



SAINT BARNABAS  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## A Special Invitation for all Members & Friends of Saint Barnabas

Dear Friends: Pictured above is the Holy City Jerusalem from my trip to the Holy Land in January of 2015. It was a life-changing journey. To walk where Jesus walked, to pray where Jesus prayed, to see the monuments, tributes, cathedrals, and offerings people have erected over the centuries in celebration of our Savior...well, there is very little like it, and few words to describe it.

**And so I am writing to invite you to experience it.** The Saint Barnabas Pilgrimage to the Holy Land will be February 21—March 4, 2018. I am delighted to be leading it in conjunction with Lightline Pilgrimages out of the United Kingdom ([www.lightline.org.uk](http://www.lightline.org.uk)). Lightline has been designated the Official and Preferred Pilgrimage Partner of the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem. My experience of them was nothing short of marvelous.



*The Church of Peter's Primacy on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.*

Here's what you need to know to decide if this is perhaps a journey for you:

1. The twelve day trip includes 3 nights in Galilee, 2 nights in Bethlehem, and 5 nights in Jerusalem, 2 days of travel.
2. We will have 2 guides with us: one from Lightline Pilgrimages and one local Palestinian Christian. Both people will be incredibly experienced in several ways:
  - A. They know the sites we will visit backward and forward, having led many groups there over the years.
  - B. They know the political culture of all the areas we are going to and will travel through. They will always be a day or two ahead in our planning and if there is word of any instability, they have the ability to alter our route for our safety.
  - C. They will guide us in helping support local Palestinian Christian businesses to bolster the economies of this ever-shrinking population which seeks to remain a vibrant presence in Jesus' land.
3. We will worship together in remarkable places: the church of the Multiplication of the Loaves & Fishes, the Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem, the Church of the Nativity at Jesus' birthplace, the banks of the Jordan River, and more.



*Wading in the River Jordan .*

4. We will also become educated about the ministries of Palestinian Christians throughout Israel & Palestine, (hopefully) visiting an Arab Episcopal School, an orphanage run by Christian nuns, and hearing from those who seek to serve God's people in very difficult circumstances.
5. We will work hard to design the trip for all abilities: some days there will be a fair amount of walking. Often, the next day will have some bus travel, or education portions, so that we don't run out of steam! We will try to keep the tempo all-ages friendly (I believe this trip would be appropriate for ages 16+, minors accompanied by a parent), That said, we want to assure safety. The streets of Jerusalem are not all smooth, paved roads. Please take your current capabilities into consideration as you pray on whether this trip is for you.



*The purported entrance to Jesus' childhood home.*



*Labyrinth outside the Basilica of Mary in Nazareth.*

6. The trip is relatively casual. Many of the sacred sites have dress codes that include covered shoulders and legs, but nothing too prohibitive. Jeans/khakis, sneakers/walking shoes, polos/blouses...all are appropriate.

7. The trip will cost approximately \$4,500 per person which includes: flights, hotels, meals, and entry fees into sacred sites. You'll also want to bring some spending money to bring home souvenirs, make donations to worthy organizations if you feel so called, buy a fresh-squeezed pomegranate juice from a street vendor (yum!), etc.

If you are interested, please be in touch with me right away as we will start making arrangements with Lightline as soon as possible. If you're a winter member of Saint Barnabas, or attend a different church part of the year, you're welcome. If you have a friend from another Episcopal Church who might enjoy this adventure with you, they are invited as well. We can take a maximum of 40 people with us, so consider if there are others you know who would be blessed by this special journey. I look forward to sharing this sacred adventure with you (especially the Arabic coffee)!



Peace,  
Rev. Erika

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## Boundless Presence

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