

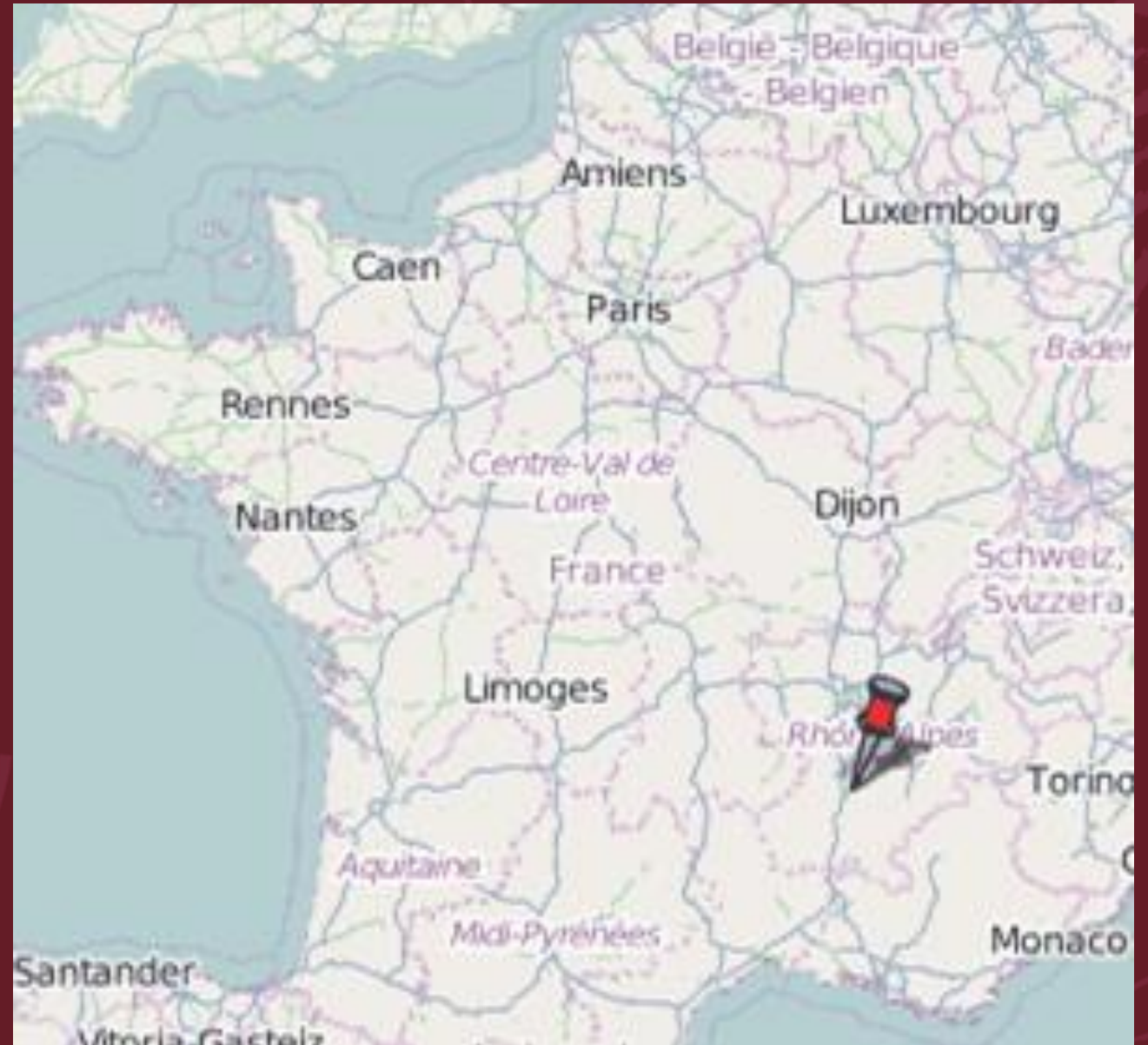
Places of Pilgrimage



Taizé, France

Taizé, France

**236 miles (4
hour drive)
from Paris**



My pilgrimage to Taizé, France

April 2003



Bless the Lord my Soul Taize





Iona, Scotland

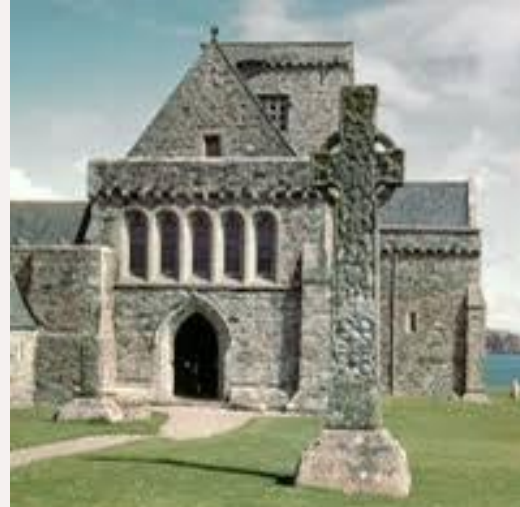


Isle of Iona ✕

**248 miles from
Edinburgh to Iona
(11 hour journey of
train, bus, and
ferries)**

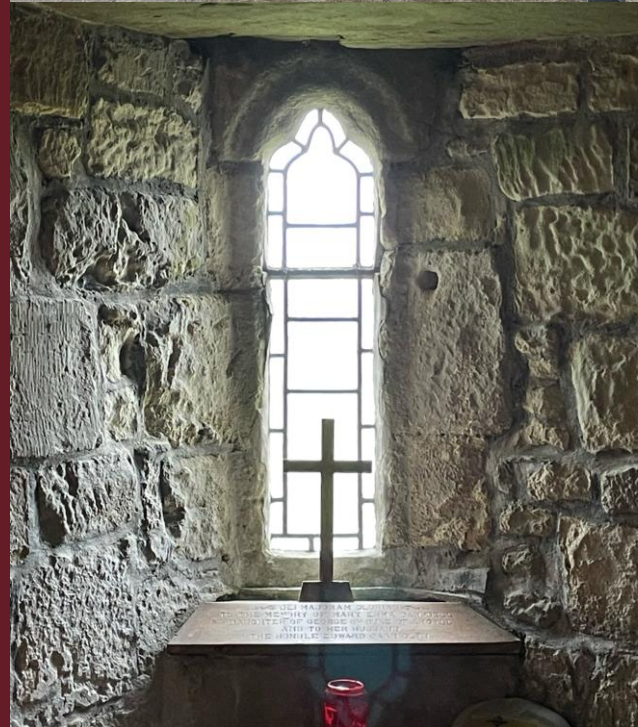
My pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland

