

*Preparing for a*

# **pilgrimage of justice and peace**

*A Guide for Parishes, Missions and Ministries*



**World Council  
of Churches**  
Publications

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PREPARING FOR A PILGRIMAGE OF JUSTICE AND PEACE: A Guide for Parishes, Missions and Ministries

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## INTRODUCTION

The World Council of Churches (WCC) is inviting member churches to join in a pilgrimage of justice and peace. As local members of this global fellowship, we are encouraged to explore the meaning of “pilgrimage” in our context and in light of our faith. This three-part series is designed as a guide to that process of exploration. It is intended for groups that do not have a history of involvement in justice and peace campaigns or in spiritual practice outside of formal worship.

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### What better time to engage in spiritual reflection than now!

Pilgrimage is embedded in the Christian faith tradition and in the traditions of our neighbours of other faiths. Sacred pilgrimage is a form of faith development that involves both spiritual discernment and action. As such, it is both a destination and a process.

As pilgrims we set out towards our objective believing that we will gain insight through encounter, meditation, and prayer. Along the way, we chance upon God in surprising places and unlikely people. In those moments, we do not always recognize God. Yet if we can be open to unexpected encounters, it is through them that we will discover renewed purpose for our lives and new possibilities for justice and peace.

At the end of a pilgrimage we find ourselves in a place where we feel spiritually enriched; a place where we can engage in actions that contribute to transformation of our communities; a place where we are acting as faithful Christians.

Deciding to embark on a pilgrimage demands prayerful reflection and thoughtful discussion. Here then is a three-step process for discernment.

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## Exploring the idea of pilgrimage

This series offers the opportunity to explore what pilgrimage means to us today; expand our knowledge of the community where we are called to be pilgrims; meet others who might become companions on the journey; and gather spiritual resources to sustain us on the way.

Participants will arrive at the first session with their own ideas. At the second session they will engage with the stories of others from beyond their immediate circle and learn about a range of possibilities available to them outside their doors. In the final session, they will reflect on what they have heard and decide whether they feel ready to embark on a pilgrimage.

They may at that point be able to agree on the objective of a pilgrimage and whom they would like to travel with. It is more likely they will decide to gather again to make those decisions.

The WCC has produced the following infographic as a guide for groups who decide to plan a Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace. This series links loosely to the first three circles. At the end of the series you may want to share the infographic with your group if it appears that members are interested further planning a pilgrimage. See the infographic at [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org)

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## Resources

In addition to resources suggested for each of the sessions, you will find prayers, hymns, Bible readings and background material in the “Pilgrimage Road Kit,” at the end of both this Leader Guide and the Participant Guide, and additional information about the WCC Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace at [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org)

You are invited to share any new resources you produce for your group on WCC’s Pilgrimage Facebook site and on Twitter at #whatisapilgrimage. (Please do not share someone else’s material without their express written consent.)

Enjoy the trip! May it enrich this period of reflection and your experience of Christian discipleship!

# SESSION 1

## Exploring the idea of pilgrimage

*What does it mean for me and my faith community?*

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### Planning

The following session outline offers suggestions of what to say as you lead discussion about the idea of pilgrimage and what it might mean to your faith community. Each faith community has its own prayer, reading, and meeting styles. This session will work best if you adapt it to your context. You may choose to follow each suggested step or you may prefer to adapt, cut, or add questions and activities.

These resources will be useful as you plan the session.

- Message of the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches: Join the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace [<http://wccpilgrimage.org/pilgrimage-steps/what-is-a-pilgrimage/resources>]
- Celtic prayer and song resource: Carmina Gadelica [<http://www.electricscotland.com/books/pdf/carminagadelicah04carm.pdf>]
- Reflection: “Transformative Spirituality: a spirituality of encounter” [available as a PDF at [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org)]
- World Council of Churches news release: Transformative spirituality is a breath of fresh air. <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/transformative-spirituality-is-a-breath-of-fire>
- “Reflections on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace” by Dagmar Heller. Ecumenical Review (July 2014) World Council of Churches [<http://wccpilgrimage.org/pilgrimage-steps/what-is-a-pilgrimage/resources>]
- The Pilgrimage Road Kit, at the end of this resource.

