



THE DIOCESE OF LAGOS

(*ANGLICAN COMMUNION*)

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VICTORY IS OF THE LORD

We give thanks to the Lord, for he is good and his love endures forever. We thank Him for giving us the privilege to gather again as a Church after some months; of a truth, we were so glad when they said, let us go into the house of the Lord.

We appreciate the effort of the government in trying to put preventive measures to curtail the spread of COVID-19 pandemic that rocked the whole world. We appreciate sincerely our government at all levels for being proactive in their dispositions, as well as our frontline health workers for taking the pains to stand in the gap.

It is on verifiable record that the Church has always been the hope of the common man, because when every other thing or method fails, the Church of God where God's Holy Altar is, cannot fail. God created the earth so He has full control of all the occurrences therein.

Without any iota of doubt, we are sure that no virus or any form of disease can neither survive nor be contracted in the Church of God, not even when we use same cup for Holy Communion; this principle exceeds tradition, it is Divine. Remember the charge that the Jesus Christ gave us that "whenever we do this, we do it in remembrance of Him". One very important thing about that "Him" is that "He took up our infirmities (sickness, diseases, etc) and carried our sorrows" Isaiah 53:4 & Matthew 8:17, so that we will never be sick or be threatened by the prevalence of any disease again. Jesus Christ took it all. Believe it!

However, in obedience to all laid down protocols of wearing of nose masks, regular washing of hand, physical distancing and so on, our Churches have made adequate preparations. In all of these, let the joy of the Lord be our strength because that is what we will be spreading and not any virus.

And now, the whole world seems confused so much that we are beginning to nationalize vaccines, but just as we thirst and hunger for a permanent deliverance from this pandemic, it is high time, as a nation that we key into what God told King Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7:12-16 that "when I shut the heavens so that there is no



rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal their land.." Prayers backed by faith rather than fear is what we all need to practice because He who has promised has never and can never fail.

As we congregate in our Churches, let us humble ourselves with the assurances that it is only God that can help us, pray, seek God's face and turn from our wicked ways so that the Lord will heal our land of this pandemic. He is able, He has done it before, He can and will do it again. I can assure you that now that the Church is gathered like the people of Judah in 2 Chronicles 20:4, the God of our fathers will come to our aid.

Let us therefore focus on God's greatness and we will know that He is greater than any virus.

Let me also use this opportunity to call on all our people who are yet to settle their relationship with this God to please do so now. Let everyone note that all the casualties of this virus, great and small, have no opportunity of amendment again. Let us all call on the Lord while He is near (Isaiah 55:6) and do His work of using our positions and privileges to give joy to others while it is still day (John 9:4).

God bless you and remain rapturable.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Humphrey B. Olumakaiye, PhD (Ibadan)

The Diocesan & Missioner

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