September 2005



My family pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland

Sabbatical
June 2022



The Peace of the Earth be with You IONA

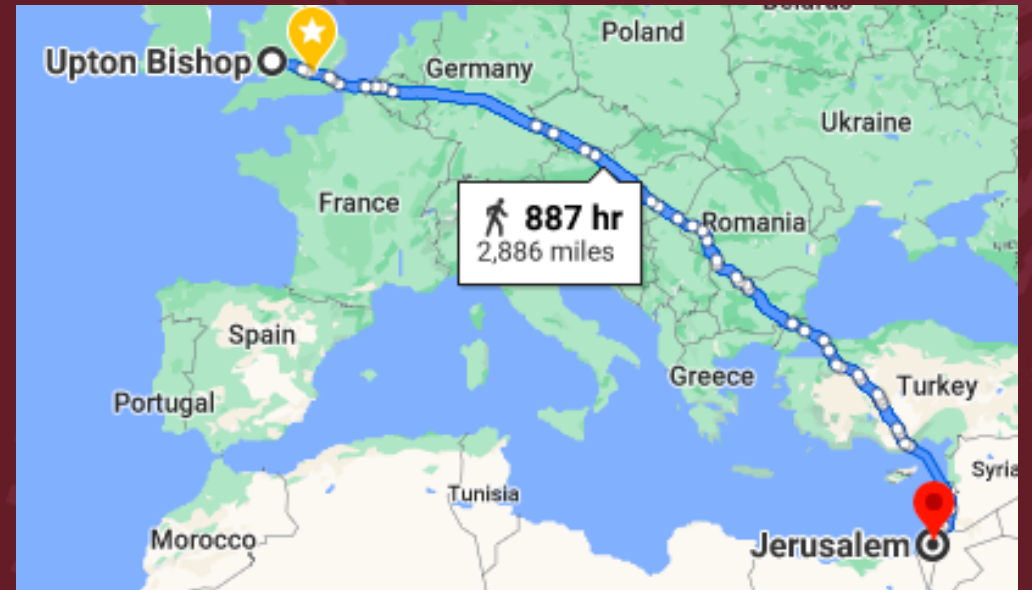


Holy Land, Israel-Palestine



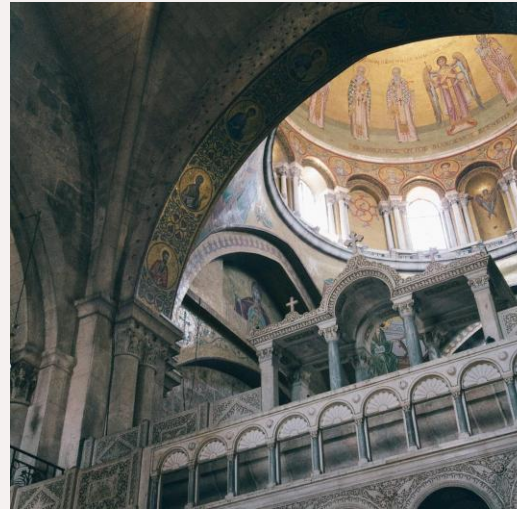
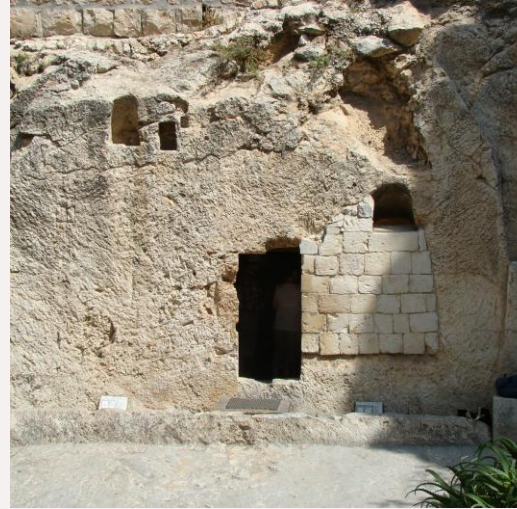
Jerusalem