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### Preparation checklist

- When you issue the invitation for people to join in this pilgrimage study, ask them to bring something from a pilgrimage they have done or that is about pilgrimage. These could be prayers, poems, songs, pictures or objects such as pebbles, crosses, or icons.
- Ask someone to bring a camera for a group photo at the end of the session.
- When setting up the space where people are to meet, put chairs in a circle and a table in the centre with a candle, cross, and Bible. Have glasses of water ready for participants.

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### Gathering

As people arrive, offer them a glass of water, and tell them this is symbolic of the many traditional ways around the world of welcoming travelers and pilgrims.

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### Introduction

We have come together to explore the idea of embarking on a pilgrimage of justice and peace. If you have brought something with you from a pilgrimage you have done, or that is about pilgrimage, you are invited to place it in the centre of our circle.

As we gather to consider what a pilgrimage could mean to our community and to us as individuals, we begin with prayer.

*God is with us in every pass, Jesus is with us on every hill  
Spirit is with us on every stream, headland and ridge  
and lawn;  
Each sea and land, each moor and meadow,  
Each lying down, each rising up,  
In the trough of the waves, on the crest of the billows,  
Each step of the journey we take.  
(Adapted from Carmina Gadelica)*

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## Bible readings

*Genesis 12:1-6 Hebrews 11:8-12*

1. What is your idea of pilgrimage? In what ways is it similar to the two passages we just read? How does it differ?
2. How were Abraham and Sarah transformed by their travels?

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## Thinking about pilgrimage in your life

A pilgrimage is a journey of moral or spiritual significance that can strengthen our faith. Along the way, people on a pilgrimage have experiences that transform or change how they see themselves and each other.

Many faith traditions, including Christianity, encourage the spiritual practice of pilgrimage. Orthodox Christians worldwide follow centuries-old practices of pilgrimage to sacred sites. Muslims have dreams of going to Mecca; Hindus travel to sacred places such as Varanasi; Jews gather at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.

In fact, throughout the centuries people have gone on pilgrimages to explore the spiritual dimensions of their faith. Today there is a thirst for spiritual insight and a desire for transformation among both practising Christians and a growing number of people in secular society. In Europe, thousands are choosing to walk the Camino (Way) of San Juan de Compostela and young people on all continents take part in Taizé-style pilgrimages. It is part of a resurgence of interest in pilgrimages. [See, for example: <http://www.worldtravelguide.net/holidays/editorial-feature/feature/10-best-pilgrimages-modern-travellers> or <http://travel.cnn.com/7-walks-change-your-life-961981> or Gandhi's "salt march"/Martin Luther King's "Stride Toward Freedom"/Mandela's "Long Walk to Freedom."] Many modern-day pilgrims are not necessarily religious but are seeking to enrich their spiritual lives. Others are faithful members of one of the world's religions who

undertake intentional pilgrimage as a way of deepening their faith.

3. If you have made an intentional pilgrimage, share that story with us. If you have brought something with you from that pilgrimage, tell us about it and how it has affected your life and beliefs. If you have not made a pilgrimage but have brought something that symbolizes pilgrimage, share it with the group.

4. Sometimes we are inadvertent pilgrims. Think about an experience you have had while on a trip that changed you or your way of seeing things. The trip can have been to the market, to church, or to another community or country.

5. What words or images would you use to describe that experience? Perhaps words from a psalm, poem or hymn come to mind, perhaps you see a symbol, or maybe you have words or images of your own to describe what happened. Take a moment to write or draw them. Share your story with the whole group using what you wrote or drew.

What we have been describing is what is referred to as "transformative spirituality," those moments when our faith is challenged and enriched by an experience we have when in an unfamiliar place or meeting people who are new to us. Rico Palaca Ponce of the Institute of Spirituality in Asia based in the Philippines describes it this way:

*"Transformative spirituality is a "life-energy." It is a breath of fire. It is an ember that sustains the flame of one's heart. It is restlessness. It is something that calls the person to go beyond oneself, to concern for, and relationships with, the others. ... people can be so touched by an immense power within themselves. They become committed to a particular cause or a movement towards bringing positive changes in their homes, communities and in the world. This immense power that touches their core being is what we may call 'transformative spirituality'." [There are resources in media concerning the Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights march in the US as the 50th anniversary is celebrated in spring 2015...]*

6. Based on Ponce's idea of transformative spirituality and the stories and images of pilgrimage that we have just shared, what does the word *pilgrimage* mean to you now?

7. Does a pilgrimage that might lead to spiritual transformation excite or frighten you? What are your hopes? What are your fears?

