



Looking Out My Window, January 14, 2022

"You have a relationship to a place through the body. It is no wonder that humans have always been fascinated by place. Place offers us a home here; without place we would literally have no where.

Landscape is the ultimate where, and in landscape the house that we call home is our ultimate place."\* [John O'Donohue, *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom* (New York: Harper/Collins, 1998), p. 44.]

O'Donohue, steeped in the Celtic spirituality of his region had much profound to say about landscapes. The Celtic perspective perceives God interwoven in the landscape of creation. "In the Celtic tradition the gift of creation is essentially a self-giving of God." [J Philip Newell, *The Book of Creation* (Paulist, 1999), p. xii.]

Landscape soaks in through our pores, and embraces our existence like the warmth of a wood fire on a chilly evening. We become interwoven with place; it shapes our consciousness and our perceptions of reality. I grew up in an edge place in southern Louisiana. There the English-speaking culture of northern and central Louisiana mingled with the Cajun, French-speaking culture of Acadania. There, the rolling hills gave way to the gulf coastal prairie. There the agricultural practices and timber harvesting of the hill country gave way to rice farming.

Reflecting back, I have become aware how thoroughly I relish those boundary places. I grew up in one, and my perceptions and preferences have been molded by that landscape, that cultural mix, and my having been interwoven into it from childhood. God revealed Godself to me in landscape as one who specialized in working in and from the edges, interweaving difference into a complex, lovely tapestry.

In this Epiphany season, we can celebrate our Creator's gracious love and all the ways that love has come to us via our experience of landscape. And, we can devote ourselves to becoming even more fully engaged with and conscious of our landscape and all the gifts it brings to our experience.

God's peace,

David+

Fr. David, Interim Rector