



УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА В КАНАДІ
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA
L'ÉGLISE ORTHODOXE UKRAINIENNE DU CANADA

9 St. John's Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 1G8
toll-free (877) 586-3093 F (204) 582-5241 www.uocc.ca

[Translation into English of recorded Ukrainian – language video greeting for PASCHA by Metropolitan Yuriy, April, 2020 (originally recorded for KONTAKT TV)]

Your Graces, Brother Bishops, all Clergy, dear Brothers and Sisters, dear Youth, Boys and Girls!

It's a pleasure to greet you with the great feast-day of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This year we celebrate our holidays in challenging conditions. But still, we must rejoice that our Saviour has risen and enabled us to live with Him forever in heaven. Many people today complain, because they thought this would all go away, but despite their hopes, humankind finds itself in a situation where this dreaded disease, the coronavirus, travels throughout the world, and we do not know where or when it will end.

Now we have to stay at home and limit our activities. This situation forces us to reconsider and re-evaluate our values. During times of catastrophe, humanity is called to demonstrate its love not only to God but also to neighbours. And we try to help our family members, our neighbors, people who require assistance. This is how we manifest the Christian love to which our Lord calls us. We remember the words, that He will say at the Last Judgment: "I say unto you, since you did this to one of these lesser brothers of mine, you did to me."

I'm glad to address you today and greet you with this great feast-day! The veil that separates this world from the next is now very thin - so much, that we can almost see through it the outlines of that other world. And we know that when we have to leave our world, we will not be able to take our belongings with us. We will stand before our Lord and show him what we have brought with us from this world - our deeds, our faith, our love and

unrepented sins. Our Lord encourages us to leave those sins in this world. "We must work while it is day, for the night comes when no one can work". We all know what that means.

Some people may complain that this Easter is not the same as in the past. Yes, it is different. And, we must distinguish between our faith and our traditions, our rituals. Our faith remains unchanged, but our rituals and traditions must adapt according to the circumstances. We may think that this year's celebration looks poor and less solemn compared to previous years, just because the priest did not bless either a pussy-willow or an Easter basket. We should not think this way. God knows our heart, He listens to every prayer, and I believe that every meal, each Easter breakfast will be blessed. When we say a prayer and sing "Christ is Risen!" we will feel the grace and will be sure, that our meal is blessed.

If we have any doubts, we ought to ask our political prisoners, who celebrated Easter in a concentration camp or a jail or a psychiatric ward; whether that holiday was cheap? They would probably reply, "It was a worthy Easter as all the others." Under the circumstances, they were forced to change their rituals and customs. We have to do the same this year.

Let's be happy! Let us rejoice that our Lord has taken away our sins, He has redeemed us with His Death and Resurrection for us.

I wish everyone a happy holiday, a happy Easter.

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!