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## Exploring possibilities for transformative encounters in our wider community

Each day in our travels through our neighbourhoods or in stories we hear in the media, we encounter unfamiliar people or glimpse places we have never visited.

8. Who or what in your community would you like to know more about? Is there one group or place we all can agree to visit?
9. Would we like to make a pilgrimage to meet these people or visit that place? Alternatively, we might ask the group or a representative of the group to meet with us during our next session.
10. Would you prefer to learn about that place or group through the media?

If the group has decided to join with other people for the next session, ask someone to contact that group and arrange for a place and time to meet. You will need to be clear that this will be a gathering to get to know each other and learn about our neighbourhood or village from your group's perspective. This will work best if you connect with a group with whom a group member or your faith community has already established contact.

If the group has decided to explore the issues and concerns in the broader community through the media, ask people to bring media stories with them. These can be posters and flyers advertising local events; photos of graffiti or billboards; photos of damage to buildings or the natural environment; newspaper clippings or magazine articles. If you have access to the Internet, some people may choose to show YouTube clips or a web site.

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## Closing prayer

We end with a Celtic prayer of blessing for our travels till we meet again.

*May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind always be at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
and rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May you be held in the palm of God's hand.*

---

## Departure

Invite people to gather for a group photo.

Ask people who have agreed to help make arrangements for the next session to stay behind for a few minutes. Make sure each person is clear about what they are to do and that you have contact information for them. Check with them a few days before the next session to be sure they have been able to do what they planned.

Request that group members bring food and drink to the next session. If the group is going to work with media sources, ask people to bring fruit or a drink with which they are unfamiliar that they find in the neighbourhood.

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## Spiritual preparation for the next session

If you want to take the next step on the pilgrimage, here are some ways to prepare for the journey:

**Start a pilgrimage journal.** Write notes, make sketches, or take photos. Record what you've learned in this session. Note how you see your community as you travel through it in the days following this session.

**Pray.** Say the prayers from this session at the start and end of each day until you meet again.

**Bible study.** Re-read the Bible texts and reflect on what you heard in the discussion about them.

# SESSION 2

## Exploring our neighbourhood

*What can we discover that is new to us?*

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### Planning

The following outline offers suggestions for a session where your group meets with another group from the community or meets alone to share images and stories of the neighbourhood. The objective is to learn more about your community and to listen for what your faith is calling you to do in response to what you discover.

This guide outlines the two programme options:

**OPTION ONE:** Meeting our neighbours. Invite a group from a nearby church or another faith group or people involved in a community organization to meet with your group. This meeting might take place in your own space, in neutral space, or your neighbours' space.

**OPTION TWO:** Exploring our neighbourhood through stories. The session is designed for your group to share stories with each other about the people and concerns of your community. These stories may come from posters and flyers advertising local events; photos of graffiti and billboards; reports or photos of threats to the natural environment; or newspaper clippings and magazine articles. If you have access to the Internet, some group members may choose to show YouTube clips and web sites.

These resources will be useful as you prepare to lead either session.

- “Fear and Joy on the Pilgrimage” by Clare Amos. Ecumenical Review (July 2014) World Council of Churches [available as a PDF at [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org)]
- The Pilgrimage Road Kit offers prayers, song, and readings.

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### OPTION ONE: MEETING OUR NEIGHBOURS

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#### Preparation checklist

- Ideally someone from the invited group would meet with you to create a plan for the gathering that will build connection and open doors to questions, exchanges, and learning. This will include ensuring that programme elements such as the call to gather and the readings are welcoming, inclusive, and understandable.
- Contact your group with information about where and when the gathering will take place.
- Arrange for food and drink. Make sure that what you offer is appropriate to the other group. (Some have dietary restrictions.)
- Ask someone to bring a camera for a group photo at the end of the session.

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#### Gathering

If your group is hosting the event, ask the people who invited the visiting group to be at the door to greet the guests. Set chairs in a circle and place a table in the centre with food and drink for people to share as they arrive.

When the programme begins, introduce yourself and any leader of the visiting group. Explain that your group is interested in getting to know their neighbours and exploring the issues and concerns that we share in common. Invite each person to say their name,

say what group they belong to, and why they accepted the invitation to meet.

