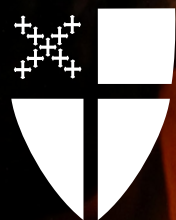




GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF GIFTS.
REJOICING IN 2000 YEARS OF GOOD NEWS.



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Lent 2023

Dear Sisters, Brothers, and Siblings in the Lord,

I greet you in the name of our loving, liberating, and life-giving Savior, Jesus Christ, in this, the 101st year of the Good Friday Offering.

In February 1968, two months before his assassination, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave a sermon in Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, in which he remarked that upon his death he wanted to be remembered neither for his fame nor accomplishments but for serving others. He ended that sermon by quoting from Alma Bazel Androzzo's much-loved song, "If I Can Help Somebody," which Dr. King first heard 20 years before:

**"If I can help somebody as I pass along,
If I can cheer somebody with a word or a song.
If I can show somebody he's traveling wrong,
Then my living will not be in vain."**

Later, at Dr. King's funeral, the legendary Mahalia Jackson, sang these words as part of her rendition: "If I can do my duty as a Christian ought, If I can bring back beauty to a world of rot, If I can spread love's message as the Master taught, Then my living shall not be in vain."

Every Good Friday, we remember the sacrifice of our Lord whose teaching and life is the basis of that song. By walking the way of the cross, Jesus of Nazareth showed us what a life of sacrificial love is all about and left behind footsteps that we are called to follow. The selfless way of the cross enables us to live authentic Christian lives.

This coming Good Friday, April 7, I invite you into that selfless way of living through your part in the Good Friday Offering. For 101 years, Episcopalians have lived out the song, "If I Can Help Somebody," by providing sight to people at the Ras Morbat Eye Clinic in Yemen, one of the poorest countries on earth; for a child to receive an education at Christ Anglican School in Nazareth; for a hospital in Nablus to welcome new births at a rate of 30 per month; for young deaf people to be cared for and taught life skills in Jordan. Your gifts to these places and many others "spreads love's message" and enables both you and those you help to discover that "our living shall not be in vain."

Information including bulletins and ways to give is available at iam.ec/goodfridayoffering. Any questions about the Offering may be directed to Archdeacon Paul Feheley, Middle East partnership officer. He can be reached at (800) 334-7626 x6222 or pfeheley@episcopalchurch.org. I remain

Your brother in Christ,



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

What is the Good Friday Offering?

For 101 years, friends and supporters from all over the world have generously shared their love, compassion, and financial gifts to support the ministry of the Anglican Communion Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. These gifts have made an astounding difference in the lives of many people in the homeland of Jesus and beyond.



How can my congregation or I participate in the Good Friday Offering?

Please make a gift to the Good Friday Offering in one of the following ways:

1. Scan the QR code here:



2. Give securely online at:
iam.ec/goodfridayoffering

3. To give via phone or for gifts of stock,
call (800) 334-7626 x6002

4. Send check to:

DFMS-Protestant
Episcopal Church US
P.O. Box 958983
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

Make your check payable to:

The Domestic and Foreign
Missionary Society with
“Good Friday Offering”
in the memo field.

Thank you. The Good Friday Offering affirms the dignity of the poor, the war-torn, and those in desperate need as God’s ministry is done. Thank you for spreading hope’s message through your gifts and prayers.

Whose ministries are made possible through our gifts?

The Good Friday Offering has enabled ministries that focus on health care, education, and pastoral care to meet the needs of all people in a wide variety of circumstances throughout the region. Numerically, Christians in the Middle East are not large in number. The Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East recognizes the importance of presence—of following our Lord's model of unconditionally loving people first. Your gifts will reach across many divides—cultural, religious, political—and people's lives will be enriched by your love and the love of God.

Here are just four examples of where your Good Friday Offering gifts are used:

Arab Ahli Hospital in Gaza, a ministry that works tirelessly, despite shortages of medical disposables, medicine, fuel for electrical generators, and food assistance for the poor.

In the Southern part of war-torn Yemen, **Christ Church in Aden** hosts an eye clinic run completely by Muslims. This Christian church practices a ministry of presence that sets it apart from other institutions. The building is an important part of their overall ministry.

The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in Jordan provides care, love, and attention to children and young people with hearing impairments. The facility with its educational and rehabilitation services serves approximately 150 students, mostly Jordanian, from the ages of 3 to 20.

St. Luke's Hospital is the only charitable hospital in the northern West Bank city of Nablus, also home to a large Palestinian refugee camp. Travel restrictions and checkpoints make everyday life in that area difficult so access to quality healthcare at a local hospital is crucial. The services offered by this 119-year-old hospital are a lifeline for the 15,000 patients without regard for economic status or religion.

One hundred percent of the funds raised through the Good Friday Offering are sent directly to the Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. This is based on The Episcopal Church's belief that the synod, primate, and dioceses are most aware of how local needs will be met. The province reports annually to the church about how the funds are utilized.

Where can I find Good Friday Offering resources?

We are pleased to offer a variety of resources and ways to give for use at your congregation, school, or ministry, including bulletin covers, inserts, litanies, videos, and more. You can find those resources online at iam.ec/goodfridayoffering. For any questions, please reach out to Archdeacon Paul Feheley, our Middle East partnership officer, at (800) 334-7626 x6222, or pfeheley@episcopalchurch.org.



Good Friday Offering

As we begin a second century supporting vital ministries of the Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, we remember—in the words of author Barbara Johnson—that “we are Easter people living in a Good Friday world.”

Your gifts on this poignant day of the church calendar bring renewal and new life to those who live and serve where Jesus walked.



The Compassionate, by Qais Al Sindy, 2019

Oil and collage on canvas, 60x45cm

Image courtesy of CARAVAN. © 2019 Qais Al Sindy. Learn more at oncaravan.org.

Please make a gift to the Good Friday Offering:

