

The Holy Land

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

Led by

The Rev. John and Mrs. Bunmi Agbaje

St. Andrews Episcopal Church

Cincinnati, OH

November 1 – 10, 2019

Air from Cincinnati, OH

This pilgrimage involves a moderate amount of physical activity including walking for a mile or more, climbing stairs, and hiking over rocky and uneven ground.

DAY 1, Friday, November 1, 2019 – Depart **Cincinnati Airport** for our flight to **Tel Aviv, Israel.** M

DAY 2, Sat. - Our Pilgrimage in this Holy Land begins: After meeting our guide for the Holy Land, we travel to **Hadera**, the seaside city, for our “welcome to the Holy Land” dinner and overnight. D

DAY 3, Sun. - We have come to see for ourselves (John 1:45-46): *Herod’s City-Caesarea; The Majesty of Carmel; Armageddon; Nazareth.* . . . We head north toward **Caesarea**, once capital of the Romans in Palestine and where Paul was taken as a prisoner to Rome. We continue toward **Mt. Carmel** (Is. 35:2), a symbol of strength, beauty and fertility for OT prophets. Traditionally, Elijah’s contest with the prophets of Baal is located at **Muhraqa** (‘the sacrifice’), a peak offering a spectacular view of the **Jezreel Valley**. This fertile valley has been the scene of horrible carnage and almost constant strife. Legend portrays this area as the stage for the final battle of history: Armageddon (Rev. 16:16). The excavations at **Megiddo** have uncovered a fortified city built by Solomon (1 Kgs. 9:15). We continue on to **Nazareth**, home of the **Basilica of the Annunciation**. We will explore **Nazareth** before dinner and overnight at our hotel here. BD

DAY 4, Mon.. - He is going ahead of us to Galilee” (Mt. 28): *The Sea; On the Boat: Capernaum; Tabgha; Mount of Beatitudes; Golan Heights; Caesarea Philippi; Mt. Hermon; Korazin.* We shall take a boat ride on the **Sea of Galilee** to **Capernaum**: there we shall walk in the ancient synagogue and see **St. Peter’s house**. We visit **Tabgha** to view the mosaic of the Loaves and Fishes. From there we move to the **Mount of Beatitudes** to rehear the **Sermon on the Mount**. We continue to **Korazin** (Mt. 11:21), then north to the springs of **Banias** (Mt. 16:13) where Peter said: “Thou are Christ.” We walk along the mouth of the **Jordan River** where we may renew our Baptismal vows. We shall reach the foot of **Mt. Hermon** before returning to **Nazareth** for dinner and overnight. BD

DAY 5, Tues. - From Nazareth “up to Jerusalem: This day will find us following the footsteps that Jesus and his family would have taken as they made their way from Galilee to Jerusalem. We begin at the **Mount of Transfiguration** where we will visit the magnificent church and gardens. We now proceed to **Jericho**, the oldest human settlement in the world. From the vantage point of the site in **Jericho** we have a spectacular view of the “**Mt. of Temptation.**” We continue toward Jerusalem and stop and visit Beth Shean, the best preserved Roman-Byzantine town in Israel. Driving **up to Jerusalem**, we view the setting for the **parable of the Good Samaritan**, and **St. George’s Greek Orthodox Monastery**, literally carved out of a cliff. Once in **Jerusalem** we find a site high above on **Mt. Zion** or the **Mt. of Olives** in order to orient ourselves. Then it’s on to our hotel just outside Herod’s Gate of the Old City for dinner and overnight. BD

DAY 6, Wed. - The Passion: Palm Sunday Walk; Dominus Flevit; Church of the Agony; Garden of Gethsemane; Cave of the Olive Press; Kidron Valley; Via Dolorosa and Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We begin walking as Jesus would have done on **Palm Sunday**, visit the **Garden of Gethsemane** and the **Church of the Agony**. From here we shall move on to walk the **Via Dolorosa**, winding through the busy markets of the **Old City** and praying at the **Stations of the Cross**. We shall end our walk at the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, scene of the Crucifixion and site of the Tomb. This evening we will go to **St. George’s Episcopal Cathedral** for Evensong. BD

DAY 7, Thurs. - Life's Bread, Jerusalem and Bethlehem: Through **St. Stephen's Gate** to the Holy City, we walk to **St. Anne's Church**, standing on a property facing the **Temple Mount** just as it was built by the crusaders. Once inside we find ourselves singing (the acoustics are glorious). Nearby, we visit excavations which speak to us of Jesus' healing at the "pool with the five porticos." We walk together to the **Temple Mount Dig**, to the **Dome of the Rock**, to the **Western Wailing Wall** and the **Jewish Quarter**. From there we go to **The Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu** also known as the **House of Caiphas**. Tradition holds that this is where Christ said to Peter, "Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice" (Mark 14:72). Below this modern church are ancient caves where, it is said, Christ spent the night before being taken to Pontius Pilate. Now we are off to Bethlehem for lunch at **Two Mustaches** (a wonderful Arab restaurant in Bethlehem). Then, we visit the **Church of the Nativity** and **Shepherd's Field**. We return to Jerusalem for dinner at our hotel and then a chance to visit **St. Andrew's** and **Craftaid**. **BLD**

DAY 8, Fri. - The Judean Wilderness: We drive along the **Dead Sea** to **Masada** and ride the cable car to the top. We will explore this vast mountain top fortress that was built as early as the 1st century AD and then expanded by Herod the Great who built two enormous palaces here. During the first Jewish Zealot revolt in 66 AD, the fortress was held by less than 1000 Jews for 2 years before the Romans finally breached the walls. You will have the opportunity to walk down a winding path or ride the cable car back down the mountain. We drive to **Ein Gedi** for a walk to a spectacular oasis/waterfall where David hid from Saul; then on to the **Essene Center** at **Qumran**, overlooking the **Dead Sea**. It is here that the famous Dead Scrolls were discovered. We return to **Jerusalem** for dinner and overnight. **BD**

DAY 9, Sat. - New Jerusalem: Today we shall visit the **Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial** and then see the **Knesset**, the Israeli Parliament. We will visit the **Israel Museum** which houses the **Shrine of the Book**. Afternoon is free for exploring your favorite sites in the **Old City** on your own. We will enjoy a gala farewell dinner together before returning to our hotel for a short rest. **BD**

DAY 10, Sunday, November 10, 2019 - Homeward Bound! After a very early wake up call, we will board our motorcoach and depart for **Ben Gurion Airport** where we bid goodbye to our driver and guide, board our trans-Atlantic flight, and journey home with a new appreciation of the **Holy Land**. **M**

B - Breakfast L - Lunch D - Dinner M - Meal onboard aircraft

* Itinerary is subject to change due to the leader's, guide and or local office discretion or conditions *

Estimated price based on double occupancy:

15-19 pilgrims \$3,869.00
20-24 pilgrims \$3,619.00
\$629.00 single supplement

* Includes estimated airline taxes & fuel surcharges. Pricing may change when airfare can be confirmed in January of 2019. Optional activities, tips for driver and guide, beverages, room service, etc. are not included.

Deposits and Cancellations:

\$300.00 deposit due no later than December 1, 2018
Final payment due August 15, 2019

Until August 15, 2019 - \$100.00 per person cancellation penalty
August 16, 2019 or later - No refund