**5970 miles from
Pittsburgh (as the crow
flies)
about 17 hours flight**



My pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Israel-Palestine

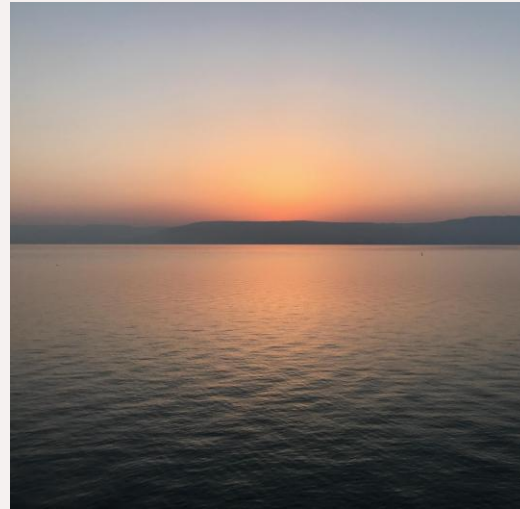
with Pastors group
Feb 2008



My pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Israel-Palestine

with members of
Community Presbyterian
Church of Ben Avon
and Sisters in Spirit

April 2018



I Want Jesus to Walk with Me ERIC BIBB





Malawi, Africa

MALAWI LOCATION MAP



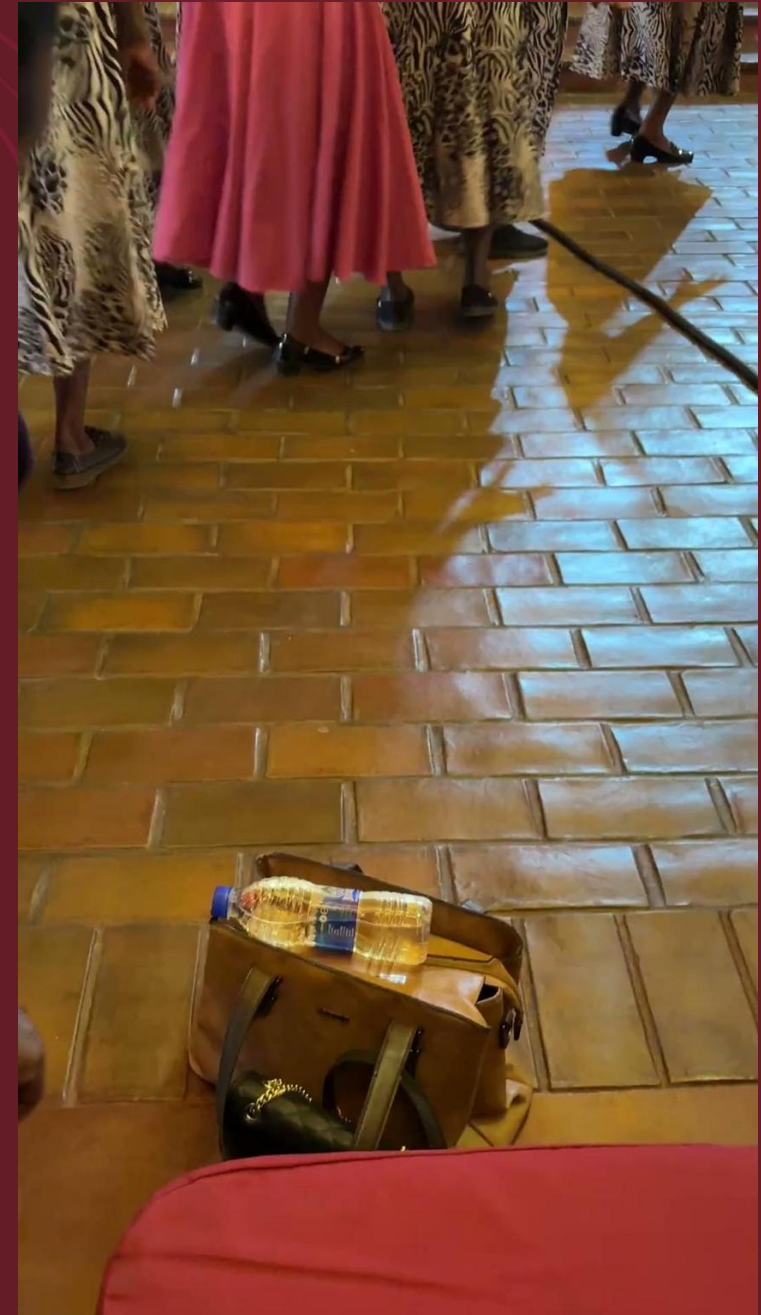
**8,228 miles from
Pittsburgh (about
30 hours travel
time)**

My pilgrimage to Malawi, Africa

October 2025



Palibe Ofananaye (3x)
(There's no one like him)
Ndayena, yenda ponse ponse
(I have walked everywhere)
Ndazungulira ponse ponse
(I have turned all around)
Ndafuna funa ponse ponse
(I have searched everywhere)
Sazapezekanso!
(That one will never be found)





The Walking Song

School for Orphans



Alleluia

Youth Choir



**El Camino de
Santiago, Spain**



800 km (500 miles) from France (taking 4-6 weeks)

Shorter options are available.

100 km (62 miles) qualifies as completion with passport stamp



My pilgrimage to El Camino with Brian August 2026

Sadie
9/2012–1/2026
RIP



Life is a Great Adventure

Gradually the Camino helped me see that every day is an adventure because every day is new. We have not lived that day before. Every space in our lives is unknown until we live it.

Approaching life in this way keeps it fresh, invigorating, alive, and inviting. There's something marvelous about stepping out each morning and touching new ground every step of the day.

Each movement becomes an opening for revelation. Every footstep announces another opportunity for expansion of one's limited version and view of the world.

How life-transforming it would be if each of us awakened to the new day with a sense of adventure in our hearts."

Joyce Rupp, *Walk in a Relaxed Manner: Life Lessons from the Camino*



