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St. Stephen's Armenian
Apostolic Church

Funeral Service

167 Tremont St • New Britain, CT 06051
Տէր Կարապետ Թելֆեյան, Հոգևոր Հովիւ

June 19, 2021

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Rev. Fr. Garabed Telfeyan, Pastor

Agnes B. Karanian (1924-2021)

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5:4

Priest

✠ Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

People

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed by Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Deacon

Again for peace let us beseech the Lord.

People

Lord, save us, and have mercy upon us.

Priest

✠ Blessing and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

People

God of our Fathers, Word of God, in the Father's bosom, you humbled yourself from the heavens for our salvation, to renew our lives.

God of our Fathers, who will come with the glory of the Father, to awaken the sleeping in your Holy name, also renew our departed.

God of our Fathers, Christ, grantor of life and immortality, when you come again to judge the world, grant forgiveness to our departed.

Deacon (Psalm 84)

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Blessed are those who dwell in Thy house, ever singing Thy praise! How lovely is Thy dwelling place, Lord of Hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord.

A reading from the first epistle of Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians (4)

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Deacon (Psalm 102)

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hear my prayer, Lord. Let my cry come before you. Do not hide your face from me on the day of my distress.

Deacon. Alleluia. Stand straight.

Priest. † Peace be with you all.

People. And with your spirit.

Deacon. Listen in awe...

Priest. ...to the **Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John** (12:24-26)

People. Glory to You, Lord our God.

Deacon. Let us attend.

People. God speaks.

Priest. Our Lord Jesus Christ says: **Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.**

Deacon. Again for peace let us beseech the Lord.

People. Lord have mercy.

Deacon. For the departed one, let us beseech the Lord.

People. Lord have mercy.

Deacon. For the expiation and forgiveness of her and our sins and transgressions, let us beseech the Lord.

People. Lord have mercy.

Deacon. For leading her into the shadowless abode prepared by the only begotten Son in the house of his Father, let us beseech the Lord.

People. Lord have mercy.

Deacon. That she may hear the life-giving trumpet and ascend into

the presence of the Savior, let us beseech the Lord.

People. Lord have mercy.

Priest. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Christ God, King of Eternity, merciful beyond request and even comprehension, providing everything for the welfare of the children of man, now receive the soul of your servant Agnes, and rest her among your saints who have glorified you since the beginning. Receive her among your righteous ones and make her dwell in the tabernacles of those who love you. And if she has sinned because of her human nature, by word, deed, or thought, you, as lover of mankind, our beneficent God, grant her forgiveness, and secure also our departure in peace from this world, to become heirs of your heavenly kingdom so we may thankfully glorify you with the Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

✠ Peace be with you all.

People. And with your spirit.

Deacon. Let us bow down to God.

People. We are before you, Lord.

Priest. O God, the philanthropic and compassionate, rest the soul of your servant Agnes in the abode of the just, enable us to fulfill our Christian faith without sin, and establish us in good deeds through your grace and love, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom is befitting glory, dominion, and honor with the Father and the Holy

Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

People. We who are gathered, when your servant has already renounced this world, are imploring in our tears and beseech you in saying: “Be a companion on this journey to your servant who always walked with you, and repose our beloved in the radiant resting place of our Father.

In the Heavenly Jerusalem, in the abode of the angels where Enoch and Elijah have aged in dove-like purity, worthily resplendent in the paradise of Eden, merciful Lord, have mercy upon the souls of our departed.

Priest. Christ our God, grant repose and mercy to those at rest, and, to us sinners, grant remission of our transgressions.

Deacon. Again for peace let us beseech the Lord. For souls of the deceased, let us beseech our savior Christ, that He may rank them among the just and save us through His mercy.

People. Almighty Lord, our God, save and have mercy upon us.

Priest. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Christ, Son of God, forbearing and compassionate, have mercy, through your love as creator upon the soul of your departed servant Agnes. Remember her on the great day of the coming of your kingdom. Make her worthy of your mercy, remission and forgiveness of sins. Illuminate and rank her among the saints of your right hand. For

you are the Lord and creator of all, and the judge of the quick and the dead, and to you is befitting glory, dominion and honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

(At this point, the eulogies.)

Priest. ✠ Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

People. Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed by Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

People. People of the world, look at me with compassion. When I part my lips and speak with my tongue, I protest against myself. Lord have mercy.

I became a thief of sins, a finder of perdition. I dug a pit for myself, plotted against, set a snare for and betrayed myself. Lord have mercy.

Once I was light; now I am darkness and a shadow of death. How can I recall the number of my sins, for they are numerous. Lord have mercy. ☪

GRAVESIDE SERVICE

Deacon. Again for peace let us beseech the Lord.

People. Lord, accept us, save us, and have mercy upon us.

Priest. ✠ Blessing and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

People. I have approached the door of the grave and my time has arrived to enter into the womb of the earth, from which we all have been created. Cure the malady of my soul, Wise Physician, and Architect, Creator, and Hope of our Salvation.

Deacon

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Response. Return to your rest, O my soul, For the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

Antiphon. I love the Lord, because He has heard My voice and my supplications.

Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.

The pains of death surrounded me, And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me; I found trouble and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: "Lord, I implore You, deliver my soul!"

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; Yes, our God is merciful.

The Lord preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me.

Deacon

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Return O my soul to your rest; for the Lord has called you.

A reading from the first epistle of Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (15:12-23)

Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

Deacon (Psalm 30)

Alleluia! Alleluia!

I will extol you, Lord, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

Deacon. Alleluia. Stand straight.

