

A Pilgrim's Creed

We believe in God, who beckons us beyond our material comforts to step out into the world so as to find ourselves in the company of those sheltered alone by the compassion we extend.

We believe in the God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar; of Moses and of Ruth, of Jesus and of Mary Magdalene, of pilgrims and wayfarers, of migrants and refugees beckoned to travel uncertain distances down unpromising roads toward unknown destinations, who nevertheless place their trust in God to lead the way.

We believe in God, who dwells among the poorest of wayfarers — Salvadoran, Iraqi, Haitian, Afghani, Rohingya, Syrian, Guatemalan — who lives with them out in the open, on hidden trails and turbulent seas; in airport concourses and border detention centers; a God who knows what it is to leave one's home and who never abandons those who do.

We believe in God, who walks with all of us through history because he summons us to live it as did our forebears in faith — ever on their way to the Promised Land. We listen to them as they tell stories and convey the meaning of our journey. Through them we hear the divine yearning that we act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God.

We believe in God, who empowers faith communities in accompanying us, in reassuring us that we do not travel alone, that our burdens are shared and made even lighter when carried by many hands.

We believe in God, who became human so we can become ever more humane; God among us — divinity in humanity, humanity in divinity — who implores us to forgive one another and to discover the transcendent joy of loving one another — family, neighbor and enemy alike — just as God loves us.

And we believe in God, who, at the end of our journey, embraces us and welcomes us warmly to the feast of life, where there are no rich or poor, no privileged or outcast; where the only beggar at the banquet is God alone imploring each of us to come join our sisters and brothers at the table, there to realize that we are pilgrims and refugees no longer. We are home.

—*Greg Darr*