

# Reflections on our Ecumenical Pilgrimage – Bishop Jim Gonia

*We are heirs of the baptismal legacy of Lydia ...*



One of our early stops in Greece was to the ancient city of Philippi, where the Apostle Paul first traveled after being compelled to leave Asia and visit Macedonia (Acts 16:9-12). After viewing the ruins of Philippi, including the presumed location of the prison in which Paul and Silas were jailed (Acts 16: 23-40), we traveled a short distance outside the walls of the city to the baptismal site of Lydia. (Acts 16:13-15)

It had never occurred to me before that this dealer in purple cloth who hailed from the Asian Minor city of Thyatira, was actually the first person to be baptized on what we now know as the European continent. The story of the church on our own continent can be traced to this story of Lydia and her family being washed in the waters of God's grace.

Gathered by the gentle stream that flows by the Holy Baptistry of Saint Lydia of Philippi, our group came down to the water in pairs to share in a baptismal remembrance. It was a powerful reminder of our unity in Christ and of the baptismal legacy of Lydia herself.



*Daily postings and photos from the Ecumenical Pilgrimage can be found on the [Rocky Mountain Synod Facebook page](#).*