Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I trust you are doing well, and God is blessing you and your loved ones with continued health during this challenging time.

I can hardly believe the months have now turned into over a year of going through what seems to be an endless challenge for our communities, our nation, and our world. And here we are making our way through Lent, once again, isolated and distanced from our extended families and our church. Some of us probably feel we have spent these months stuck in Good Friday with a big stone blocking us from moving forward. To quote Tony Campollo, “but Sunday’s a comin’!”

Easter, indeed, is coming. Not only will we celebrate on Easter morning, but we will also witness the resurrection of new life. With the distribution of vaccines, we have new hope for an end to this deadly pandemic, and one day soon we will raise our voice together singing, “Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!”

Let’s not forget: a tomb sealed with a stone could not keep Jesus contained. Closed church doors will not stop the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Closed church doors will not stop the Alleluias, and they will not stop the triumph of life over death. Closed church doors will not stop our church from proclaiming the resurrected hope when our whole community and our entire world need to hear hope so desperately.

The mission and ministry of our churches didn’t stop 12 months ago when we got the word that we needed to close our doors. In some ways, the demands of our mission field became even more challenging! We are needed now more than ever!

Our church needs your financial support now more than ever, too! Many of us find ourselves in a very different financial situation than we were in when the year began, but if you are able, as much as you are able, continue your financial support to keep being a witness of hope to our congregation and community.

With that in mind, I wanted you to know that we will receive an additional offering on Easter Sunday. Let’s do our part of rolling the stone away for many who are stuck in Good Friday and help bring hope and new life by giving a generous gift this Easter.

Nothing will be able to stop us from proclaiming: “He is risen, Hallelujah!”

Blessings in Christ,

Your Pastor