publication Committee with no obligations to return the unpublished articles to their authors.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 Things You Thought Were Dead

“This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.”
—Acts 2:32 (ESV)

When Christians celebrate Easter, what do we celebrate?

We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

What does the resurrection of Jesus mean? What does it promise?

The resurrection of Jesus is rich in significance. It points to the Lord’s power over physical human death and over spiritual damnation. But this year, as I experience reconciliation with my earthly father on a new level – after having long given up on it – I realize that the resurrection of Jesus also means that God has the power to bring to life dreams that have died. On the one hand, this surprising springing up of desires that had gone silent underground seems much smaller than the miraculous ability to raise someone literally from the dead. On the other hand, in its this-worldly tangibility, this resurrecting-dreams aspect of Christ’s life-giving power is very wondrous: it makes the heart sing.

That expansion of the resurrection’s meaning is what I want to stress to you today: The implications of the fact that Jesus “was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption” speak to grieving people at funeral services, certainly, but they equally apply to our day-to-day lives (Acts 2:31). Thus, as you contemplate Jesus’ atoning work on the cross and His love, which persisted beyond the cross and tomb to the garden where Jesus met Mary (John 20:16), and to the shore where He met His disciples (John 21:4), and to the ordinary spaces where He meets you and me, of course, I want you to remember that Jesus’ victory

over death assures us that death is not our end—but I want you to be able to access that hope for this life. The same God who has the power to resurrect your body to everlasting life is able to breathe new life into your crushed spirit, which has given up expectations for good, and to your circumstances, which may have been ravished by wrongdoing. What you have lost here on earth, God can restore to you. May it be to you on earth as it is in heaven, but if—for whatever reason—consolation does not reach you here, may you reach it there. With the resurrected, ascended Christ, nothing is ever finally lost. Nothing is beyond repair. Hallelujah!

The Christian hope of salvation is that when people entrust themselves in faith to God, God transfers them from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light, from wickedness to the beautiful good, from soul-sickness to health, from sin to righteousness, from dysfunction to harmonious cooperation, from anxiety to peace—in short, from death to life. Jesus’ own resurrection from the dead is what allows for this strange hope. But as grand as that promise is, don’t stop there. Believe Him for more. (Yes, more!) Believe Him for *this* life.

Go through the process. Crucify your desires. Grieve the things that sin has robbed you of. Let God put away from you the things that are harming you. But then wait to see what God brings through winter and into spring. If He wants it to be alive and available to you, nothing will stop Him from making it so. You can trust Him to cultivate a good garden in the midst of your manure. Sometimes, seemingly out of nowhere, His grace appears. Then, we remember Jesus’ words: “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” (John 12:24). Jesus, our incarnate-crucified-and-risen Lord, is in the business of

transforming dead wheat into something redemptively fruitful. Hallelujah!

Or, in the words of one gospel song, “the things you thought were dead, He has brought to life instead.” That, in part, is what the hope of Jesus’ resurrection power means.

–Heather C. Ohaneson

LILIES FOR EASTER

*If you wish to donate flowers for Easter Sunday
in loving memory or in honor of a loved one
please send your donation to the church office
as soon as possible.*

Any donation over \$20.00 is appreciated.

**I Wish to Donate Lilies to Beautify the Altar
for Easter Sunday.**

In loving memory/honor (circle one) of:

Enclosed is my Easter Donation of \$ _____ (\$20 min.)

Enclosed is my Easter Gift of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

(Please return to the church by mail as soon as possible)

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

We wish to express our gratitude to the following for their generous contribution towards Fellowship Hour in the months of January & February:

Ruby Kherlopian, Jennifer Telfeyan, Karine Tonyan, Nairi Esayan, Nancy Kherlopian, and Mesrop Borekjian.

GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED WITH GRATITUDE

For Christmas and Tertig: John & Zara Yalenezian, Seto Eurdekian, Margaret Cherkezian, Julia Kellermueller

For Bible Study: Rachel Zarnke, Richard Mikaelian

CHANCEL FLOWERS PRESENTED

February 16 - Presented in loving memory of **Nazaret Cherkezian**, by his loving wife, Margaret, children, Michael and Donna Cherkezian, Deborah and Larry Campbell, and grandchildren, Megan and David.



UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Due to Covid-19, we have not been meeting at our physical church location. However, the Church, being made up of our body of believers, has continued meeting virtually for Sunday Worship Service and Bible Study.

We welcome you to join us virtually! Visit aecnyc.org/events to view our virtual calendar of events, and join our email list for weekly updates at aecnyc.org/emaillist

We pray against this virus and for your protection, in Jesus' name, amen.

For More Information, Contact The Church Office:

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