

### ALTER FLOWERS

Poinsettias are needed to decorate our church and altar for the Christmas Season. If you would like to donate in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion, please contact Lusiya Thibault at 774-280-2471.

### Bible Study

Every Monday from 6 – 7 p.m. “Sermon Discussion Session”. A question and discussion oriented chat group based on Sundays sermon and beyond. Together we share and learn how to apply Christian principles to our everyday lives. If you have questions or would like to discuss the sermon or just sit in, please join us!

**Please join us Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th  
Candlelight Service from 6 - 7 P.M.**

**Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church Presents:  
Greater Worcester Armenian Chorale Christmas Concert  
Featuring Traditional Yuletide Music in Armenian and English  
Sunday, January 8 at 12:30 PM  
Luncheon Before Concert: Chicken, Pilav, Salad and Dessert - \$10 Donation  
SEE FLYER FOR MORE INFORMATION**

### Clothing Swap

The Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church in Whitinsville will host a clothing swap on Saturday, January 14, 2017 from 9-11am. Whether you're looking to clean your closets or update your wardrobe, this is the event for you! We accept gently used (no rips or stains please) men's, women's and kid's clothing, shoes and accessories. You don't have to donate anything to take something home and you don't have to take something home in order to donate. Everything is free and open to the public. Donations can be dropped off on Friday, January 13 from 6-7pm or the morning of the swap. Use the driveway between Domino's Pizza and the law office and come in the back door. For more information, please email edalynne@hotmail.com or call Christine at 508-234-8131.

**Free Christmas Dinner, December 25, Noon - 2:00 pm Public is Invited  
Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church ~ 61 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville**

### Red Cross Blood Drive

Sponsored by the Northbridge Girl Scouts, Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at Knights of Columbus, 77 Prescott Rd., Whitinsville from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Please call for an appointment at 800-733-2767 or RedCrossBlood.org

Do you want to have God pleasing faith? You cannot unless you give time to read the Bible, because “.... FAITH COMES FROM HEARING THE MESSAGE AND THE MESSAGE IS HEARD THROUGH THE WORD OF CHRIST.” Romans 10:17

**Christmas Day & New Year's Day  
Badarak will begin at 11:00 A.M. Everyone Welcome!**

**SOORP ASDVADZADZIN ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
315 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA  
Tel. /Fax: 508-234-3677  
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## SUNDAY BULLETIN

**December 18, 2016**

**Forgiven**

*Celebrant Rev. Fr. Mikael Der Kosroffian*

### EPISTLE: Hebrews 1:1-14

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

The Son Superior to Angels for to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"?

Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire." But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore, God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

He also says, "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

#### *The order of the Readings for this week is as follows:*

<b>TODAY:</b>	<b>Is 38:1-8; Heb 1:1-14; Lk 17:1-10 (pg. 1626)</b>
<b>Monday:</b>	Wis 5:1-8; Jer 6:16-21; 1 Cor 4:9-16; Mk 9:33-37
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Prv 24:1-12; Jer 15:19-20; Heb 12:1-7; Mt 10:26-33
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Heb 2:1-10; Lk 17:11-19
<b>Thursday:</b>	Wis 3:1-8; Jer 30:18-22; 1 Pet 4:12-19; Jn 15:17-25
<b>Friday:</b>	Heb 3:12-4:10; Lk 18:1-8
<b>Saturday:</b>	2 Sm 5:1-10; 1 Kgs 2:1-11; Ez 34:23-27; Jas 1:1-12; Mt 22:41-46

*We Welcome Visitors and Hope You Enjoy Worshipping with Us.* Please sign the *Guest Book* in the foyer. If there is anything we can do for you, please let us know or fill in the welcome cards that are in the pew racks in front of you and leave in the office or foyer.

#### **FOLLOWING THE LITURGY**

We have Liturgy Books in the pew racks, take one and follow the pages illuminated on the wall. This way the Liturgy will become more meaningful to you.

### Forgiven

The reading today is from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 17:1-10. Jesus talks about sin, faith and duty. I'd like to talk about sin and forgiveness, especially this time of year, the holiday season - Christmas is only one week away.

According to verse 3, Jesus teaches us that this process of forgiveness involves two responsibilities on our part.

First, we must talk with the person who is sinning. Tell the person the wrong he or she has done. We need to have the courage to address the matter directly with the person and not talk behind their back. We need to speak the truth in love with the goal of reconciliation. What does this mean? It means that if we are going to tell someone that they have done something wrong, we do it with love, with sincere love, the same love that God has for you and for me, so that the person feels it. Not yell at them, not talk down to them, not make them feel worthless. Talk to them like a brother or a sister. After all you and I are sinners just like the person we are rebuking. And whether it's seven times in a day or seventy times seven, WE MUST FORGIVE, since the goal is to restore relationships within OUR FAMILY, within OUR COMMUNITY.

And if the person apologizes, we have a second responsibility: To forgive them, repentance should be greeted with forgiveness. We should be quick to move on - once the wrong is acknowledged and not continue living in the past. We must let go, we can't forgive someone and repeatedly relive their wrongdoings, because all that will do is stir up the bitterness within the heart.

Forgiveness reconciles us, delivering us from bitterness. Paul writes "*Be kind toward one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*"

If we choose to delay the reconciliation process, then all we're doing is allowing the spreading of bitterness, of poison. That's why Jesus is telling us to reconcile, to forgive and then to ask for forgiveness. Because once we reconcile with one another, we're reconciling with God.

JESUS SAID, "*Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.*" Matthew 5:23-24

We can choose to be in misery or to live in harmony. This season of gift giving, let's give the gift of forgiveness, just as God has given it to us and it would be a great way for us to enter the new year and be in a celebratory mood all the time, not just for the day.

Imagine your life without anger, without pain, without bitterness. It's possible, all we need to do is allow Jesus to be involved in our lives.