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Ivana Noble	Embodied in the Landscape: How Places We Inhabit Shape Our Theology
František Štěch	Here I Am: A Prolegomena to Theology of the Landscape
Marion L. S. Carson	Sheer Grace: Psalm 88, Depression and the Dark Night of the Spirit
Michaela Vlčková	Human Body and 'Landscape Body' as Determining Factors of Liturgical Celebrating as a Ritual Activity: Theological and Anthropological Meanings
Viorel Coman	Dumitru Stăniloae's Theology of the World: Reflections on the Margins of the Relationship Between Humankind and Creation
Anne Marie Reijnen	Landscapes of the Spirit in the African American Experience: From the Lonesome Valley through the Deep River and the Mountaintop
Tim Noble	'The Mind Has Mountains': Gerard Manley Hopkins, Landscape and Poetry
Jan Lamser	Book review: Jürgen Moltmann, Hoffnung für eine unfertige Welt

[Content \(pdf\)](#)
[Title page \(pdf\)](#)

Embodied in the Landscape: How Places We Inhabit Shape Our Theology

Author:	Ivana Noble
Abstract:	The article examines where the modern concept of landscape came from and how it developed to hear both a physical and a symbolic meaning, associated in theology with the interrelationship between human beings, nature and God. Through close readings of the biblical and theological texts operating with the neighbouring images, such as the earth, the garden and the land, it examines various modes of human beings' relationship to their surrounding and through that to God, various interplays between nature, culture and eschatology. It shows why speaking about landscape (both physical and symbolic) is outside of property relations and how it helps in addressing issues of human and ecological solidarity. While the article pleads for human responsibility in relation to other people, nature and God, it also shows that such responsibility is possible because the divine creative energies continue to flow to this world, because Messiah comes to restore the broken forms of communion among people, nature and

	God, and the Spirit transforms us and accompanies us as we cooperate with the messianic work.
Keywords:	Creation - ecology - eschatology - landscape - earth - garden - Garden of Eden - land - Promised Land.
Cite As:	Noble, Ivana. "Embodied in the Landscape: How Places We Inhabit Shape Our Theology." <i>Communio Viatorum</i> 59, no. 2 (December 31, 2017): 130–47.

Here I Am: A Prolegomena to Theology of the Landscape

Author:	František Štěch
Abstract:	Theology of the landscape represents one of the possible ways of the human search for God. In this article, I argue that people usually perceive their life not only in the context of the nature, environment, landscape or places they live in, but also in relation to reality transcending the immanence of the world. Therefore, the introductory passage deals with the biblical phrase "where I am", which refers to one's own complete context, to the specific place within a network of multiple relationships. One of them is certainly a relationship of human beings to nature, living together in the landscape that is a metaphor of their mutual coexistence, a space of their mutual dialogue and creative encounter. Therefore, landscape could be seen as space organized from places where religious experience is lived and interpreted. Consequently, the first part of my article asks for a deeper understanding of the human-landscape relationship, and the second offers a preliminary thought on the theology of the landscape. Landscape is presented theologically as a liturgical space, where salvific revelation is perceived, incarnation is lived, resurrection confessed and the eschatological coming expected. Landscape is the space where God - Father, Son and the Holy Spirit - is invoked and experienced.
Keywords:	Landscape - theology - humanity - place - experience.
Cite As:	Štěch, František. "Here I Am: A Prolegomena to Theology of the Landscape." <i>Communio Viatorum</i> 59, no. 2 (December 31, 2017): 148–59.

Sheer Grace: Psalm 88, Depression and the Dark Night of the Spirit

Author:	Marion L. S. Carson
Abstract:	The inner landscape described in Psalm 88 is one of terrifying inner darkness, devoid of a sense of comfort or hope. As a result, the Psalm is often neglected as a resource for pastoral care and spiritual direction. It is the view of St John of the Cross, however, that this Psalm presents an example of the "dark night of the spirit". Adopting this interpretation as a hermeneutical tool, this article considers how Psalm 88 might be used to help people who are going through an experience of extreme spiritual dislocation and distress.
Keywords:	Psalm 88 - St John of the Cross - Biblical Hermeneutics - depression.
Cite As:	Carson, Marion L. S. "Sheer Grace: Psalm 88, Depression and the Dark Night of the Spirit." <i>Communio Viatorum</i> 59, no. 2 (December 31, 2017): 160–76.

