

Christ is Risen, His Church in His Heart is One

The Russian greeting for Easter, as many know, is Christ is Risen. The answer is, Indeed He is Risen. We will shout this out, sing this out and greet each other daily until Pentecost. The Russian heart longs for the Risen Lord after so many years where this greeting could only be whispered for fear of arrest or some kind of persecution. Today we see churches and people alive in the Holy Spirit and greeting each other in the Risen Lord.

This year the Easter celebration was on the same day as our Orthodox brothers and sisters. We were really one church under the Lordship of the One Lord Jesus Christ, and in our streets Catholics and Orthodox greeted each other. What an incredible joy! We had pussy willow Sunday together; called in the liturgical time Palm Sunday, however in Russia the gift of new life is signed by pussy willows. Then we celebrated Holy Week with the washing of the feet, adoring of the cross and the Easter Joy of the Risen Christ; all were shared with the Orthodox. I hear Jesus' words deeply in my heart, so that they might be one as we are one.

On Easter we all, Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant here in Magadan shouted together the great Christian proclamation of faith that changed the world- "Christ is Risen. Indeed He is Risen." The miracle has happened now, we seek Him and wait to see how he will heal and unite and bring his broken body into one with Him. Pray with me dear friends, of the Mission that our hearts will melt and all our lives be transformed enough to welcome in each other in humility. Humility to seek the unity that Jesus wants for His church of both the east and of the west.