

Sermon Series

Place

Rooted, Uprooted,
Re-Routed



Narrative Arc of “Place” in Scripture

ROOTED

UPROOTED

RE-ROUTED



Uprooted: celebrating & grieving with...

The DTES

The Japanese Hall

Our neighbourhoods

Refugees & forcibly displaced peoples



**The *ger* (refugee, vulnerable migrant,
foreigner, sojourner, alien)**



Dominant ethical concerns of Deuteronomy:

1. Slavery: providing pathways out; protecting rights
2. Widows, orphans, foreigners/refugees: providing safety and ensuring survival



Deuteronomy 10:15,17-19

The Lord showed his **love** to your ancestors....The Lord your God...shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow and **loves** the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to **love** those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.



Love

1. Steadfast loyalty (solidarity of a treaty)
2. Kinship belonging (solidarity of a family)
3. Emotional connection (solidarity of feeling)



Deuteronomy 10:19

You are to love those who are foreigners,
for *you yourselves were foreigners
in Egypt.*



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foreigners in Egypt.*

- displacement is part of all our stories
- displacement is a sign of our shared vulnerability
- the welcome we receive from God is meant to be offered in solidarity to others



Solidarity with those who are displaced

- New Hope Community Services (Surrey)
- Inasmuch (Abbotsford)
- Journey Home (Burnaby)
- Kinbrace (East Vancouver)



Values & practices that support solidarity

- Welcome: *We are in solidarity: bearing witness to exile, we live with refugee claimants*
- Trust: *We are a community: affirming dignity, we commit to the best in one another*



Values & practices that support solidarity

- Mutual Transformation: *We are diverse: striving to listen well, we learn and grow*
- Celebration: *We are grateful: amidst joy and sorrow, we discover hope*
- Prayer: *We are sojourners: held by grace, we journey into the mystery and love of God*



Learning about prayer from people who have been displaced

Recording made for Becoming Neighbours workshops (2023)



Jesus is even better news
embodying this solidarity in community

