

# Being A Disciple... It's Not Just A Fan Club!

## LOVING AND PRAISING IN WORSHIP

UNIT

2

LESSON  
TWO

### From Our Hearts to God

*Lord, our prayers are from all and for all. Amen.*

## MY WORLD

“Mom, do we have to go to church tomorrow?” Michael groaned as he sat down for dinner. “None of my friends at school go to church and some of the guys are getting together at Jerry’s house to play video games. Jerry’s got some new ones.”

“Jerry’s Video Games Fan Club. It sounds like a lot of fun. You’ll be telling Jerry how great his new games are and how lucky he is that his parents got them for him. You’ll be so involved in playing the games that you’ll think nothing else could be so much fun. You’ll be begging

Jerry for more turns and if you lose you’ll be asking to try again. You’ll be talking to your friends about how to win and what to do in tricky spots in the game. You’ll be wondering what new game will be created.”

“Yea, mom, it will be great.”

“I’m going to be doing the same thing tomorrow morning with my fan club,” mom said.

“Mom, stop kidding me. You don’t even play video games.”

“No, I don’t. But I’ll be with my friends at my best friend’s house. I’ll be telling my wonderful friend how great it is that I can visit. My friend means a lot to me. My friend always gives me the best gifts and I am thankful. My friend makes me feel good inside, feel good about myself. I enjoy talking to this special friend. It always makes me feel better when I share things that worry me or that I want to happen or care about. I often talk to this friend about you.”

“Who is this friend? Did I ever meet her? I don’t remember you going anywhere like that.”

“You know this friend. You go with me every Sunday.”



Michael looked at his mother and wondered if he misunderstood her. “Mom, we go to church every Sunday. You don’t go to your friend’s house!”

“Now, don’t laugh when I say this, Michael. If you think about what I’m going to say, you’d probably agree. *God* is my best friend. Jesus invites me to his house every Sunday. I enjoy being with God. I am with my friends who are like family to me. After all, if God is my Father, then everyone is my brother and sister. We talk to God together every Sunday.

We pray and sing together. I love it. It makes me feel good and peaceful and happy. I add my voice to all the voices there. We ask for God’s help and the Holy Spirit to guide us through the days ahead. We get strength from Jesus through Holy Communion. We look forward to being together again. We are one prayerful voice talking to God about the things that we all need and want and are happy to have. Together we express our love for God. God is kind to us. He forgives us for the things we have done wrong and we ask for his help. We all want the same things and care about the same things. We ask for God’s loving kindness for all of us, even you.”

“But mom, I don’t feel that way at church,” Michael groaned.

“You will if you go with an open heart and mind. If you remember God is more important to you than Jerry and his video games. If you give these feelings a chance to grow in you as I did when I was your age, you will feel this way. God will help you know him.

“You like your video games and enjoy playing them with your friends and teaching friends to play them. I like going to church and being with my fellow worshipers, learning from the Bible readings and the priest’s sermon, and then going home to put it into play, put it into practice. I learned from my parents and you are learning from me and you will teach *your* children. We are disciples of Christ. We learn and pass it on.”



## GOD’S GUIDING WORDS

Sing to the Lord, all the world!

Worship the Lord with joy; come before him with happy songs!

*Psalm 100*



## RESPONDING IN FAITH

I will praise the Lord at all times. Praise will be in my mouth always. Amen.

# Getting Closer to God

The Sunday worship service of the Armenian Church – the Badarak – is our special time with God each week. Through this service we strengthen our relationship with him. We talk with God, we pray to God, we worship God. We sing together the wonderful songs that tell us how good God is, how powerful God is, how amazing God is. We speak to God as his family. We receive his strength through Holy Communion. Our separate minds and hearts join together as one, just as the separate parts of our body – arms, legs, head – are joined together as one.

The Badarak has four major parts:

**The Preparation** – We get ready, the priest gets ready, and the church is made ready.

**The Teaching** – We hear God’s words to us through the Bible readings and the priest’s sermon and proclaim our faith through the Creed.

**The Sacrifice** – We share the meal Jesus has for us to strengthen our spirit and faith.

**The Blessing and Dismissal** – We are blessed with words of encouragement for the week ahead and leave singing about God’s blessings.

