

Sermon Series

Place

Rooted, Uprooted,
Re-Routed



Place

**inhabited
familiar**

**full of...
relationships
stories
meaning**

Space

**vacant
free**

**open
fillable
usable**

a backdrop



“Undifferentiated space becomes significant place by virtue of our familiarity with it”

John Inge (*A Christian Theology of Place*)



“Place is a declaration that our humanness cannot be found in escape, detachment, absence of commitment, and undefined freedom.”

Brueggemann (*The Land*)



Today!

Genesis 1 + 2 through the lens of place

What do we celebrate? What do we steward? How do share place?



Narrative arc of “place” in scripture

rooted in creation

uprooted, scattered, and in exile

rerouted toward new creation



Take a moment to think of a place you feel connected to. Keep this in mind as we continue.



“In the beginning God...”

Genesis 1:1



God as Triune means...

- community
- mutual flourishing
- overflowing love



“Something very important about God’s love is being communicated here [in Creation]: God does not keep love as something to be hoarded or jealously enclosed within Godself, but instead God wants to share and extend to others all the goodness and joy that God’s eternal life is.”

Norman Wirzba



**“Now the earth was formless and empty,
darkness was over the surface of the
deep...”**

Genesis 1:2



“And God saw that it was good...”

Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31



“Place is primarily a relational concept. When the Creator made our world, he was creating *the* place for relationship between God and all of creation...God always gives the good news of the welcoming desire for relationship [with us] in a particular place.”

Randy Woodley



Take a moment to think of a place you feel connected to. What is something you celebrate about that place? Share with the person next to you.



“Then the Lord God formed an *adam* (i.e. man) from the *adama* (i.e. dust of the ground)”

Genesis 2:7



“We rightly remember that we have something of God in us, but we tend to forget the equal claim that the soil lays upon us. For us in this generation, the call to discipleship may well be a call to remember our kinship with fertile earth.”

Ellen Davis



“As I come to recognize...my ecosystem, I come to recognize myself as an earthly being that takes part in this ecosystem. Breath in my lungs and soil beneath my feet--these connect me to all creation. Water. Apples. Toothpaste. Morning coffee.... Everything I do is connected to something else.”

Liane Miedema Brown



**“Now the Lord God had planted a garden
in the east, in Eden; and there he put the
adam he had formed”**

Genesis 2:8



To be rooted requires..

- **attention**
- **shared history**
- **familiarity**



Take a moment to reflect on a place you feel connected to. What is one non-human being that shares that place with you? Can you imagine that they are also directly connected to God?



“It is rare for any of us, by deliberate choice to sit still and weave ourselves into a place, so that we know the wildflowers and rocks and politicians, so that we recognize faces wherever we turn, so that we feel a bond with everything in sight.

1 of 2



The challenge, these days, is to be somewhere as opposed to nowhere, actually to belong to some particular place, invest oneself in it, draw strength and courage from it, to dwell not simply in a career or a bank account but in a community...Once you commit yourself to place, you begin to share responsibility for what happens there.”

Scott Russell Sanders

