



# Anglican Church in North America

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20<sup>th</sup> March, A.D. 2011  
*Second Sunday in Lent*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With the encouragement of Rector Tory Baucum of Truro Church in Fairfax, Virginia, and with the endorsement of my Archbishop's Cabinet, I am asking that Good Friday offerings across our Province be designated to bless the good works of reconciliation and outreach at Christ Church Jerusalem.

Christ Church Jerusalem is the oldest Protestant church in the Middle East. It was founded by British Anglicans who wanted to share Jesus with the Jewish people and teach the church its biblical roots. Its first bishop, Michael Solomon Alexander, was a Jewish rabbi who came to faith and was active teaching Hebrew to Christians in order for them to better understand Scripture. Upon his arrival in Jerusalem in 1841, he also built Jerusalem's first modern hospital, and became known for his care for the poor and persecuted of the city.

The example of Bishop Alexander continues to guide the ministries of Christ Church today. Like Bishop Alexander, they are dedicated to being a witness of God's love in Christ to both Jews and Arabs and to teach the church the Biblical/Jewish roots of their faith.

In the midst of conflict, Christ Church models reconciliation numerous ways. Their staff is comprised of Jewish and Arab believers who regularly pray and worship together. Their schools provide Christian education for Arab and Jewish children. Their ministry to the poor includes all the religious communities, but especially assists Arab Christians and Messianic Jews.

Over the years, many have been blessed by the Christ Church teaching ministry. Shoresh Study Tours and Alexander College (for longer courses, sabbaticals and guided study for clergy and laity) are committed to teaching the Jewish roots of our faith to Christians. The aim of Alexander College and Shoresh is best described in one word: discipleship. Their premise is that with greater knowledge of the Jewish context of the Bible, participants will better understand the life and teaching of Jesus. A number of African/Asian bishops and clergy have already participated in their programs and are eager to send more of their clergy to Jerusalem.

It is traditional to share the Good Friday Offerings with the church in Jerusalem and fitting to bless the dynamic works of Christ Church Jerusalem. Receipts sent to the Provincial Office should indicate "Good Friday Offering" in the memo line. Good Friday is *Good* Friday because of what Jesus Christ did at Jerusalem once for all two millennia ago.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Duncan".

The Most Reverend Robert William Duncan, D.D.  
Archbishop of the Anglican Church in North America  
Anglican Bishop of Pittsburgh