

Episcopal Diocese of Utah
Office of the Bishop

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2025

Bishop of Utah Issues Statement on the Death of Pope Francis

Salt Lake City, UT — The Right Reverend Phyllis A. Spiegel, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah, has released the following statement in response to the death of His Holiness Pope Francis:

It is with deep respect and Christian solidarity that I join with many around the world in mourning the death of His Holiness Pope Francis. His life and ministry were marked by a tireless witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ — particularly through his unwavering advocacy for the poor, his global call to care for creation, and his courageous commitment to mercy and inclusion.

Pope Francis reminded us all that Christian leadership must flow from humility and compassion. Whether addressing the climate crisis, speaking out on behalf of refugees, or calling for a more responsive and listening Church, he offered a prophetic vision that resonates powerfully with many of our own values in The Episcopal Church.

I am especially grateful for his clear and compassionate voice in support of immigrants and refugees — including his willingness to speak out against the dehumanizing treatment of migrants by the current administration in the United States. In doing so, he called us all to remember that the dignity of every person is not a political position, but a Christian one.

As an ecumenical partner, I give thanks for his work to build bridges across Christian traditions and his efforts to foster dialogue and understanding in an often-divided world. His leadership invited the whole Church — and indeed the whole world — into a deeper reflection on justice, peace, and the common good.

I also give thanks for Pope Francis' steps toward amplifying the voices and leadership of women within the life of the Roman Catholic Church. While The Episcopal Church affirms the full inclusion of women in all orders of ministry — lay and ordained — we recognize and honor his efforts to bring new visibility and responsibility to women within Vatican leadership, and to listen attentively to their witness in the synodal journey.

May Pope Francis rest in peace and rise in glory. And may his example continue to inspire all of us to follow Christ more fully — with justice, mercy, humility, and hope.

In Tribute

To honor the life and ministry of Pope Francis, the bells of the Cathedral Church of St. Mark in Salt Lake City will toll at **9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning**, April 26. All who wish to join in this time of remembrance are invited to gather on the front steps before the Great Doors of the Cathedral.