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## Greeting

*We come together conscious of our hopes for our families, our community, and ourselves. We come together conscious of how much there is to learn about each other and the community we share. We come together in the hope of building new connections and strengthening those that already exist. In this, we are somewhat like modern day pilgrims. May we enjoy walking together!*  
(Kristine Greenaway)

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## Reading

This session is intended to be a time of discovery, a bit like a scouting expedition. We are interested in learning more about our community and seeing it with new eyes. In a sense, we are pilgrims in our own neighbourhood and want to get to know the people we see as we travel through it. The poet and Anglican priest, R.S. Thomas, describes the benefits of exploration and travel in this way.

*The point of travelling is not to arrive but to return home laden with pollen you shall work up into honey the mind feeds on.*

Thomas says the point of travel is to arrive home with “pollen” that will feed our minds.

1. How does this quotation reflect our hopes for our time together today?

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## Getting to know each other

If the group is large, divide into small groups. Invite people to answer these questions.

2. Where is home to you? It may be this community; it may be a neighbouring community; or you might feel your real home is elsewhere, some place you have left.

3. How did you travel to get here? You might have walked across the road, you may have taken a bus, or you may be thinking of how you moved to this community from another place.

Call everyone back and ask each small group to share one highlight of what each person said.

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## Seeing our neighbourhood through new eyes

If the group is large, divide into small groups to discuss these questions. Someone should take notes of the points raised in each group.

4. What do you like about our shared neighbourhood and what worries you?
5. What are you doing in response to those worries or what would you hope to do?

Call the group together and ask the note takers to share examples of what people like about the community and of issues that worry them.

Ask people to respond to the following questions. Keep notes of what is said.

6. What is new to you?
7. What concerns do we share? Are there any that we would like to explore further together?
8. What resources do we have that could help us respond to these concerns? These could be spiritual resources such as faith retreats or prayer services; they could be programmes supported by faith groups or a local non-profit organization.

Ask people to indicate if they would like to be in touch again about any of the concerns raised in the discussion. For example, some may already be working on the issue or be aware of an event that is being planned related to the concern. Note names and contact information.

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## Closing

Read the R.S. Thomas quote aloud again. Ask the participants to each offer one word or image that they will take home with them as “pollen for honey.”

Thank all who participated. Invite any leader of the visiting group to speak. Take a group photo. Invite people to stay and talk over food and drink.



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## OPTION TWO: EXPLORING OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD THROUGH THE MEDIA

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### Preparation checklist

- When setting up the space where people are to meet, put chairs in a circle around a table with a candle, cross, icon, and Bible.
  - Ensure that the equipment you need is in place and working. Provide pins or tape so that people can display print material.
  - If you choose for the group to make a collage, ensure the person with the camera takes photos.
- 

### Gathering

As people arrive, offer them drinks and fruit that group members have brought with them. These are drinks and fruit that people chose because they were unfamiliar.

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### Opening prayer

*Dear God, as we gather we bring with us our hopes for our families, our community, and ourselves. We come together conscious of how much there is to learn about our community. We are pilgrims in your world. May we be guided to follow you in the way Jesus showed us. Amen.*  
(Kristine Greenaway)

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### First Bible reading

*Exodus 3: 1-5*

A sacred place is one that makes you think about or feel connected to things and forces that are greater than you. It is a place that takes you out of your every day concerns; a place you want to care for and protect.

1. What places are sacred to you? Are any of them in this community?
2. What makes them sacred?

The poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote these lines that pick up on the image of the burning bush:

*Earth's crammed with heaven,  
And every common bush afire with God;  
But only he who sees takes off his shoes,  
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries.*

3. How do these lines add to your understanding of the Exodus passage? What do they say to you about pilgrimage in sacred places?
- 

### Sharing images and stories

Invite group members to share the newspaper or magazine articles, flyers, posters, photos, YouTube videos, or websites they have brought with them. Ask them to give a brief idea of the story or issue covered.

Explore what the images and stories tell us.

4. Are any of the places described sacred to you? Why?
5. What do you like about these stories and what worries you?
6. What images and key phrases emerge as we share our reactions to these stories and images of our community?

Ask someone to make a list of what people note and read the list aloud once everyone has spoken. Or invite people to draw or write on a large sheet of paper on the wall to create a collage.

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### Second Bible reading

*Exodus 3: 16-18*

Let us join in a moment of silence to reflect on the Bible reading and the concerns identified in our community. Are there any concerns that our faith calls us to address together?