Practices

Steps of Pilgrimage

1. Departure—the call to adventure

2. Initiation—a liminal state filled with trials and anxiety. But, here is often where unexpected help comes through human or angelic messengers who bring blessings

3. Return home—share what has been learned and how have been changed



Holy places carry with them that potential of transcendence, stepping out of time and out of character.

The very act of going on pilgrimage might be seen as making the body do what the soul desires, giving those spiritual yearnings a practical, material basis.



Everyday pilgrims



A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step

Walk This Way...

- In each of dwells a wanderer, a gypsy, a pilgrim. The purpose is to call forth that spirit. What matters most on your journey is how deeply you see, how attentively you hear, how richly the encounters are felt in your heart and soul...
- Pilgrimage is the art of movement, the poetry of motion, the music of personal experience of the sacred in places where it has been known to shine forth.

(Phil Cousineau, *The Art of Pilgrimage*, xxxvi)

A Blessing for Pilgrims



- May flowers spring up where your feet touch the earth.
- May the feet that walked before you bless your every step.
- May the weather that's important be the weather of your heart.
- May all of your intentions find their way into the heart of God.
- May your prayers be like flowers strewn for other pilgrims.
- May your heart find meaning in unexpected events.
- May friends who are praying for you carry you along the way.
- May friends who are praying for you be carried in your heart.
- May the circle of life encircle you along the way.
- May the broken world ride on your shoulders.
- May you carry your joy and your grief in the backpack of your soul.
- May you remember all the circles of prayer throughout the world.

-Macrina Wiederkehr



Questions?
Comments?