

Pilgrim Prayer

Leader: Lord of the journey
We walk
We run
We listen to you.

All: ***Come with us
Walk with us
Talk with us.***

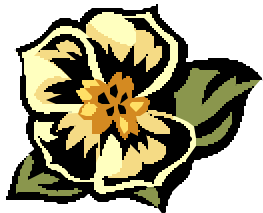
Leader: Lord of love
We yearn
We fail
We remember and forgive.

All: ***Come with us
Walk with us
Talk with us.***

Leader: Lord of hope
We strive
We serve
We search for you.

All: ***Come with us
Walk with us
Talk with us.***

Leader: Lord of love, we give thanks for
your guiding presence. Teach us love, now
and always.



Final Blessing: The Path

God bless the path on which you go
God bless the earth beneath your feet
God bless your destination

God be a smooth way before you
A guiding star above you
A keen eye behind you
This day, this night, and forever.

God be with you whatever you pass
Jesus be with you whatever you climb
Spirit be with you wherever you stay.

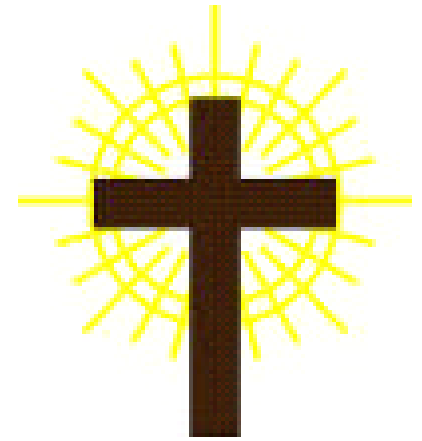
God be with you at each stop and each sea
At each lying down and each rising up
In the trough of the waves, on the crest of the
billows
Each step of the journey you take.
—Ray Simpson, *Celtic Blessings*

Conclusion: Sign of Peace

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.



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Come and Journey With Me

**“There is only
one journey—
going inside yourself.”**

—Rainer Maria Rilke



Call to Worship

The metaphor of the journey runs through Scripture and Tradition to our modern forms of story telling. This powerful image helps us to locate our place in the development of our souls. It helps us to understand our reluctant movement from the comfort and security of what we know to our unknown, the newness of our Promised Land. It traces our travails in the desert and our mountaintop visions.

In the mighty name of God,
In the saving name of Jesus
In the strong name of the Spirit,
We come
We cry
We watch
We wait
We look
We long
For you.

-David Adam, *The Open Gate*, 13

Reader 1: God calls Abraham to settle in Canaan.
Reader 2: But I will be a stranger in a strange land.
Reader 3: "Go and know that I am God."

Reader 1: God brings the Israelites out of Egypt
Reader 2: But in the freedom of the desert we longed for the security of Egypt.
Reader 3: "I will be your God and You will be my people".

Reader 1: Once again, the Jewish people are exiled, this time in Babylon.
Reader 2: By the waters of Babylon we wept.
Reader 3: "Comfort my people, Comfort"

Reader 1: The apostles journeyed to the ends of the earth spreading the Gospel

Reader 2: Sometimes to praise sometimes to martyrdom

Reader 3: "I will be with you, always."

Leader: God of the Journey
We walk with you
We pray with you
We celebrate with you.

Responsive Prayer: Draw Near

Leader: As we journey through life, we face fear of the unknown, doubts, hesitations, anxieties, and insecurities...

Response: Draw near, O God, draw near!

Leader: Life is an unfolding mystery, sometimes a painful search and sometimes a wonderful discovery. When our hearts are restless because they are pilgrim hearts whose home is not here ...

Response: Draw near, O God, draw near!

Leader: When our footsteps grow weary, when we stumble along the way, when discouragement and doubt easily come forth to greet us ...

Response: Draw near, O God, draw near!

Leader: We are always learning what to leave behind and what to take with us as we move along the road of life. As we struggle to make good decisions ...

Response: Draw near, O God, draw near!

Leader: We encounter you, God, continually in the constant cycle of setting out and coming home. Sometimes we allow life to be so busy as we travel that we miss your presence. When we need to slow our hectic pace ...

Response: Draw near, O God, draw near!

Leader: Expectancy, anticipation, and courage rise up in our beings when we are open to Your ways, God of the wilderness. As we search for reasons to hope ...

Response: Draw near, O God, draw near!

Leader: In our journeying, we need a strong conviction about the goodness and beauty of life, a vision of hope that endures pain and struggle, and a thread of love that weaves through all of our dreams. When we try to hold on to what gives our life meaning and purpose...

Response: Draw near, O God, draw near!

—Joyce Rupp,
Out of the Ordinary