After a time of silent reflection, invite people to share the concerns they lifted up in their time of silent reflection. Note their answers or ask them to add these ideas to the collage. Keep the collage for the next session.

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## Next steps

Ask people to pray, meditate, and reflect at home on how we might respond faithfully to the concerns raised during our time together. Offer the following suggestions for that process.

**Add to your pilgrimage journal.** Record what you've learned in this session. Add pictures, drawings or newspaper clippings about sacred places in your community and about the concerns for them that you are carrying with you.

**Reflect.** Read the Bible texts from Exodus and say the closing prayer each day until we gather again.

**Look around.** Note any activities or groups in the wider community who share the concerns raised in this discussion.

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## Closing prayer

Let us say this together:

*At all times and in every hour, you are worshiped and glorified in heaven and on earth, Christ our God. Long in patience, great in mercy and compassion, you love the righteous and show mercy to sinners. You call all to salvation through the promise of good things to come. Lord, receive our prayers at the present time. Direct our lives according to your commandments. Sanctify our souls. Purify our bodies. Set our minds aright. Cleanse our thoughts and deliver us from all sorrow, evil, and distress. Surround us with your holy angels that, guarded and guided by their host, we may arrive at the unity of the faith and the understanding of your ineffable glory. For you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.*

*(Daily Prayers for Orthodox Christians:  
The Synekdemos)*

# SESSION 3

## Preparing for pilgrimage

*What does our faith say?*

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### Planning

You are encouraged to adapt the ideas offered in this guide to fit your tradition and your group's expectations. Plan for a session long enough for participants to reflect on what they have learned during the series and to consider if they want to plan either a personal or a group pilgrimage of justice and peace.

These resources may be useful as you prepare:

- WCC Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace Infographic [[http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/files/Pilgrimage\\_JusticePeace\\_web.pdf](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/files/Pilgrimage_JusticePeace_web.pdf)]
- The Way of a Pilgrim. A classic book from the Russian Orthodox Church. Available in several translations.
- “The Future We Want – Life, not Destruction” (also known as the Message from Mainz) German Ecumenical Assembly 2014
- “A Trinitarian Perspective on a Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace” by Martin Robra. Ecumenical Review (July 2014) World Council of Churches [available as a PDF at [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org)]

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### Preparation checklist

- When setting up the space where people are to meet, put chairs in a circle and a table in the centre with a candle, cross, and Bible.
- Print a copy of the World Council of Churches Pilgrimage Infographic.

- If the group made a collage in Session Two, put it on display.
- Ask someone to bring a camera for a group photo at the end of the session.

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### Gathering

As people arrive, offer them a glass of water, symbolic of the many traditional ways around the world of welcoming travelers and pilgrims.

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### Opening prayer

*O God, as we gather in this place,  
open our hearts and teach us how  
to view our life here on earth  
as a pilgrim's path to heaven.  
Give us grace to tread it courageously  
in the company of your faithful people.  
Help us to set our affections  
on things above,  
not on the passing vanities of this world,  
and grant that as we journey on  
in the way of holiness  
we may bear a good witness to our Lord,  
and serve all who need our help  
along the way,  
for the glory of your name. Amen*  
*(Adaptation of prayer from Hereford Cathedral)*

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### Bible readings

*Hebrews 11:8-16 Micah 4: 1-4*

In Hebrews we read that Abraham and Sarah answered God's call to go to a new place because they had faith in

God. Answering God's call to travel transformed their lives and those of their descendants. In Micah we read a description of a city built on God's values.

1. What were Sarah and Abraham leaving behind? What did they know of the places to which they were to travel?
2. How would our community be different if transformed to be like the description in Micah of God's city?

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### Answering the call to follow in Jesus' way

The Bible tells us how Jesus traveled through the Holy Land speaking to everyone he met, comforting the suffering and lifting up the downtrodden. Early Christians said they were followers of Jesus' Way. We might say they were pilgrims walking in Jesus' footsteps.

As contemporary Christians we too are called to follow Jesus' example: to walk through our land as modern-day pilgrims, caring for the needs of those we meet and daring to confront corruption and abuse of power. The Bible tells us this way leads to transformation - to new relations with our neighbours and to renewed commitment to justice and peace.

3. What does following in Jesus' Way mean to you?
4. Are there examples in our community of people who seek to follow the Way? What are they doing?

