People are gathering in Ottawa and across Canada today to Walk for Reconciliation, welcoming in the final gathering of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, which will issue its final report and recommendations on June 2. We walk in hope for justice as so many others have at other such moments in history. As we walk, let us think about the road that we are making, the road to renewed relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Some of us are meeting for church at this time. This meditation is designed for those who would like to take some time during the walk to reflect biblically and theologically on the journey. Please use these brief readings and questions to help guide your thoughts on this journey.

**AS WE LOOK FORWARD**

Wanderer, your footsteps are the road, and nothing more; Wanderer, there is no road, the road is made by walking. By walking one makes the road, and upon glancing behind one sees the path that never will be trod again. Wanderer, there is no road

Only wakes upon the sea.

—Antonio Machado, Campos de Castilla

- **What are you leaving behind on this path?**
- **What are you committing on the path that lies ahead?**

**AS WE DISPERSE**

God, reconciliation is a big word, Help me to always listen with my heart, as well as my ears. Help me to see with my heart, as well as my eyes. Help me to speak the truth, and to listen for the truth And then I will be on the path towards reconciliation. Amen

KAIROS unites eleven Canadian churches and religious organizations in a faithful ecumenical response to the call to “do justice, and love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). We deliberate on issues of common concern, advocate for social justice, and join with people of faith and goodwill in action for social transformation.

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We Make the Road by Walking
Meditation for the Reconciliation Walk, May 31, 2015
Prepared by KAIROS
AS WE GATHER
Creator God, our country has journeyed for six years in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process, seeking understanding, healing, and reconciliation.
It has not always been an easy path, but we have sought to walk it together.
We have tried to listen to each other's stories.
We have sought to understand without judgment.
We have noted the differences in values and traditions, but also the places where we share values and traditions.
We are all your children.
You embrace all in your love.
You call us now to reflect that love to each other.
You call us to be brothers and sisters on the path to reconciliation. Amen.

AS WE SET OUT
Legs are not lips and walking is not kneeling.
And yet our legs uttered songs.
Even without words, our march was worship.
I felt my legs were praying.
—Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel on the Selma Civil Rights March, 1965
• How is your body praying today?
• What is your prayer?

AS WE JOURNEY
The reflection for this section is a poem called “Reconciliation,” written by Rebeka Tabobondung. We have broken it into sections for purposes of reflection, but please take time to read it as a whole as well.
We are waking up to our history from a forced slumber
We are breathing it into our lungs so it will be a part of us again
It will make us angry at first because we will see how much you stole from us and for how long you watched us suffer
we will see how you see us and how when we copied your ways we killed our own.
• Take this moment to breathe in and out as you walk. Feel each breath. What do you feel?
• What do these feelings impel you towards?
We will cry and cry and cry because we can never be the same again
But we will go home to cry and we will see ourselves in this huge mess and we will gently whisper the circle back and it will be old and it will be new.
• Where do you think you are in “this huge mess”?
• Where are you in the circle?
Then we will breathe our history back to you you will feel how strong and alive it is and you will feel yourself become a part of it and it will shock you at first because it is too big to see all at once and you won’t want to believe it you will see how you see us and all the disaster in your ways how much we lost.
• Take this moment to breathe in and out as you walk. Feel each breath. What do you feel?
• What do these feelings impel you towards?
And you will cry and cry and cry because we can never be the same again but we will cry with you and we will see ourselves in this huge mess and we will gently whisper the circle back and it will be old and it will be new.
• Where are you now in “this huge mess”?
• Where are you now in the circle?