SSCC PASTORAL EASTER MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH SUDAN.

"Dear woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" (John 20:15).

“He is not here! He is risen from the dead!” (Luke 24:6)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Christ,

HAPPY EASTER! CHRIST IS RISEN - ALLELUIA!

As we approach the most significant day in the history of our salvation that is the celebration of Easter, which affirms the victory of Christ over death we wish to assure you with the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me... Remain in my Love.” (John 14:1; John 15:9). Christ our Savior is risen from the dead! He isn’t here! (cf. Luke 24:6). He is God’s presence among us.

In the face of this challenge, fear and even panic regarding the Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic, and as we see ourselves truly walking through the Darkest valley, we will not be afraid, for you are close beside us. (cf. Psalm 23:4). We pray that our Risen and Loving Lord will calm our fears, and quell any rising panic, so that we can be able to focus on what we can do for one another in service and solidarity. Then we can remember what our Risen Lord said in his prayers: “And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so that they can be made holy by your truth. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one ...” (John 17:19-21).

It is time that we can remind ourselves of the presence of God among us, even in such times of troubles and fears of the pandemic, where we cannot come together and worship in fellowship together to avoid the spread of the virus; however our Risen Lord’s always with us because we have come together in our families to thank and appreciate the victory of his resurrection. No matter how the situation looks and feels like, even in death, life and hunger; the Risen Lord is always with us. Indeed no matter, “no power in the sky above or in the earth below or in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the Love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:39). Even with COVID-19, nothing changes with the Risen Lord.

Brothers and sisters, we assure you that these days we are united with you in prayers and in affirming together our common faith and hope in the Risen Lord. We pray for those infected and affected; for the doctors and nurses all over the world working around the clock; for our Government in the Republic of South Sudan and especially the staffs and personnel of the Ministry of Health. To those who may be tempted to explain the present situation as an expression of God’s punishment, the Easter Message conveys that our God is a Loving God, the source of life, the God of life and love “For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16).

With the promise of the presence of God, we wish you ALL an encouraging Happy Easter of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior. Keep Safe! Stay home! Stop spread of COVID-19! Oh God Bless South Sudan, HAPPY EASTER! CHRIST IS RISEN - ALLELUIA!

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