



**World Council
of Churches**

Greetings to the Staff and Partners of Mission 21

This year we observe Easter in a challenging context amid painful situations. The COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected the whole world, is also affecting the way Easter is to be celebrated. To protect our own lives and those of others, we cannot fill the streets with processions, nor will churches resound with hymns and liturgies, expressing and sharing our Easter joy with one another. Instead, we will share the mystery of Easter and meet the Risen Lord in our homes, behind closed doors.

Yet this is precisely how Jesus' disciples first encountered the Risen Lord: hidden away from fear, they were visited by the Lord himself, who offered them peace and reassurance of his abiding presence.

The great work and projects of Mission 21 are also hindered and hampered by this pandemic, of course. Yet that work continues and, we are confident, will continue to lead all of us in nurturing new ways of thinking about and implementing Christian mission.

Throughout the centuries—and today!—the Easter greeting and its message have infused Christians with the power and courage to confront death, destruction, oppression and enslavement, fear, doubt and uncertainty. Let it be so for us. As we are confronted today with the challenges of COVID-19, we the staff and leadership and members of the World Council of Churches assure you that we are united with you in prayer and in affirming together our common faith and hope in the Risen Lord. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Saucă
Acting General Secretary

Geneva, 09 April 2020