Dear Church Family,

Easter is coming and, boy, don’t we need it! We have lived in the shadow of COVID-19 for over a year and sometimes that shadow has felt more like a grave. It has shrouded us in fear, anxiety, sickness and death. We need to hear the Easter message again and remember the victory, new life and eternal hope that is ours through the risen Christ. We need to celebrate it because it’s not just a story from a dusty, old book; it is truth and life. How easy it is to forget that when darkness is all around us, to lose heart, to lose the sense of who we are because of Jesus and who he calls us to be. Celebrating Jesus’s victory over sin and death opens our eyes to see his presence and inspires us to walk in his light with joy and peace and purpose.

Easter is coming and we have much to celebrate. Praise God for the talented people who have kept us connected in worship, fellowship and service throughout this year. Praise God that we are able to celebrate in-person again as well as online. Praise God that our safety protocols have proven effective, and more of our congregation are getting vaccinated every day. Praise God that we are reopening our 11 a.m. traditional service on March 28 to in-person worship. Reservations, masks and social distancing will still be required just as they are for our in-person 9 a.m. contemporary service. Praise God that in-person Sunday school and grow group meetings will resume sometime in April. You can find all the details for our Holy Week and Easter services here [include website, Facebook page, and any other correspondence]. Praise God for this great step forward in our church’s life.

Easter is coming. Are you ready for it? I don’t just mean are you digging out your best Sunday outfit and hoping it still fits after a year of virtual worship. There is plenty we can do to get in the right frame of heart and mind to celebrate. [insert ministries and missions here, i.e. Work out with some of the spiritual exercises we’re exploring in our Lenten sermon series. Get to know more about Jesus in our Lenten Bible studies]. Take an active part in our grow groups, programs, and worship to build up our relationships to one another and to Jesus Christ and help us continue our calling to be and make disciples everywhere, whether virtually or side-by-side.

Please consider giving extra toward our ministry as part of your Easter celebration. Your gifts go a long way to help our church create more opportunities for safe and effective worship, discipleship and outreach, both in-person and online. Use the included Easter offering envelope or our secure e-giving portal on [website].

I am thrilled that we are moving more and more into light after a year in darkness. I am grateful that God has never left our side but walks with us still. I pray that the risen Christ brings victory, life, and hope to you, our church and our world this Easter season and beyond.

Yours in Christ,

[Pastor]