



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate

January 6, 2008

For the Congregations of the Episcopal Church

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

For almost a century, the Good Friday Offering has been a source of support, love and hope for the people of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. This year's 86th Good Friday Offering offers us the opportunity to be nourished by a deepened bond with the churches in this region that is so central to our faith. I met recently with representatives of the church in Cyprus and in Palestine, and have been deeply moved by their stories of the pain that division brings to the lives of all in this Province of the Anglican Communion.

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East was formed in 1841 with the purpose of forging friendships with the ancient churches and serving the expatriate communities in this area. The friendships that were forged then have strengthened the work and witness of the entire Episcopal Church ever since. Since 1922, members of the Episcopal Church have given thanks for this extraordinary relationship through their generous giving to the Good Friday Offering. This offering expresses our own commitment to walk with the church of Jerusalem & the Middle East as they continue to work toward justice, reconciliation, and peace. Through our support of these churches we are helping to realize God's vision of *shalom*.

More information on this offering is available online at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/agr/friday/>. There you can access the Good Friday Offering Bulletin Shell and Poster. If you do not have access to the Internet, the enclosed order form and return envelope will help you obtain these materials via mail.

Again, please join with me in celebrating the work of the Good Friday Offering by generously sharing the gifts we have been given with our sisters and brothers in the Middle East. I remain

Your servant in Christ,

Katharine Jefferts Schori