

# Pilgrimage AT A PARK

## Bursting Forth

 *begin here*

**STOP**  
**1**

**CANOE LIVERY**

As you take the first steps of this walk, all alone or six feet away from a walking partner/s, feel the way your legs and body burst forth, through the air, through the natural landscape, through the succession of silent thoughts or the communion with another, through the faithfulness that sustains you, through the grace with which God surrounds you. One step follows another, one breath follows another, one sight follows another, one prayer of thanks follows another.

Water, brush, cement pillars. Though the scene seems one of stillness, it erupts with life's energy busting forth. Leaf buds push themselves through the surface of branches. Water roils along the riverbed. Painted green trees on man-made structures dance with the artist's imagination. Cracks on the walkway witness to thousands of footfalls. Walking faithfully helps us become aware of God's grace around us. As you walk to the next stopping point, inhale the small details of God's grace bursting forth to guide your way.

**PARK BENCH**

**STOP**  
**2**

**STOP**  
**3**

**PLAYGROUND**

The sign reads "a place for all to play together," for children and for the "child" in every adult. Pleasure bursts forth in children's squeals of joy, in their busy feet, in the smiles of parents and bystanders and their cherished memories of childhood. It is sometimes hard to be in our bodies, to give ourselves over to pleasures and that sense of exuberant joy. As you walk along this place for play, give yourself over to the rhythm of your body, to the wonder of your eyes, to the ears filled with the sounds of birds and human voices, to the lightness of God and her abundant joyousness

An engraved rock announces the bridge taking you to the other side of the water. Commemorating the first twenty-five years of friendship between sister cities Ann Arbor and Hikone, Japan, the rock captures in image and text the desire for more enduring bridge-building and a more sustainable world community. As you cross the bridge, remember back to bridges you have crossed to worlds bursting with generative differences, a profound otherness through which we know ourselves differently, burst through our complacencies and certainties, and understand how unlimited is the imagination of God.

**SISTER CITIES ROCK**

**STOP**  
**4**

# Pilgrimage AT A PARK

## Bursting Forth (con't)

STOP  
5

CANOE FLOWER



A huge sculpture welcomes you, a representation of an opening flower or the sun bursting forth in morning or leaving bursts of light behind as it slips under the horizon. With an adjustment of the eye, the sculpture becomes an assemblage of nine canoes riddled with holes through which light scatters. This alchemy of transformation remakes canoes as symbolic of life force. As you complete your walk, think of those moments when you experienced a burst of enlightenment, a reorientation of vision that changed how you see nature, people, and God's encompassing grace.

*finish here*



Now that you've returned to where you began this walk, you might take a moment to thank your feet and knees and legs and hips, your muscles and fascia, your nose and eyes and ears, the arms that orient you and the body's core that holds you upright, and the heart and the brain that have opened to God's transcendent grace.

CANOE LIVERY



STOP  
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