

A prayer for the journey

Sometimes, God, the hardest thing is to put one foot in front of the other and start walking.
Sometimes the hardest thing is the third step. Or the onehundredth.
Please be near us as we try to walk our roads and paths,
as we navigate missing signs and conflicting directions,
as the head-wind is strong and the hills are steep.

We pray for our companions on our lives' journeys.
For the temporary ones, that share our lives but for a moment,
and for the ones that are with us to the end.
We thank you for the people with whom to share of our provisions,
our pains, our joys, for figuring our the way ahead together.
We thank you, God, for sending people our way,
and we ask you to be a source of comfort for those who walk alone.

We pray for the Earth and the nature that surrounds us every day.
We thank you for the glorious flowers of spring and the glowing leaves of fall,
for the ripening fruits and seeds of summer, and the rest that winter brings.
We pray for the people working to protect and serve your Creation,
and for the young people who are the voices of a better, more responsible future.
We ask you, God, for the courage to walk along them.

We thank you for your son Jesus Christ, who was a walker like us.
We thank you for the sharing of bread and wine, of stories and water,
of comfort and community.
We thank you for the hardship of the journey, that brings us closer together,
and for the joys, that we may be able to walk a little farther.
This year has been hard, God, and we pray for lighter days ahead.
For an end to racism and bigotry.
For an end to pandemics and disasters.
For peace and justice.

And we pray together with St Bridget: Lord, show us your way, and make us willing to walk it.

Amen.

Acts 8:26-40 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) **27** So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship **28** and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. **29** Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." **30** So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" **31** He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to

get in and sit beside him. **32** Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” **35** Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. **36** As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”^[b] **38** He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip^[c] baptized him. **39** When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.