During the **Preparation**, the priest dresses in special clothing called vestments. The deacons help him dress. With each vestment he says a special prayer to make him worthy to offer the Badarak.

We get ready also. We dress nicely to come to church. When we arrive, we cross ourselves as we enter the church. When we get to our pew, we say the Lord’s Prayer silently. We may light a candle and say special prayers for our own special needs. We are ready to confess our sins and receive God’s forgiveness. We look forward to God’s special meal – Holy Communion. We are ready to worship with everyone else in church saying the prayers together.



## Our Armenian Way

The priest comes to church and puts on special clothes called vestments. He is putting on the “Armor of God” – like a uniform for the work he is about to do. As he puts each part on, he prays.

He starts with a headpiece called a **crown** and says:

*Lord, put the helmet of salvation upon my head to fight against the powers of the enemy.*

He takes the crown off and continues to dress and when he is finished he puts the crown back on.

Here are some of the other prayers he says as he dresses:

When he puts his stole (**poroorar**) on, he says:

*Clothe my neck with righteousness, and clean my heart of sin.*

When he puts a **belt** (**kodde**) on, he says:

*May the belt of faith encircle me round about my heart and my mind; and may the power of your grace live in my heart and mind at all times.*

When he puts on the cuffs called **maniples** (**pazban**) on each arm, he says:  
*Give me strength, Lord, to my right and left hand and wash me that I may serve you in health of soul and body.*

When he puts his **cape** (**shoorchar**) on, he says:

*Clothe me with a radiant garment and give me strength against evil.*

Finally, he puts his crown back on and says:

*My soul will rejoice in the Lord, for he has clothed me with an outfit of salvation and with a robe of gladness.*

The priest is ready to come out of the dressing place called the **vestry** and take his part in our worship.

As the priest is getting ready, we ready ourselves for worship.

How do you get ready for church?

What are some prayers you might say as you get dressed Sunday morning?

Here's one idea:

*As you put on your shoes – God, guide my steps to your holy place.*



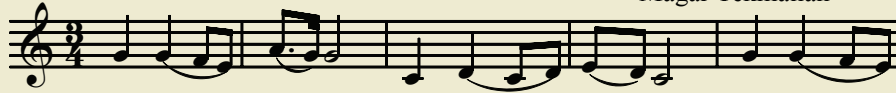
# Time to Celebrate

We sing praises to God in many of our hymns.

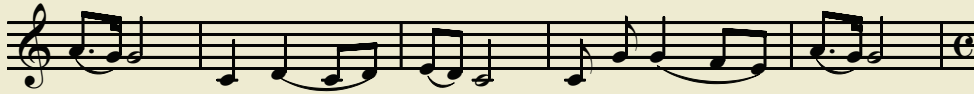
In Hamenayni, we cover it all: praise and thanks and blessing!

## ՀԱՄԵՆԱՅՆԻ HAMENAYNEE

Մակար Եկմալեան  
Magar Yekmalian



Հա-մե - նայ - նի օրհ - նեալ - ես - Տէր. օրհ - նեմք -  
Ha-me - nay-nee orh - nyal - yes - Der; orh - nemk -



ըզ - քեզ զո - վեմք - ըզ - քեզ. զո - հա - նամք - ըզ - քեմ.  
uz - kez ko - vemk - uz - kez; ko - ha - namk - uz - ken;



ս - դա - չեմք ըզ - քեզ - Տէր Աստ - լած մեր. -  
a - gha-chemk uz - kez - Der Asd - vadz mer. -

In all things blessed are you, O Lord. We bless you, we praise you, we give thanks to you. We pray to you, O Lord our God.



## Taking a Closer Look

### FAMILY CORNER

#### Sharing Our Faith

Today we learned about worship and the Divine Liturgy. The class reviewed the four parts of the liturgy and identified some of the important words and gestures that take place in each part. We reflected on the preparation of the priest through prayer and special vestments and thought about how we ourselves prepare for worship in a similar way.

#### Living Our Faith

1. During this week take the time to go through your child's wardrobe and put the clothes that are appropriate for church in one section of your child's closet or dresser. Your child may choose from these clothes what he or she will wear to church next Sunday.
2. Attend church one Sunday with your child when there is no Sunday School, and be there as Badarak begins. Notice the priest's vestments together.