

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH

Late Epiphany, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Good Friday Offering was first gathered in 1922 as an intentional response by The Episcopal Church to the devastations of World War I, the Spanish flu pandemic, and political and social unrest affecting Armenian Christians and others throughout the Middle East. This effort to establish strong relationships with indigenous Christians in the Holy Land continues to bear fruit.

That era a century ago reminds us that ours is not the only time in which forces beyond our control affect the lives of God's people. We are all aware that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected virtually every person on the planet in one way or another. Economists and medical professionals suggest that recovery from the pandemic's impact will take years.

The churches, schools, and medical programs sponsored by our Anglican sisters and brothers in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East have been, as is no surprise, critically affected. The Good Friday Offering has served as a lifeline of hope in times of genuine need in the past, and continues to do so today.

I am sorely aware of the needs of our own families, churches, and communities in this most difficult time. For those who are able to give, the Good Friday Offering is a reminder for our Anglican brothers and sisters in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East that The Episcopal Church stands in solidarity with them in Jesus' Name.

I hope you will encourage your people to participate in this effort. Due to the variety of ways we find ourselves gathering to worship together, gifts can now be made online or via text giving, in addition to mail. Information, including bulletin covers, inserts, and more, is available online at <https://episcopalchurch.org/goodfridayoffering>. Any questions about this program may be directed to the Rev. Canon Robert Edmunds, our Middle East Partnership Officer. He can be reached at redmunds@episcopalchurch.org.

Thank you for considering this important witness to the love of Jesus across our Church. May God bless you and keep you always. I remain

Your brother in Christ,



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

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PRESIDING BISHOP AND PRIMATE

