

*Drinking from Miriam's Well*  
*Pilgrimage and Mission to the Land where Jesus Lived*  
*May 24 – June 4, 2015*  
*Led by The Rev. Gretchen Grimshaw, The Rev. Pamela Werntz,*  
*and The Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris*

In the Torah, Miriam, sister of Moses, was a prophet, spiritual leader, and creative artist: the composer and singer of the oldest song in the Bible. There is a legend of a Well of Miriam, which gave water in the desert whenever a woman sang a proper heartsong.\*

Water from Miriam's Well could heal the sick and restore hope to the broken-hearted. In the wilderness, this mystical well traveled with the Hebrew people. Wherever they camped, the well settled opposite the Tabernacle. It would spring up to give refreshment, wisdom and clarity for understanding scripture. And it would spill over, causing vegetation to grow, providing food to eat, sweet perfume to wear, and soft grasses for bedding for any who were too poor for a bed.



*"Miriam sang to them" Exodus 15:21*



*Mary Magdalene is often depicted holding a red egg and a jar of ointment.*

After Miriam died, some said the well disappeared, though some said it settled in Migdal, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Later, it was near there that Jesus' ministry began in earnest, provided for by "certain women," including Miriam's namesake: Miriam of Migdal or Mary Magdalene. In Christian tradition, Jesus is the Living Water and Mary Magdalene was the first to proclaim the wellspring of the resurrection.

We will be visiting sites in Israel and the West Bank associated with holy women, both in Biblical times and today, to learn about and bear witness to women's work for peace and justice. We will be exploring the Biblical themes of refreshment, rest, healing, clarity, social justice, art, music, mystery, and indeed, the source of life. Our hope is that we too will be able to boldly proclaim Mary Magdalene's Gospel message: "I have seen the Lord!" (John 20:18)

\* Ellen Frankel in *The Five Books of Miriam*

## *Some questions and answers*

HOW WILL THIS TRIP BE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PILGRIMAGES THAT TRACE THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS?

We will be visiting important sites associated with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and also some out-of-the-way and rarely visited sites, paying particular attention to the stories of named and unnamed women of the Bible. We will be meeting with contemporary women who are working across religious and cultural divides for peace.

IS THIS TRIP ONLY FOR WOMEN?

We encourage both men and women to journey with us.

HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL TRAVEL TOGETHER?

We need a minimum of 20 and have set a maximum of 30.

IS THIS OPEN TO PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT EPISCOPALIANS?

Yes! Feel free to invite friends and family to join us.

HOW PHYSICALLY ABLE MUST I BE?

There is no strenuous hiking, but the ability to negotiate steps and to walk up to a half mile is necessary.

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE?

The trip will not be appropriate for those younger than 14 or older than 100!

HOW MUCH MONEY WILL THIS PILGRIMAGE/MISSION COST?

About \$3,900 per person. This includes lodging (based on double occupancy); three meals daily; entrance fees; ground transportation; guide fee; tips for restaurants, hotels, and drivers; a gift to the Diocese of Jerusalem; airfare; and trip insurance. There are a limited number of single rooms and there is a \$560 supplement charged for these rooms. We hope the costs will be shared each according to her/his ability and each according to her/his need so financial means will not be a barrier to participating.

WHEN DO I HAVE TO COMMIT?

Please let Gretchen or Pam know of your interest even if your going feels like a long shot.

[gsgrimshaw@parishofstpaul.org](mailto:gsgrimshaw@parishofstpaul.org)  
[wertz.emmanuel@gmail.com](mailto:wertz.emmanuel@gmail.com)

By February 1, a non-refundable deposit of \$600 is due.

By March 1, the first half of the balance is due.

By April 20, the second half of the balance is due.

HOW WILL WE PREPARE FOR THIS JOURNEY?

All participants will gather with the leaders to build our pilgrimage community, to discuss ideas for mission/trip fundraising, to discuss historical, political and cultural issues, and share practical tips for our travel together. Meeting dates will be scheduled for selected Saturdays in

February  
March, and  
May.



*Lectern stone recently discovered at Migdal from a first century synagogue, the discovery of which radically changes the scholarly understanding of early first century Jewish practice and puts Migdal on the map as a significant city in the Galilee in Jesus' time.*