

A PILGRIM'S WAY

2025



Local Pilgrimage

Walking our prayers in the places we live, work and worship

Contents

Our Day.....	2
Our Route.....	3
What To Expect.....	4
What to bring.....	5
Other details.....	5
Introduction.....	5
Why Pilgrimage? Why now?.....	6
Prayer for Starting.....	7
10 am _____Start.....	8
12:45am leave from.....	9
Prayers for Concluding.....	9
2:30pm go to a social space.....	10
Questions for Pilgrims.....	10
Further resources.....	11

Our Day

(times listed are good times to plan to join us or leave.)

This is a day that can be walked in full, or join us for sections. All times are reasonable estimates. As we walk time will shift slightly

NOTE- you could add more locations or just go between two points...

First Gathering 10:00am at _____
ADDRESS

Question for reflection: What hopes and expectations do I have about this pilgrimage?

12:00am at _____
(place with water and washrooms)
ADDRESS

Question for reflection: How do I hear God's Word in the world?

2:00 pm at _____
(place with water and washrooms AND a place appropriate for concluding prayers)
ADDRESS

Question for reflection: How is your attention in the world (and with God) different when you are formally in pilgrimage?

2:30pm Pub/deck/kitchen table for fellowship and discussion

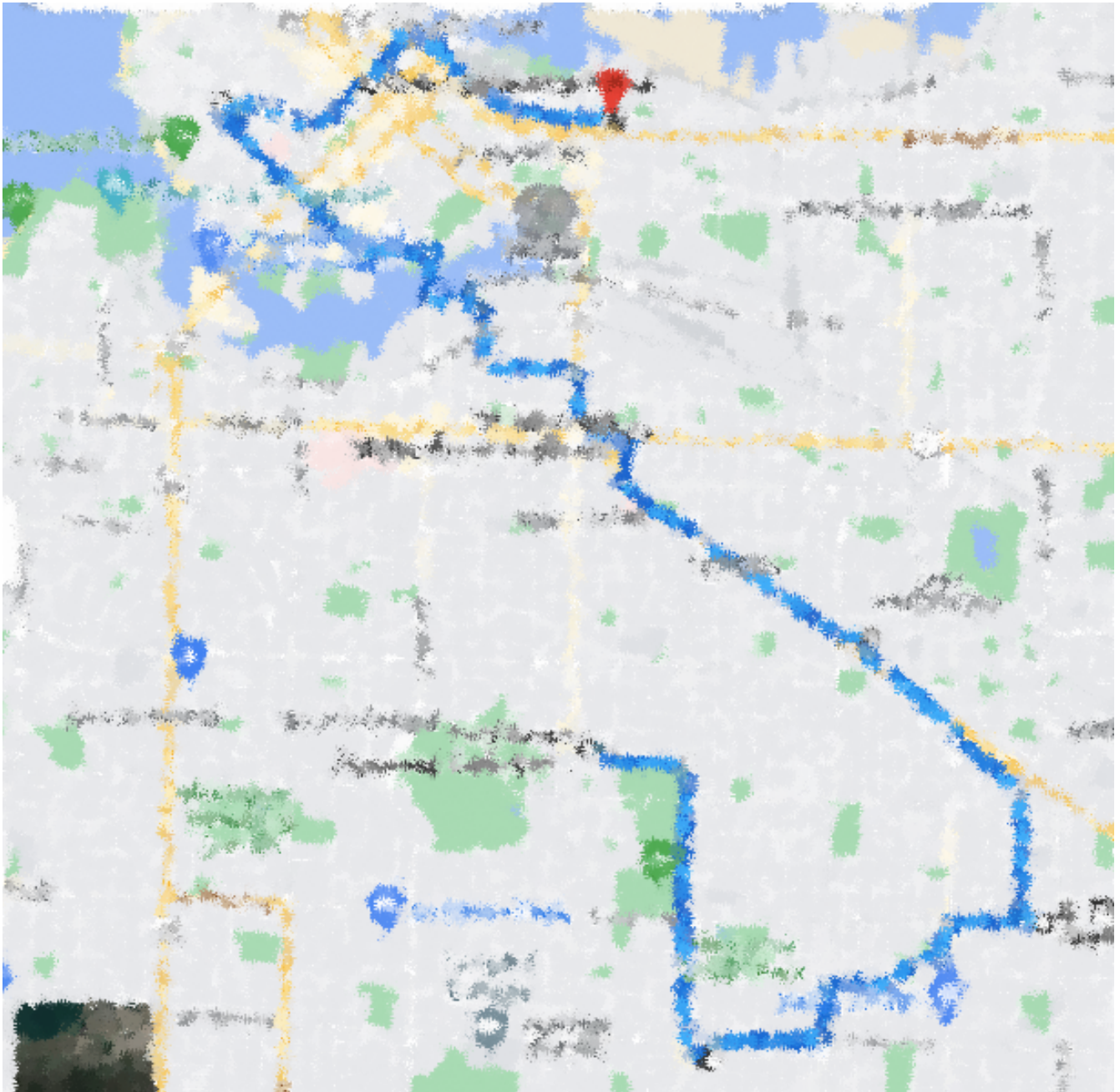
gather at _____for fellowship and discussion

Question for reflection: What will you take from this time forward as we journey towards the kingdom of God?

