

Sermon Series



# Place

Rooted, Uprooted,  
Re-Routed



**Last week!**

**Genesis 1 & 2 through the lense of place**





## **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 primarily a relational concept.”**

- Randy Woodley



**Since last week!**

**Any stories about being attentive to or celebrating your places?**





**Narrative arc of “place” in scripture**

**rooted in creation**

**uprooted, scattered, and in exile**

**rerouted toward new creation**



# **Today!**

**What do we grieve about our places?  
How do we continue placemaking when  
we are disconnected from place?**



**“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







Image by  
Joy Banks



**Humans as gardeners and caretakers: our outsized impact makes us responsible to attend to the whole**





Image by  
Joy Banks



## **Disconnected from other creatures**

**“So the Lord God said to the serpent, ‘I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.’**

**Genesis 3:14-15**



**Disconnected from each other and ourselves:**

**“To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labour you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”**

**Genesis 3:16**



**Disconnected from the ground:**

**“Cursed is the ground because of you.  
Through painful toil you will eat food from it  
all the days of your life. It will produce thorns  
and thistles for you, and you will eat the  
plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow  
you will eat your food until you return to  
the ground, since from it you were  
taken; for dust you are and to dust  
you will return”**

**Genesis 3:17-19**





**Sometimes, our attempts to make a place for ourselves can actually be what displaces another person.**



**Take a moment to think of a place you feel connected to. What's something you grieve about that place or your relationship to it? Share with the person next to you.**



**God's tabernacling with us, turns  
wanderers and exiles into sojourners**



**“The sojourner is a homemaker, but a homemaker who is potentially on the move.”**

Brian Walsh and Steven Bouma-Prediger  
*Beyond Homelessness*







Image by Joy Banks



**Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have kids; marry off your kids, so that they too can have kids. Increase in number there; don't dwindle away. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city where you're exiled. Pray to the Lord for that place, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.**

**Jeremiah 29:5-7, paraphrased**



**“The homeland for which the sojourner yearns is not some other world, but this world redeemed and transfigured.”**

Brian Walsh & Steven Bouma-Prediger



**“Because the kingdom of God is not yet realized in its fullness...Christian sojourners are aching visionaries who bear witness to and work for a future of shalom”**

Brian Walsh and Stephen Bouma-Prediger





**“The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood”**

John 1:14 *The Message*



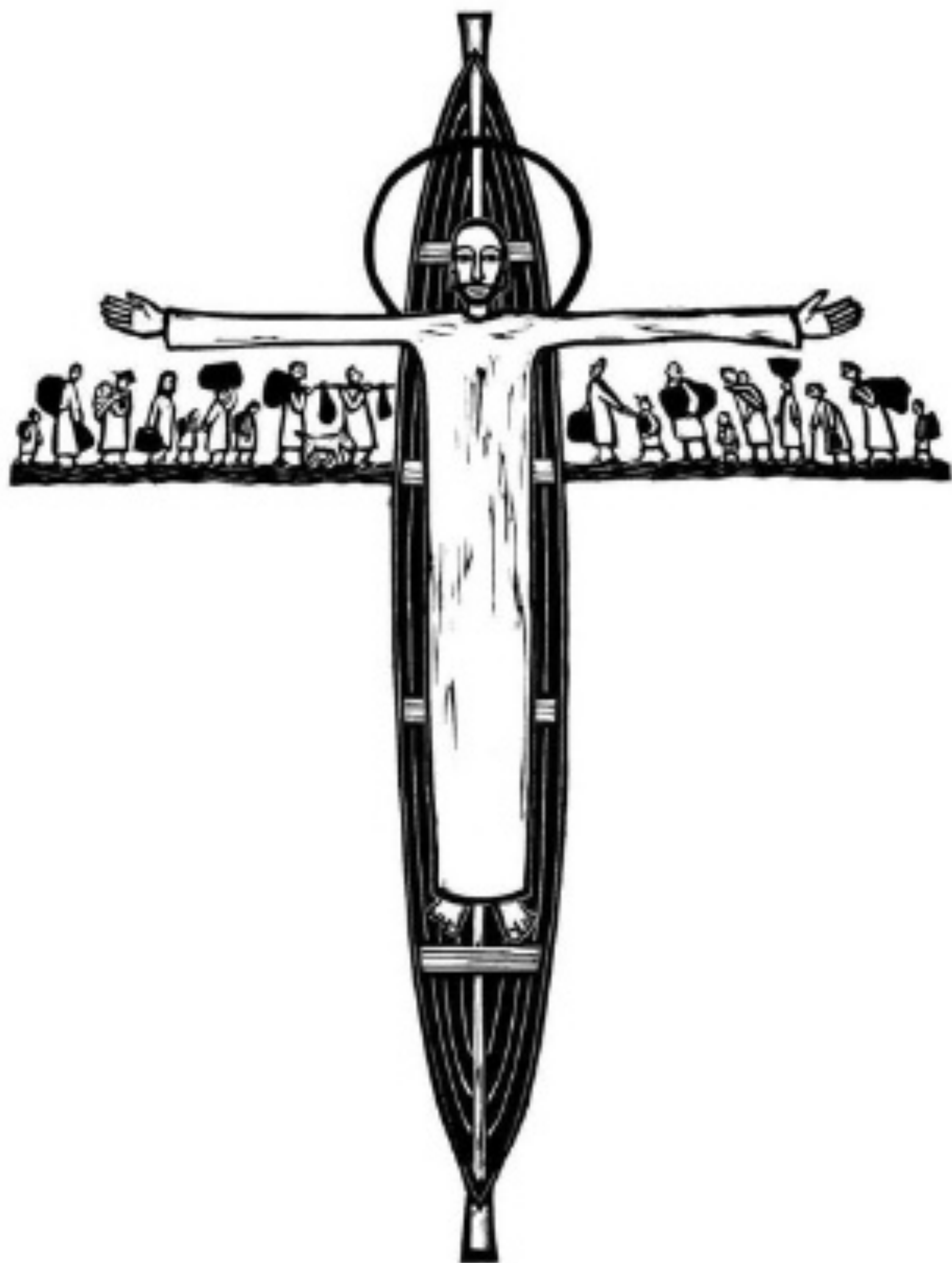


Image by  
Joy Banks

**“Jesus is God fully entering into our pain and wounds, working to transform them from within. Jesus is God living our questions, frustrations, and struggles. Jesus is God creating new life in the midst of brokenness.”**

Norman Wirzba, *Way of Life*



**“Jesus is God physically embracing the torn fabric of our lives, working to mend and make beautiful the tapestry of Creation.”**

Norman Wirzba, *Way of Life*





**Take a moment to think about a place  
you feel connected to.**

**Imagine that Jesus loves that place as  
much as you do.**

**Share with a neighbour what this  
brings up for you.**













**“Our immigrant plant teachers offer a lot of different models for how not to make themselves welcome on a new continent. Garlic mustard poisons the soil so that native species will die.”**

Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*



**“Tamarisk uses up all the water. Foreign invaders like loosestrife, kudzu, and cheat grass have the colonizing habit of taking over others’ homes and growing without regard to limits.**

Robin Wall Kimmerer



**“But Plantain is not like that. Its strategy was to be useful, to fit into small places, to coexist with others....Plantain is so prevalent, so well integrated, that we think of it as native. It has earned the name bestowed by botanists for plants that have become our own. Plantain is not Indigenous but ‘naturalized.’”**

Robin Wall Kimmerer





**joining God in the renewal of all things...**

**receiving and extending the sojourning  
presence of God**

