

Office of the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

Ash Wednesday 2022

Dear Sisters, Brothers, and Siblings in the Lord,

I greet you in the Name of our loving liberating and life-giving Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."

I am writing to invite you to celebrate and rejoice in the unselfish sacrificial and self-offering love of Jesus Christ by looking to the Good Friday cross. It is that "old rugged cross" that "demands my soul, my life, my all" and shows us "cruciform love" - the way to live authentic Christian lives by practicing the selfless, self-giving way of the cross.

On Good Friday 2022 (April 15) we not only venerate the love that was "so amazing, so divine," but also commemorate the 100th anniversary—the centenary—of acts of unselfish generosity and kindness by Episcopalians in our Good Friday Offering.

The Good Friday Offering offers us the opportunity to celebrate and rejoice in the hope and opportunity for the very young and the very old, for needy families, students, and many others in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. For 10 decades we have provided an opportunity for every parish throughout our Church to connect with the ministry of love and compassion carried out by our Anglican sisters and brothers throughout the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Your gift has restored sight at the Ras Morbat Eye Clinic in war-torn Yemen, helped children with special needs at The Jerusalem Princess Basma Center, and enabled youth ministry at St. Matthew's Church, Zebabdeh, in the West Bank, to name but a few of the projects.

The self-giving way of love and generosity makes a difference. That is what becoming a church that looks and acts like Jesus does.

Despite the many COVID-19 trials that we have all faced in the past two years, I am encouraging the people of every parish and institution of our Episcopal Church to participate in this centennial offering. Information, including bulletin covers, inserts, and more, is available at *iam.ec/goodfridayoffering*. Any questions about this program may be directed to the Venerable Paul Feheley, our Middle East partnership officer. He can be reached at (212) 716 6222 or *pfeheley@episcopalchurch.org*.

Thank you for being part of our new and re-formed church, centered on Jesus Christ.

May God bless you and keep you always. I remain

Your brother in Christ,

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The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry Presiding Bishop and Primate The Episcopal Church