

# THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



MARCH 30, 2014 – FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

## THE GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

Since 1922, Episcopalians have supported the ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East through the Good Friday Offering. The Episcopal dioceses in the Middle East work to maintain a peacemaking and stabilizing presence in the region, serving their neighbors, regardless of faith background.

Throughout Lent, and especially on Good Friday, Episcopal parishes and congregations are encouraged to contribute to the Good Friday Offering. To assist parishes in participating, free, downloadable materials are available in English, Spanish, French, and Chinese at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/good-friday-offering-resources>.

Materials include special bulletin inserts, a general information page and a letter from Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori urging all Episcopal parishes and congregations to contribute to the Good Friday Offering. Her letter, in part, states:

“I continue to be inspired by the Christians who are a small fraction of the population of most of the nations throughout the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. This past May I had the privilege of participating in a conference held in Beirut, Lebanon, sponsored by the WCC and the Middle East Council of Churches, which focused on the serious challenges facing indigenous Christians throughout that region.

“Time and again in quiet conversation with Christian leaders and in public statements and presentations I witnessed the pain of loss expressed with passion and grief by so many on account of political and social pressures and the cycles of violence that continue in Syria, Israel/Palestine, and Egypt. While there was great sorrow expressed about loss, there was also great hope and expectation that peace and prosperity are possible.

“Is it possible? In human terms, some doubt and wonder. In divine terms, I join our sisters and brothers of the Christian churches in the Middle East and say, ‘Yes, not only possible, but inevitable because it is God who has the last word.’

“I encourage you and your congregation to join in supporting our sister and brother Anglicans throughout the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East through the Good Friday Offering.”

Collections for the Good Friday Offering are best combined in a single parish or diocesan check and sent by the end of the calendar year to: DFMS – Protestant Episcopal Church US, P.O. Box 958983, St. Louis, MO 63195-8983. Please be sure all checks are made out to: “The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society” with “Good Friday Offering” added in the note field.

For more information, please contact the Episcopal Church’s Middle East Partnership officer, the Rev. Canon Robert Edmunds: [redmunds@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:redmunds@episcopalchurch.org).



St. Luke’s Hospital in Nablus, West Bank  
(Photo courtesy of the Office of Middle East Partnership)



Ras Morbat Clinic, Aden, Yemen  
(Photo courtesy of the Office of Middle East Partnership)