Our Route

This is NOT the detailed view - but a general sense of the route
(see details in the section maps in the pages following)

Use google maps to show basic plan. (Obviously, please use a clear image, these have been blurred to help imagine a path at your location)



What To Expect

Please review! These are the types of considerations – please edit and modify to give folks a reasonable sense of what to expect.

- A series of short gatherings with an invitation to aspects of pilgrimage
- Length of walk: you are welcome to walk one or two sections for an hour or two, or walk all day.
- Logistics, we trust that public transit will help shuttle you back to where you need to go if you are only joining us for a section
- This is a long walking day primarily on city sidewalks, with some dirt paths and parks.
- Expect to take responsibility for your safety and health.
 - For example, if you need to stop early, we will honor and respect your boundaries (we will assume that you catch a bus or a cab or call a friend to pick you up if an early end is needed).
- Bathrooms and water will be available at every stop
- Worship and prayer
- An invitation to gather for food and fabulous conversation

What to bring

- A water bottle
- Weather appropriate gear
- A snack if you will need it
- Your phone if you regularly carry one
- This bulletin

Other details

- Please advise the team if you have relevant life-threatening conditions or allergies (for example, bees) and ensure someone knows of your emergency response plan (for example, the location of your EpiPen)

- We will assume we have permission to use your image to promote pilgrimage across the province unless you tell us otherwise.

Introduction

Responding to increasing and widespread interest in ecological justice issues throughout our ecclesiastical province, the Social and Ecological Justice Working Group (SEJ) prepares both programmes and materials to explore the foundational relationship between Christian faith, justice and the environment. While our remit includes both social and ecological justice, our members presently focus on ecological justice issues, most appropriately in light of the Climate Emergency.

The [Fifth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion](#) (and the sixth baptismal promise) encourages and challenges us “to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.”

The 2024 Pilgrimages strive to connect Anglicans, those of other denominations (or of no affiliation or experience), those who wish to experience creation, grace and peace by intentionally moving through creation in the regions of our Province

Welcome to our shared endeavour.

Why Pilgrimage? Why now?

There are many reasons to make a pilgrimage, alone or in community. Pilgrimages can be long or short -- a half day, to a week or months. Time or circumstance are not the most important factors in making a pilgrimage. Intention and it's first cousin, desire, are the most important requirements for a fruitful pilgrimage.

So ask yourself a simple question -- can you separate yourself for a time, from pressing commitments, just for a time, intentionally? As with much religion and spirituality, the intention to live and love differently, even briefly, will provide

the necessary detachment to enter into a different, creative, thoughtful or prayerful space.

A feature of pilgrimage is the opportunity to discover in a new way your place in a messy, mucky world, by taking yourself out of the action, for a time and for a reason – personal, social and spiritual refreshment. An intentional walk/pilgrimage shaped by a director can increase self-awareness and help you reflect upon and cherish all your connections – with people, with nature and beauty, with all creation and with God-in-Jesus.

Another reason people pursue pilgrimage is to reckon in a new way with demanding life situations, with health concerns, with changing relationships. Pilgrimage is not therapy, though its benefits and yield therapeutic results. Slowing life down, to a walking pace, governed more by breathing than by external demands of obligations steadies the heart and mind, offering time for thought deeper than what is possible in normal circumstances.

These pilgrimages are specially designed to refurbish our respect for, delight in and engagement with creation. We do so knowing very well that creation itself is injured; We know the effects of the climate emergency in our front and back yards. A deep engagement with the earth, mobilized by the physical discipline of walking, from one physical point to another, with a clear destination in sight, with other like-minded and heart-equipped pilgrims will generate hope and resilience in a new community with other travelers.

The trail awaits . . . may these words constitute an invitation to a particular adventure, in faith, hope and love, through pilgrimage.

Prayer for Starting

The day is coming
when things will change.

The day is coming when we will set out.

The day is coming to cross the sea, to touch the earth,
to plant a seed, to trust ... and not look back.

To trust and not look back.

The day has come when Christ sets out.

The day has come for food and friendship.

The day has come, not to flee but to embrace;
not to escape but to welcome;
not to shut out but, in safety and in community,
to trust and not look back.

To trust and not look back.

Soon we will set out.

