Walking together, working together, praying together

pilgrimage of justice and peace
Join the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace!

Walk in the Spirit!

Change the world!

The Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace is an initiative of the member churches of the World Council of Churches, united in fellowship for the sake of the world. A collaborative way for churches everywhere to respond to the steep challenges presented by today's world, the pilgrimage summons the churches, Christians everywhere, and all people of good will to journey together in their efforts toward justice and peace, experiencing renewal and transformation while addressing ecology and economy, conflict and human dignity. Let's walk in solidarity toward God's realm of justice on earth.

What is the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace?

The Pilgrimage is an ecumenical journey of faith and discovery in which the worldwide fellowship of churches asks all Christians to deepen their relationship with God and each other by joining in prayer, witness and service for justice and peace.

Every pilgrimage is a sacred journey to a place of encounter with God, opening ourselves up to new friendships, vistas, depths of commitment. Today we are called as Christians to journey together in faith and to discover new engagements with God in the suffering and needs of other people and the imperilled earth.

Why “Pilgrimage”?

A spiritual tradition common to nearly all religions, pilgrimage is an age-old religious practice, in which devotees embark on a faith-led journey, often in groups, to a place deemed sacred, such as a shrine, offering thanks, seeking forgiveness or reconciliation, searching for peace or enlightenment.

For many centuries, Christians have traveled on pilgrimage to the Holy Land or other holy places. In fact, as disciples of an itinerant healer, Christians have always been pilgrims, a “people of the way,” following in Jesus’ footsteps to meet people’s lives and needs and to testify, through concrete actions, to God’s love for the world.

Where is the Pilgrimage going?

The Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace may entail short or long physical journeys, across the street or around the world. But at its heart the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace means taking real
steps to meet human need in cooperative action for justice that will also transform ourselves and our churches.

The WCC invites all people to discern those places of pain and possibility where they can bring creativity, solidarity, and energy to enhancing the human good and the integrity of creation. The world desperately needs the intelligence and commitment of all religiously committed people to address economic and climate justice, conflict and violence, and affronts to human dignity.

Through the pilgrimage, each person and each community can discern where their gifts and traditions best align with human need; where they might find partner churches, organizations, or others who are concerned; and how they can step forward together in community action, programmatic alliance, ecumenical or interreligious contact, theological reflection, or local or international political action and advocacy—for justice and peace.

How can I join the Pilgrimage?

Together churches and their ecumenical partners, on their own and cooperating internationally, are the main actors in the pilgrimage. Still, this pilgrimage is an invitation as well as an opportunity for individuals, parishes, and communities to participate in the movement of justice and peace. This process of transformation will include experience, sharing, listening, praying, penance, witnessing, awareness-building, reflecting and acting.

The following questions may help you to prepare for the pilgrimage in your own family, local church or community, together in ecumenical fellowship:

1. What do some of the stories of the Bible—from Abraham and Sarah to Jesus—teach us about pilgrimage and journeying with God?

2. What is my own experience with pilgrimage, or how do I see my religious life as a pilgrimage? How does pilgrimage relate to justice and peace?

3. Where are we, as a community, in the on-going journey of faith and in the work of justice and peace? How do we acknowledge and celebrate that place?

4. If we are to find God in the wounds and needs of others, what are the most important and pressing needs in our own context? What should be our focus?

5. How can we learn more about and engage with those needs?

6. What gifts and resources can we bring to the situation? With whom can we partner in ecumenical fellowship on this journey?

7. What are realistic possibilities for transforming injustice and violence?

8. How can we sustain our action in prayer and solidarity on the way?
As persons and communities of faith, we are invited by God to join this divine journey with joy, humility, courage and commitment, praying:

We are a community of pilgrims on the move. We journey together toward life in all its fullness. We pray for God’s guidance and inspiration, so that our pilgrimage will open us to one another for justice. God of life, lead us to be living instruments of your justice and peace!

Where do I learn more?

Want to know more about the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace? Want to get involved? Please:

Go to the Pilgrimage website for more information. wccpilgrimage.org

Get in touch with others through social media at wccpilgrimage.org

Convene people in your congregation or your community to reflect together on your pilgrimage possibilities.

Work through the process of discernment shown in the Pilgrimage infographic (wccpilgrimage.org) or the congregational resource, Preparing for Pilgrimage (oikoumene.org/pilgrimage-guide). Share your reflections and experiences on the website through comments or tweets.

Get in touch with leaders in your church to help you coordinate with partner congregations or organizations in your community or around the world.

Contact persons in your church body or in the WCC who coordinate programmatic work on climate justice, economic justice, youth, gender justice, conflict resolution and peacemaking, health and healing, Christian dialogue, or interreligious dialogue. Go to: oikoumene.org.
The WCC is a worldwide fellowship of churches calling all Christians to unity, a common witness and service in the name of Christ. The WCC is a fellowship of 345 member churches who together represent more than half a billion Christians around the world. The WCC joins with Evangelicals, Pentecostals and Roman Catholics to witness to the love of Christ in a world where hope and solidarity are the seeds for justice and peace. The WCC seeks the unity of all Christians in a common Eucharist and expression of Christ’s love, so that all may believe.