





As you venture into the labyrinth imagine releasing your concerns, getting rid of the pressures of the day.

In the centre pause to receive renewed strength from
the Spirit of God.

Light your candle

We thought we were just holding our breath
But it's time to grow gills



Home by Another Route by Paul Bradbury
says exile is a metaphor for our times

What is it like to be exiled?

What is it like to be exiled?
to lose home?

What is it like to be exiled?
to lose home?
to lose the temple?

What is it like to be exiled?
to lose home?
to lose the temple?
to be in a strange land?

What is it like to be exiled?
to lose home?
to lose the temple?
to be in a strange land?
to feel abandoned by God?

“We need to be communities of
sadness that name the losses”

“This community of sadness has as its work the countering of a ‘culture of denial’ which continues to imagine that it is as it was, even when our experience tells us otherwise.”

What loss do you want to name?

“Defining reality is an act of empowerment, because it orients people in a way that allows them to proceed with the facts as they currently stand. Without this act of truth telling, a legitimate hope can never emerge.”

What truth do you want to tell?

“One of the characteristics of the literature of the exile is the number of questions. Certainty and assertiveness seem to have given way to a different attitude which welcomes questions, openly without directly answering them.”

What questions do you want to ask?

“Jeremiah writing to the exiles makes the radical suggestion that they should treat *Babylon* like home! His prophetic word to the exiles is to ‘build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce... marry and have children... seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile’ (Jeremiah 29).”

“That command was a direct challenge to the many voices among Israel’s leadership arguing that exile would be temporary.

Jeremiah’s prophecy opens up a whole new concept of home, a whole new way of being the people of God. *Shalom* needs not be the exclusive preserve of God’s people in a particular place and a particular structure of life. The *shalom* of God could take a journey, relocate, and be reimagined and re-expressed even in the most hostile and inhospitable of places, the city of Babylon.”

“Exile invites us to embrace positively a new way of being...”

Our focus is not the downfall of the system but the nurturing of dissident communities of life, characterised by the presence of God, the authentic expression of gospel-oriented lives and an attitude of open-hearted servanthood to those around us.”

Invite you to post in the chat:
the loss you want to name
the truth you want to tell
or a question you want to ask

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Doors 2020

We will not allow our gifts and talents to be hidden even if it feels safer and easier to do so

We will wedge the door open and enter the Kingdom through the door marked "create"

We will encourage all to contribute however difficult it might seem. There are no barriers that we can't overcome.

Our ideas are a gift offered to God

**There's a hook – we can keep the door open
and enter the Kingdom through the door
marked "participate"**

We will be hospitable and supportive to one another, to visitors and to the wider church in whatever way we can. We will engage with everyday life and connect with culture. We will keep each other safe.

Even if only 6 can join together, we'll use all our strength to stop the door from closing and we will enter the Kingdom through the door marked "engage"

We will not be afraid to fail but will push at our boundaries and try new things – ‘we should not long to return. We are being given the opportunity to stitch a new garment. One that fits all of humanity and nature’

We will find a new door marked "risk" and go through it.

**We will go through these doors in the power of
the Spirit knowing that Jesus has gone
through them all first**



On your way out of the labyrinth, focus on integrating that strength into your everyday life.

As we travel out, we'll say a prayer together

My Lord God I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

**And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am
doing.**

**I hope that I will never do anything apart from that
desire.**

**And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the
right road though I may know nothing about it.**

**Therefore I will trust you always
though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of
death.**

**I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.**