We will find our ways converge
and come together
for no one can always travel alone.
Strangers will cross our path.
But so will angels.
And there's the risk.

*So we take time now to consider a person/people alongside
whom we might like to walk in prayer. For them, we give up
some time, some effort, some space ...*

Time for silent prayer to honor the land we walk on

God, who brings us together,
re-member us and all we care for.
Add your prayer to ours –

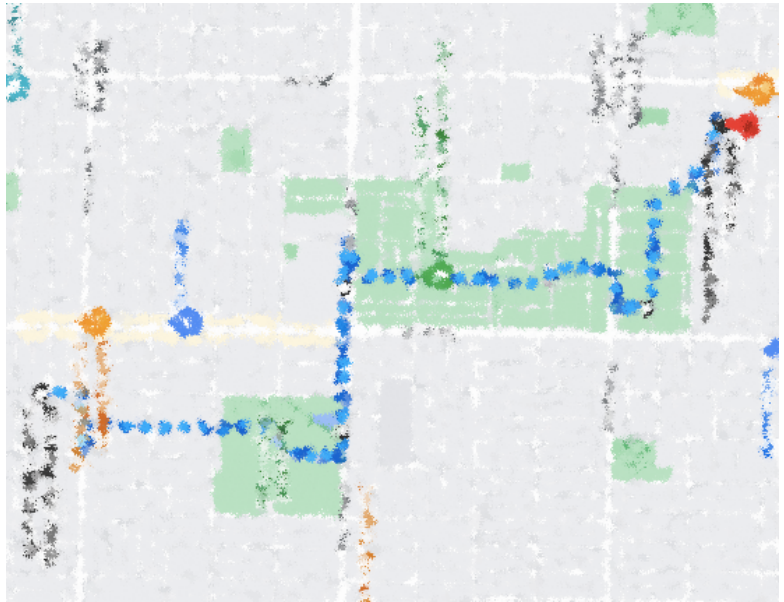
for this land, this world,
and our daily lives. **Amen.** *(from the Iona Community)*

10 am _____ Start

We start at _____ ADDRESS

A blessing and a prayer- walk to _____ (about ? hour)

Question for reflection: What hopes and expectations do I have about this pilgrimage?



12:00am

arrive at _____, have a snack, lunch

12:45am leave from _____

A blessing and a prayer -walk to _____ (about ? hour)

Question for reflection: How do I hear God's Word in the world?



2:00 noon

arrive at _____, for concluding prayers

Prayers for Concluding

Journeying with you, Creator God,
is to journey in your world,
full of marvels and such beauty.

**To glimpse eternity in sky and sea,
to feel the earth and rock beneath my feet.**

Journeying with you, brother Jesus,
is to journey with your friends.

**To meet and travel a while together,
then part at the crossroads,
knowing you are with us all.**

Journeying with you, Holy Spirit,
is to journey with the wind.

**To move to your wild music
then try to sing your song
so others may hear.**

Pray the Mess . . .

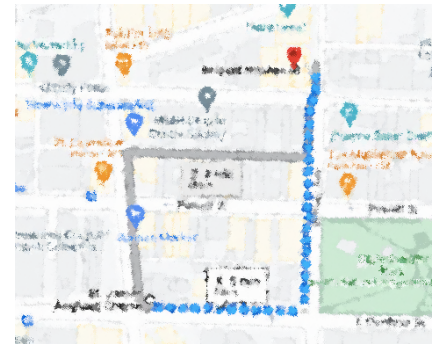
Life now, for so many, is a tragic mess,
and on so many fronts near and far.

You inevitably know this well.

Pray your sorrow, grief, or rage, or regret.

Pray the mess.— (Br. Curtis Almquist, SSJE)

2:30pm go to a social space for **fellowship and reflections** Question for reflection: What will you take from this time forward as we journey towards the kingdom of God?



Questions for Pilgrims

Questions for discussion, journaling or reflection before walking

These pilgrimages have been introduced with a heart for social and ecological justice. We pray that as we walk our footsteps into the earth that this is also a time to listen to for God the world.

- What hopes and expectations do I have about this pilgrimage?
- How do I hear God's Word in the world?
- What are my expectations about the justice issues of the place I will walk?

Questions for discussion, journaling or reflection after walking

- What places of beauty did I witness? What do I learn about God in beauty?
- What places of injustice did I witness? What do I learn about myself in injustice?
- What places of justice did I witness? What do I learn about God in justice?

Ongoing discussion

- How might we the church be transformed by taking our bodies out of the church into the world?
- How is your attention in the world (and with God) different when you are formally in pilgrimage?
- What will you take from this time forward as we journey towards the kingdom of God?

Further resources

Inspiring scripture, hymns, further reading and internet resources are all available in Pilgrimage Spirituality on the Move, Resources for 2024 booklet.



THE
Ecclesiastical Province
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