

PILGRIMAGE

Eco Liturgy
St James's Church Piccadilly

Led by Sara Mark
Sunday 26 April 2026

Preparation

We prepare ourselves for the journey by first coming Home to ourselves.

Feet steady on the ground, breathing - slow and regular.

Let the Plane trees teach us rooted 'steadfastness', Robin her attentiveness and tiny Wren their bravery. Let us learn the tenderness of newly sprung grass and be irrepressible as spring leaves.

But let us carry our sorrow and fear with us too, for all is harvest - offer it to the road's unfolding, to soil's embrace, to the safe-keeping and transformation of the **Gate-Keeper of the Way**.

CAMINO

The way forward, the way between things,
the way already walked before you,
the path disappearing and reappearing even
as the ground gave way beneath you,
the grief apparent only in the moment
of forgetting, then the river, the mountain,
the lifting song of the Sky Lark inviting
you over the rain filled pass when your legs
had given up, and after...

... here to walk under one name and one name only,
and to find the guise under which all loss can live;
remember, you were given that name every day
along the way, remember, you were greeted as such,
and treated as such and you needed no other name,
other people seemed to know you even before
you gave up being a shadow on the road
and came into the light, even before you sat down,
broke bread and drank wine,
wiped the wind-tears from your eyes:
pilgrim they called you,
pilgrim they called you again and again. Pilgrim.

- David Whyte

Pilgrimage

You are invited to travel through the garden, or your room, patio, park or a view from a window for the next 15 minutes - to experience these places anew. Step by step, moment by moment travel from Home towards Home with your pilgrim kin, present, seen and unseen.

Move slowly **moonwards** (anti-clockwise) or **sunwards** (clockwise). Be aware of the stars and the whirling planets above and below you. Here in London, Jupiter is now hovering on the western horizon, Venus lies close to Sol (Sun) and Luna (Moon) is growing full fat and luminous, she is 9 days old. Far under our feet is Earth's rocky mantle, her fiery core, the Pacific Ocean in whom swim Whales, Seals, Sea Otters and Turtles. And out, out 1.2 billion kilometres beyond, ringed Saturn spins his 146 moons under our feet.

Halfway around the garden under the Plane tree, you will find a plate of nuts and slices of fruit to sustain you. Walk dear Pilgrims!

"Bien Camino"

Pilgrim greeting (tr. "Travel well on the path')

Time for Sharing...

Returning Home...

Hope your road is a long one.
May there be many summer mornings when,
with what pleasure, what joy,
you enter harbours you're seeing for the first time...

Keep Ithaka always in your mind.
Arriving there is what you're destined for.
But don't hurry the journey at all.
Better if it lasts for years,
so you're old by the time you reach the island,
wealthy with all you've gained on the way,
not expecting Ithaka to make you rich.

Ithaka gave you the marvelous journey.
Without her you wouldn't have set out.
She has nothing left to give you now.

And if you find her poor, Ithaka won't have fooled you.
Wise as you will have become, so full of experience,
you'll have understood by then what these Ithakas mean.

From Ithaka by Constantine Cavafy (1911)

Ending...

May the blessing of God, the eternal goodwill of God, the shalom of God, the wildness and the warmth of God, be among us and between us, now and always.

So be it.

Blessing by Jim Cotter