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### Exploring what "justice" and "peace" mean to people of faith

The word *justice* has several uses. It can refer to the legal justice system or the idea of "fair play". Here we are referring to "social justice": a concern for how society and the economic system are structured and what that means for our neighbours and for us.

5. Describe a situation in our community that is unjust. What it would be like if it were transformed into a just situation?
6. Name a situation in our community that is not peaceful and what peace would look like.
7. Some say there can be no peace without justice. Others say there can be no justice without peace. As

we think of what we have just heard about justice and peace concerns in our neighbourhood, which of these statements seems to fit?

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### Imagining a pilgrimage for justice and peace in our community

The World Council of Churches is inviting us to consider planning a pilgrimage of justice and peace in partnership with others from our community.

8. How might a pilgrimage of justice and peace benefit others and enrich your faith? This might be a pilgrimage of personal spiritual development or spirituality-in-action as part of a group pilgrimage.
9. Who in the wider community might want to join in planning a pilgrimage?

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### Looking back over the road we have traveled together

Share and explain the graphic of the steps the World Council of Churches proposes that groups take in preparing for a pilgrimage. Give participants time to study it. Then invite them to do one of the following activities.

- Sit in silence to pray and meditate on what steps you feel called to take next with your faith community or in your personal spiritual practice. Note these steps in your pilgrimage journal.
- Write a word or phrase or draw an image that indicates where you see such a pilgrimage leading our community. Share what you have produced with the group.

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### Next steps

Here are some ideas for how we can continue to explore our faith and our community.

**Keep adding to your pilgrimage journal.** Write notes, make sketches, or take photos as you think about plans for pilgrimage.

**Reflect.** Choose a prayer or song from these sessions to repeat each day.

**Read.** Remember these words from Psalm 84:5.

*Blessed are those whose strength is in you whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. [New International Version]*

**Outreach.** Contact someone you met in these sessions who you feel may be a “fellow traveler.” Arrange to meet and talk about your next steps.

**Share the news.** Post to Facebook or Twitter #whatisapilgrimage. Ask permission to post the group photos.

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### **Closing prayer “Benedictus”**

Let us say this together.

*In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
(Luke 1: 76-79[ICEL])*

# Pilgrimage Road Kit

*Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.*

*(Psalm 84:5)*

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Pilgrims travel with few possessions, packing only what is most essential. As a spiritual pilgrim, you will want to carry resources to feed your soul. Here then is a basic Pilgrimage Road Kit. Along the way, you will receive gifts that will nourish your spirit. Add them to your kit. They will make the Way easier and your burdens lighter.

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## PRAYERS OF GATHERING

*O God, as we gather in this place,  
open our hearts and teach us how  
to view our life here on earth  
as a pilgrim's path to heaven.*

*Give us grace to tread it courageously  
in the company of your faithful people.*

*Help us to set our affections  
on things above,*

*not on the passing vanities of this world,  
and grant that as we journey on  
in the way of holiness*

*we may bear a good witness to our Lord,  
and serve all who need our help  
along the way,*

*for the glory of your name. Amen*

*(Adaptation of prayer from Hereford Cathedral)*

*Creator, we come together conscious of our hopes for our families, our community, and ourselves. We come together conscious of how much there is to learn about each other and the community we share. We come together in the hope of building new connections and strengthening those that already exist. In this, we are somewhat like modern day pilgrims. May we enjoy walking together!*

*(Kristine Greenaway)*

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## PRAYERS OF GUIDANCE

*Creator God, grant that by your tender mercy, the dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. Guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.*

*(Based on Luke 1:78-79)*

*God is with us in every pass, Jesus is with us on every hill  
Spirit is with us on every stream, headland and ridge  
and lawn;*

