



March 30, 2020

To the leadership and members of Christian Churches in the United States of America:

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus the Christ! We come to you in a spirit of unity during this difficult period of time with an invitation to join together in witnessing to the resurrection of Jesus for all in the United States to see.

On Easter, we celebrate the power of Christ to overcome evil and death. As proclaimed in the Gospel of John, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:5).” This is the message of Easter and, despite any differences we may have among us, this year may be the perfect time for all of us to come together to make witness to Christ’s resurrecting power.

Holy Week is April 6-12 for Western Christians and April 13-19 for Orthodox Christians. If we are still being asked to remain physically separated from each other and our worship spaces, would you consider inviting your congregations to do one or more of the following as a witness to our jointly held faith in Christ?

- Share in a home foot-washing with those with whom you are sheltering in place on Holy Thursday to replicate Jesus asking his disciples to serve each other.
- Share in prayers at home on Good Friday and blow out a candle to symbolize the crucifixion.
- Hang white Christmas lights (or other lights, or electric candles) on Holy Saturday and turn them on Easter morning in time for what might have been your Easter Sunrise service.
- Hang the attached template of a cross and dove (maybe colored by your children) in your front window or on your front door.
- Write in chalk on your driveway or sidewalk the words, “Christ is risen!”
- Ring your church bells at noon on Easter Day.
- Step outside with the persons with whom you are sheltering in place and offer a prayer of thanksgiving.
- View an additional online service of a church of another racial or ethnic background and offer your prayers for that community.

Attached to this letter you will find posters and other resources you are welcome to share with your membership. We hope the United States of America will see our witness of unity this year and be invited into the resurrection faith of Easter. Share this letter to your networks and social media, and please join us.

Sincerely,

Christian Churches Together
Rev. Carlos Malave,
Executive Director
christianchurchestogether.org

Churches Uniting in Christ
Bishop Teresa Jefferson Snorton,
Chair of the Coordinating Committee
churchesunitinginchrist.org

The National Council Churches of the
Churches of Christ in the USA
Mr. Jim Winkler, General Secretary
nationalcouncilofchurches.us

CHRIST IS RISEN!

An illustration of a sunrise over a landscape. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow. In the background, three crosses of varying heights stand on a dark, silhouetted hill. In the foreground, a dark, silhouetted landscape features a tomb with a large, rounded stone rolled away from its entrance, revealing a bright light inside.

The member churches and
Christian organizations of:

Churches Uniting in Christ

Christian Churches Together

The National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA

**Invite you and your congregation to join together
from home in witnessing to the resurrection power of
Jesus the Christ in our lives.**

**Visit one of the websites below to find ideas on how you can
participate in this effort of unity, faith, and solidarity this Easter :**

nationalcouncilofchurches.us churchesunitinginchrist.org christianchurchestogether.org

**Let's join together in offering this country
a witness to the faith we share.**

**There is no better time for Christians to tell the world:
"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness [can] not overcome it."
(John 1:5).**

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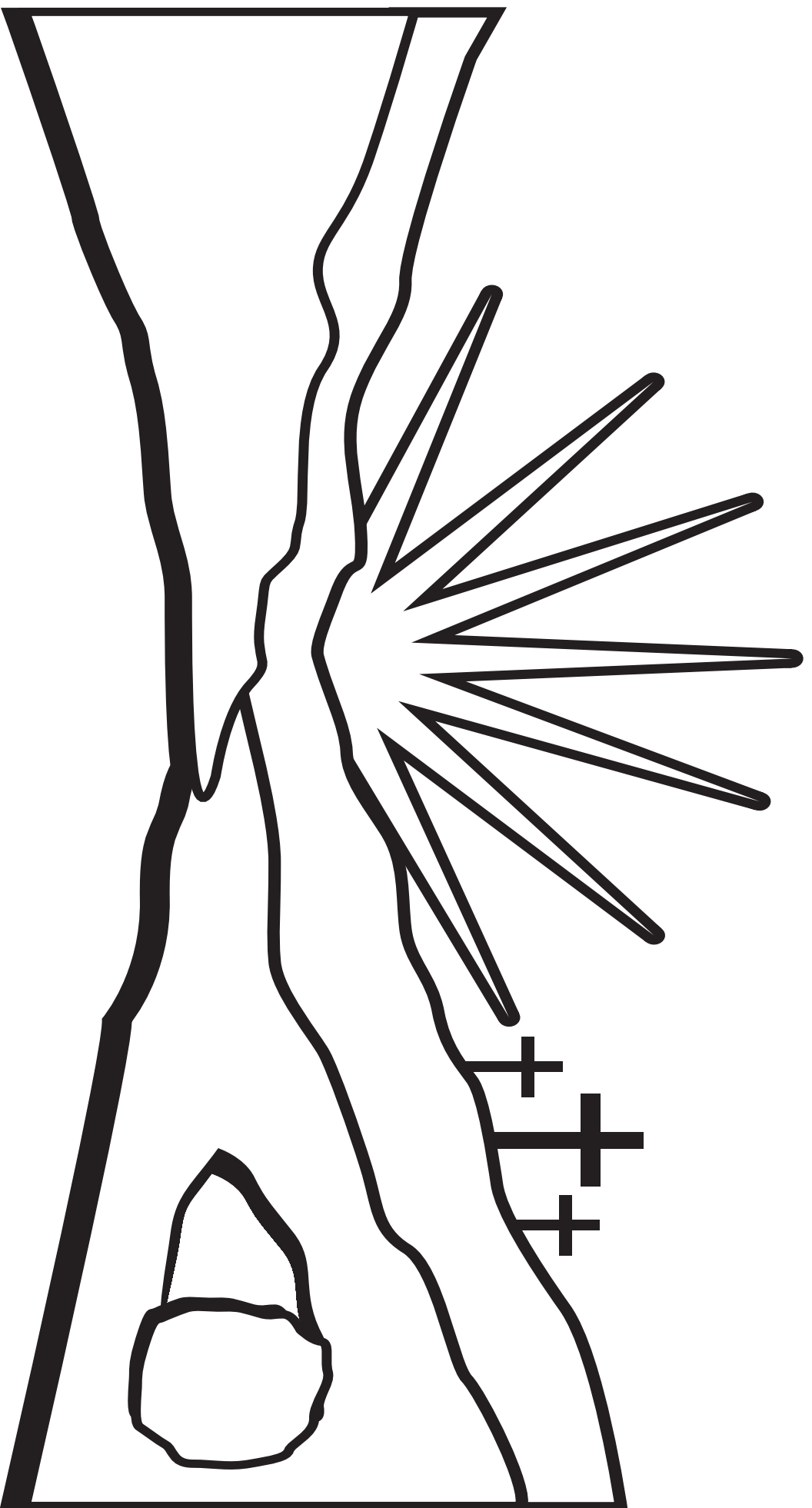
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CHRISTMAS IS HERE!



Holy Week at home

IDEAS FOR FAMILIES

- Make palm branches and wave on Palm Sunday, shouting, "Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna!"
- Share in a home foot-washing on Holy Thursday to replicate Jesus asking his disciples to serve each other.
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