

Oberammergau Passion Play In 2020 – Oberammergau, Bavaria, Germany

Pilgrim Church will be sponsoring a trip to the Oberammergau Passion Play in May of 2020, coordinated by Music Director, David Tiedman. This world-famous play is presented every 10 years in the town of Oberammergau, Bavaria, Germany. The tour group will see the play on Sunday, May 17. The group will leave Boston on or about May 13 and fly direct to Munich. Five to six days



will be spent in the Munich area, seeing not only the play, but the city of Munich itself, as well as surrounding sights like King Ludwig's castle, the Wieskirche – one of the last and most opulent of the Baroque churches – and Berchtesgaden, in addition to others. Then the tour will continue with a train ride over the Alps to the city of Padua in northeast Italy, right next to Venice. Several days will be spent there, with a day in Venice, a day-trip through the wine country of the area, as well as a visit to Verona and Lake Garda. The group will return to Boston, flying out of Milan on or about May 25th. In all the trip will be 13 to 14 days in length. Final details are being arranged and a full itinerary, price, etc., will be available. Land-only prices will be available for those who want to use frequent flyer miles, and trip extensions beyond the return date can be arranged. For now, put the dates on your calendar – you won't want to miss this trip.

Historically, in the 17th century when the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) took place in central Europe, it was one of history's most devastating conflicts. Poverty and disease were wide-spread and thousands died because of the Bubonic Plague. In the small village of Oberammergau alone there were 80 deaths. During this time of suffering the citizens of Oberammergau made a sacred pledge that every 10 years they would perform a "Play of the Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ" if God would protect them from the plague. Legend has it that after the vow was made, there was not even one further case of Bubonic Plague in the village, and those town members that already were afflicted, recovered.

The promise was kept for the first time during Pentecost in 1634, and has been continued ever since. The only exception was in 1940 when World War II forced a cancellation. Only residents of Oberammergau can be in the cast; they spend a year preparing for the event, which is fully staged with music. Performances, numbering about 100, occur from May to October.

For more information about the Oberammergau Passion Play trip please contact Pilgrim Church music director Dave Tiedman, davetiedman@pilgrimsherborn.org or (508) 655-1667 x17.