*Each sea and land, each moor and meadow,*

*Each lying down, each rising up,*

*In the trough of the waves, on the crest of the billows,*

*Each step of the journey we take.*

*(Adapted from Carmina Gadelica)*

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## PRAYERS OF BLESSING

*Bless to me, O God, the earth beneath my feet,*

*Bless to me, O God, the path whereon I go,*

*Bless to me, O God, the people whom I meet,*

*Today, tonight and tomorrow. Amen*

*(A prayer used by the Iona Community in Scotland)*

*May the road rise up to meet you.*

*May the wind always be at your back.*

*May the sun shine warm upon your face,*

*and rains fall soft upon your fields.*

*And until we meet again,*

*May you be held in the palm of God's hand.*

*(Traditional gaelic blessing)*

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## BENEDICTUS

*In the tender compassion of our God*

*the dawn from on high shall break upon us,*

*to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow  
of death,*

*and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

*(Luke 1: 76-79[ICEL])*

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## PRAYER OF SAINT BASIL

*We bless you, O God, most high and Lord of mercy. You are always doing great and inscrutable things with us, glorious and wonderful, and without number. You grant us sleep for rest from our infirmities, and repose from the burdens of our much toiling flesh. We thank you, for you have not destroyed us with our sins, but have continued to love us; and though we were sunk in despair, you have raised us up to glorify your power. Therefore, we implore your incomparable goodness. Enlighten the eyes of our understanding and raise up our minds from the heavy sleep of indolence. Open our mouth and fill it with your praise, that we may be able without distraction to sing and confess that you are God, glorified in all and by all, the eternal Father, with your only begotten Son, and your all holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

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## A PRAYER FOR ADULTS

*At all times and in every hour, you are worshiped and glorified in heaven and on earth, Christ our God. Long in patience, great in mercy and compassion, you love the righteous and show mercy to sinners. You call all to salvation through the promise of good things to come. Lord, receive our prayers at the present time. Direct our lives according to your commandments. Sanctify our souls. Purify our bodies. Set our minds aright. Cleanse our thoughts and deliver us from all sorrow, evil, and distress. Surround us with your holy angels that, guarded and guided by their host, we may arrive at the unity of the faith and the understanding of your ineffable glory. For you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.*

*[Daily Prayers for Orthodox Christians:  
The Synekdemos]*

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## EL CAMINO PRAYERS

See the pilgrimage prayer resources offered at <http://www.206tours.com/info/elcamino/prayers.htm>

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## BIBLE TEXTS

*Compelled to leave for new places*  
Genesis 12: 1-9  
Exodus 2:11-15 See also Acts 7: 23-29  
Exodus 3: 1-12

*Sources of strength*  
Exodus 13:19-22  
Exodus 18: 5-7; 14-27  
Exodus 20: 9-11 See also Exodus 34:21

*Call to follow Jesus*  
Matthew 4:18-20  
Mark 1:19-20  
Matthew 9:9  
John 1:43

*Jesus' Way*  
Matthew 25: 31-40

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## REFLECTIONS

“Transformative Spirituality: a spirituality of encounter” (Greenaway) [PDF]

“Reflections on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace” by Dagmar Heller. *Ecumenical Review* (July 2014) World Council of Churches

“Fear and Joy on the Pilgrimage” by Clare Amos. *Ecumenical Review* (July 2014) World Council of Churches

“The Future We Want – Life, not Destruction” (also known as the Message from Mainz) German Ecumenical Assembly 2014

“A Trinitarian Perspective on a Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace” by Martin Robra. *Ecumenical Review* (July 2014) World Council of Churches

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## POEMS

**Poems on Pilgrimage**  
<http://www.spiritual-pilgrimage.com/2012/02/poems-on-pilgrimage/>

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## WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

### Message of the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC): Join the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace

<http://wccpilgrimage.org/pilgrimage-steps/what-is-a-pilgrimage/resources>

### WCC Central Committee 2014: An Invitation to the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/central-committee/geneva-2014/an-invitation-to-the-pilgrimage-of-justice-and-peace>

### WCC News release: Transformative spirituality is a breath of fresh air.

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/transformative-spirituality-is-a-breath-of-fire>

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## BOOKS

**The Way of the Pilgrim** also known as *The Pilgrim's Tale* (attributed to Archimandrite Mikhail Kozlov and Arsenii Troepolskii)

### Carmina Gadelica

<http://www.electricscotland.com/books/pdf/carminagadelicah04carm.pdf>

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## VIDEO AND AUDIO

### A Pilgrim's Way (8-part video documentary)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhQ98qolWTE&index=8&list=PLE38CBC60B094C0CA>

### Interview with Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald (audio)

<https://soundcloud.com/wccradio01/bishop-mark-macdonald>

### WCC Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace (video)

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/videos/pilgrimage-of-justice-and-peace/>

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## GRAPHIC

### Infographic : Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace

[http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/files/Pilgrimage\\_JusticePeace\\_web.pdf](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/files/Pilgrimage_JusticePeace_web.pdf)