

## 2023 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

With Becky & Kip Coerper, there were 30 pilgrims in all who visited the Holy Land through St. George's College: 16 connected to St. James' though some were siblings and friends from elsewhere in the state and country. The remaining 14 travelers were from the US, Canada and Australia, and interestingly enough 16 of the 30 were clergy (which is an unusually high percentage) and 11 of those were women.

The pilgrims were based on Jerusalem most of the time, staying at the College which is on the grounds of the Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem. But we took a three day trip to the Galilee, and stayed those night in Nazareth. The pilgrimage basically followed the chronology of Jesus' life and ministry, closing with walking the Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross) in the old city of Jerusalem but also explored the present complex context of the Israeli-Palestinian social/political realities today. Below are some pictures that chronicle two weeks spent in the Holy Land.

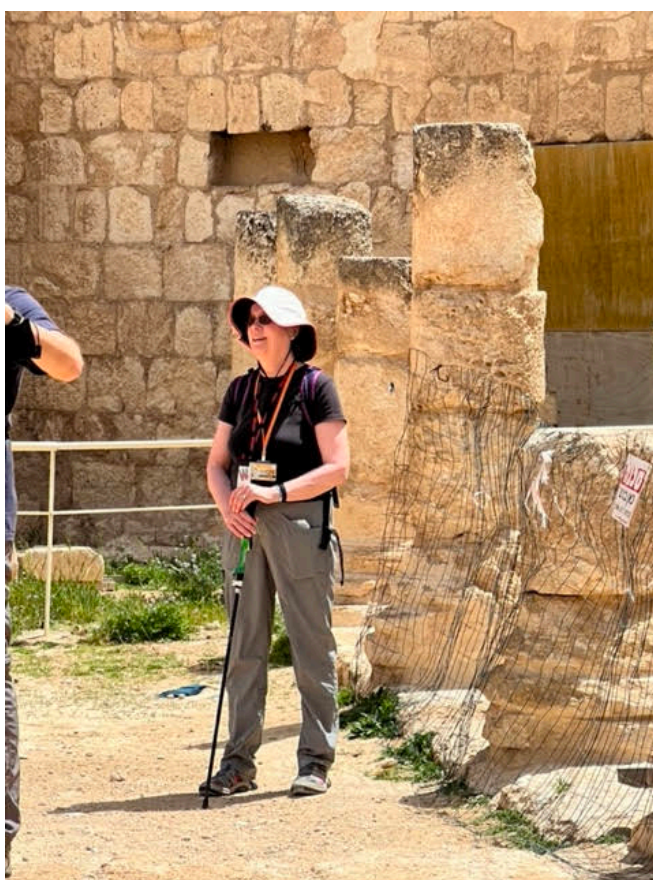
**Here are the CNY pilgrims gathered at the Syracuse airport upon departure.**



**The trip began with a visit to the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem and the temple Mount.**



**They reviewed Old Testament background to Jesus' life and the life of the region. This picture of Rev. Becky Coerper is taken on the Herodium, Herod the Great's palace, outside of Jerusalem.**





**The pilgrims reaffirmed our baptismal vows in the Jordan River.**



**Quiet reflection in the Judean Wilderness where Jesus was driven by the Holy Spirit following his baptism.**





**We saw some fabulous churches and explored fascinating archaeology, some that were very likely actual sites of Jesus' life and ministry and some that were commemorative. Below is the Basilica of the Annunciation incorporating the ruins thought to be Mary the Mother of Jesus' home.**



**This is a pit under the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu where Jesus may have been held after his arrest, but certainly something like it.**





**We had tours inside the Dome of the Rock and the Mosque on what Christians call the Temple Mount but is known today as Haram Al Sharif (with the women in the required ultra modest attire)**



**Kip Coerper**



**Some of the pilgrims swam in the Dead Sea, and all took a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee.**

