



# Christ is risen, Alleluia!

Easter 202

Dear Friends:

We are writing to you at a time when the Corona virus pandemic has devastated many countries and communities. Because of this Insidious epidemic, hundreds of thousands have been infected with this disease; thousands have died. Schools, churches, organizations and non-essential business have shut down their doors temporarily, masses of people are confined in the four walls of their homes, the economy has suffered a great deal and countless of people are experiencing anxiety and depression.

In the midst of a world that seems to be overwhelmed with what is happening and so much uncertainty surrounding us—**does Easter matter?** Does it matter one Sunday morning long ago a stone was rolled away from a tomb? Does it matter in that moment, good triumphed over evil, light over darkness, life over death? Yes, more than ever it matters. We are Easter people because we know that our Lord is victorious, and have given us strength, power and will to live triumphantly. In view of this pandemic, undoubtedly, we should be vigilant but not fearful. We should be cautious but not be paralyzed by worry. We should obey the instructions given to us by our civic authorities. We should pray and not be depressed.

We strongly believe that with God's help we shall overcome this invisible but vicious enemy. Finally, as St. Paul admonishes the believers let us "not be anxious over anything but in all things, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God" (Philip. 4:6). Let us look forward with eyes upward to our victorious Lord, and continue to live our lives triumphantly and declare to the whole world, Christ is risen from the dead; he is risen indeed. Kristos Haryav Ee Merelots, Orhnyal eh Haroutunen Kristosi.

Attached please find a copy of my Easter message which I sent to the Armenian newspapers.



In the name of our glorious Lord,

Rev. Vahan and Rosette Tootikian