Human Body and 'Landscape Body' as Determining Factors of Liturgical Celebrating as a Ritual Activity: Theological and Anthropological Meanings

Author:	Michaela Vlčková
Abstract:	The aim of this study is to search for the context of shaping the liturgical space and liturgy as a ritual activity with the perception of the human body and the landscape. It focuses on the meaning of the human body and corporality for the formation of symbolic action in the liturgy and the role of the concept of the arrangement of the universe for the liturgy and the formation of the liturgical space. It examines the relationship of the physical landscape and the liturgy and points out the limitation of the liturgical celebration to "the world inside" that deserves reflection and the seeking of ways to overcome this historic and culturally-based dualism.
Keywords:	Liturgy - landscape - body - space - ritual.
Cite As:	Vlčková?, Michaela. "Human Body and 'Landscape Body' as Determining Factors of Liturgical Celebrating as a Ritual Activity: Theological and Anthropological Meanings." <i>Communio Viatorum</i> 59, no. 2 (December 31, 2017): 177–88.

Dumitru Stăniloae's Theology of the World: Reflections on the Margins of the Relationship Between Humankind and Creation

Author:	Viorel Coman
Abstract:	This article explores Dumitru Stăniloae's understanding of the relationship between creation and humankind in light of the idea that the world we inhabit is a theophany, gift, and sacrament. In so doing, the article argues that Stăniloae's theology of creation drew inspiration from his childhood existence in Vlădeni/Transylvania, where the solidarity between humans and creation, as well as the sense of sacred permeating the world were essential components of the rural life.
Keywords:	Orthodox theology - Dumitru Stăniloae - creation - sacramentality - nationalism.
Cite As:	Coman, Viorel. "Dumitru Stăniloae's Theology of the World: Reflections on the Margins of the Relationship between Humankind and Creation." <i>Communio Viatorum</i> 59, no. 2 (December 31, 2017): 189–209.

Landscapes of the Spirit in the African American Experience: From the Lonesome Valley through the Deep River and the Mountaintop

Author:	Anne Marie Reijnen
Abstract:	The African American religious experience may be the best example of a faith shaped by places. After the brutal loss of the African place of birth, the captives were deprived of their original cultures, and the 'natural world' took on great importance. The enslaved gradually adopted and adapted Christianity. It was a creative process which resulted in a new form of the faith, classical yet highly

	original, infused by 'soul' and 'rhythm'. As a part of the appropriation, the Scriptures heard rather than read, at first, became the driving force of the hope and the struggle: the "fusion of horizons" (Gadamer) allowed the Black believers to see the biblical river Jordan, the desert, and the mountaintops in their own actual landscapes. The deep river beckons with redemption and concrete escape. To conclude, we pay tribute to James Baldwin's strong ambivalent feelings about the Black church.
Keywords:	Spirituals - African American religion - fusion of horizons - Deep River - James Baldwin.
Cite As:	Reijnen, Anne Marie. "Landscapes of the Spirit in the African American Experience: From the Lonesome Valley through the Deep River and the Mountaintop." <i>Communio Viatorum</i> 59, no. 2 (December 31, 2017): 210–23.

'The Mind Has Mountains': Gerard Manley Hopkins, Landscape and Poetry

Author:	Tim Noble
Abstract:	This article examines the use made by English Jesuit poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889) of images of landscape. It first gives a brief summary of Hopkins' ideas of inscape and instress, and then through three poems, "As kingfishers catch fire", "Ribblesdale", and "No worst", it shows how Hopkins uses the external landscape to talk about the human condition before God. The article demonstrates that for Hopkins the human being, created by God to praise, reverence and serve the creator, is embodied in a wider creation that has the same end.
Keywords:	Gerard Manley Hopkins - poetry and theology - embodiment-inscape - instress.
Cite As:	Noble, Tim. "'The Mind Has Mountains': Gerard Manley Hopkins, Landscape and Poetry." <i>Communio Viatorum</i> 59, no. 2 (December 31, 2017): 224–35.

Book review

Author:	Jan Lamser
Abstract:	Review of the book: MOLTSMANN, Jürgen. <i>Hoffnung für eine unfertige Welt</i> . Ostfildern : Patmos Verlag, 2016. ISBN: 978-3-8436-0755-1.
Cite As:	Lamser, Jan. Book review: Jürgen Moltmann, "Hoffnung Für Eine Unfertige Welt." <i>Communio Viatorum</i> 59, no. 2 (December 31, 2017): 236–41.