Priest. † Peace be with you all.

People. And with your spirit.

Deacon. Listen in awe...

Priest. ... to the **Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John** (5:24-30):

People. Glory to You, Lord our God.

Deacon. Let us attend.

People. God speaks.

Priest. Our Lord, Jesus Christ says: “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”

Deacon. Again for peace let us beseech the Lord.

People. Lord have mercy.

Deacon. That Lord God may receive the soul of Agnes in the abode of the just, let us beseech the Lord.

People. Lord have mercy.

Deacon. For our supplications to be heard by the Lord God, let us beseech the Lord.

People. Lord have mercy.

Deacon. That He may forgive her transgressions, committed willingly and unwillingly, let us beseech the Lord.

People. Lord have mercy.

Deacon. That she may be worthy of waiting in peace and great hope to the trumpet heralding the coming of the Lord.

People. Lord have mercy.

Priest. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

God of souls and creator of flesh, Lord of the living and Resurrection of the dead, bestower of goodness and comforter of all in grief, and giver of rest to those who have fallen asleep in faith in you, you promised through the coming of your Only-Begotten Son into this world, with an ineffable promise to raise the dead and to say with your almighty and powerful word, "Come to me, all you who are weary and heavily laden, and I will give you rest."

Therefore, O Lord our God, rest the soul of your servant Agnes according to your words and register her in the Book of Life in your glorious

tabernacle and grant her and us a share and an inheritance in your eternal kingdom together with all your saints. And if she has sinned in this world because of her human nature, grant her forgiveness by your eternal word, and liberate her soul from all sins and vain deceits, and bless all your people, so that from the mouths of all your creatures your most holy dominion is glorified, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The priest takes a handful of earth, makes the sign of the cross over it and blesses it thrice.

Deacon. Again for peace let us beseech the Lord.

People. Lord, accept us, save us, and have mercy upon us.

Priest. ✠ Blessing and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

✠ Bless, Lord, with your mercy the dust of this your servant Agnes and remember her, for she was dust and again will become dust, according to your command. *(Repeat thrice.)*

The priest spreads the blessed earth on the grave and says (three times):

✠ May divine blessing descend upon the dust of her body, and may it sprout on the last day, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

People. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores

my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

Priest. Lord, direct our course into the path of peace.

Lord direct and lead our souls, and the souls of all the faithful, to proceed into the path of righteousness and into eternal life.

Deacon. Again for peace let us beseech the Lord.

Let us beseech God Almighty, that He may successfully direct the path of His servants toward goodness and peace.

People. Almighty Lord, our God, save us, and have mercy upon us.

Priest. Christ our God, Leader of life and bestower of peace, guide us to walk in your path with justice, and to arrive at the harbor of life and salvation by the grace of your mercy. For you are our Helper and our Savior and to you is befitting glory, dominion and honor, now and always unto the ages of ages. Amen.

✠ Peace be with you all.

People. And with your spirit.

Deacon. Let us bow down to God.

People. We are before you, Lord.

Priest. You are blessed, our Lord God and savior, who are with us always and never abandon those who in faith and truth cry unto you. We beseech and ask you, Lord, be a companion to your servants, keeping them in peace under your protection. And, on your next coming, Lord, lead each of us in peace and joy to our dwelling in Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom is befitting glory, dominion and honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

People. The righteous are shining in the kingdom, and the ascetics are at rest. The martyrs are crowned, and the lamps of the virgins are lighted. Lord, rank among them those who confess you God. Let them not be judged in justice, but be expiated with your compassion.

In the Heavenly Jerusalem, in the abode of the angels where Enoch and Elijah have aged in dove-like purity, worthily resplendent in the paradise of Eden, merciful Lord, have mercy upon the souls of our departed.

Priest. Christ our God, grant repose and mercy to those at rest, and, to us sinners, grant remission of our transgressions.

Deacon. Again for peace let us beseech the Lord.

For souls of those at rest, let us beseech our savior Christ that He may rank them among the just and save us through His mercy.

People. Almighty Lord, our God, save us, and have mercy upon us.

Priest. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Christ, Son of God, forbearing and compassionate, have mercy, through your love as creator upon the soul of your departed servant Agnes. Remember her on the great day of the coming of your kingdom. Make her worthy of your mercy, remission and forgiveness of sins. Illuminate and rank her among the saints of your right hand. For you are the Lord and creator of all, and the judge of the quick and the dead. And to you is befitting glory, dominion and honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Deacon. Again for peace let us beseech the Lord.

People. O Lord, accept us, save us, and have mercy upon us.

Priest. † Blessing and glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The grave and the bones of Agnes, servant of God, be blessed and sealed † by the sign of the Holy Cross and by the words of the Holy Gospel, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Deacon. Again for peace let us beseech the Lord.

People. O Lord, accept us, save us, and have mercy upon us.

Priest. **The tomb and the bones of Agnes, servant of God, be blessed and sealed †** by the sign of the Holy Cross and by the words of the Holy Gospel, in the name of

the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Deacon. Again for peace let us beseech the Lord.

People. O Lord, accept us, save us, and have mercy upon us.

Priest. **The crypt and the bones of Agnes, servant of God, be blessed and sealed †** by the sign of the Holy Cross and by the words of the Holy Gospel, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

People. Lord, save us and have mercy upon us.

Priest. **Let the dominical seal on the grave of Agnes, servant of God, remain unbroken †** until the second coming of Christ, who, coming again, will renew it in glory, for the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

† Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

People. Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed by Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen. ☩