

Rooted in God's Earth: Trees in Scripture



SESSION 11

Palms, Olives and Figs

Monday 7 October 2024



God of creation, we thank you that we are rooted in your earth together. Help us to recognise and rejoice in the interconnectedness of all that has lived and all that will live. In our encounters with scripture, help us to listen for what your Spirit is saying, and inspire us with your love. Amen.

Scripture and Our Lives...

Heart – intuition, feeling, openness, contemplative

Head – thinking, studying, questioning, curious

Feet – movement, determination, commitment, energetic



'Beyond all that we can ask or imagine'

'Imagine the world to be different'

'We live, and move, and have our being in God's presence, here and now'

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples² and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it.³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'"



⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.



⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple;

and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

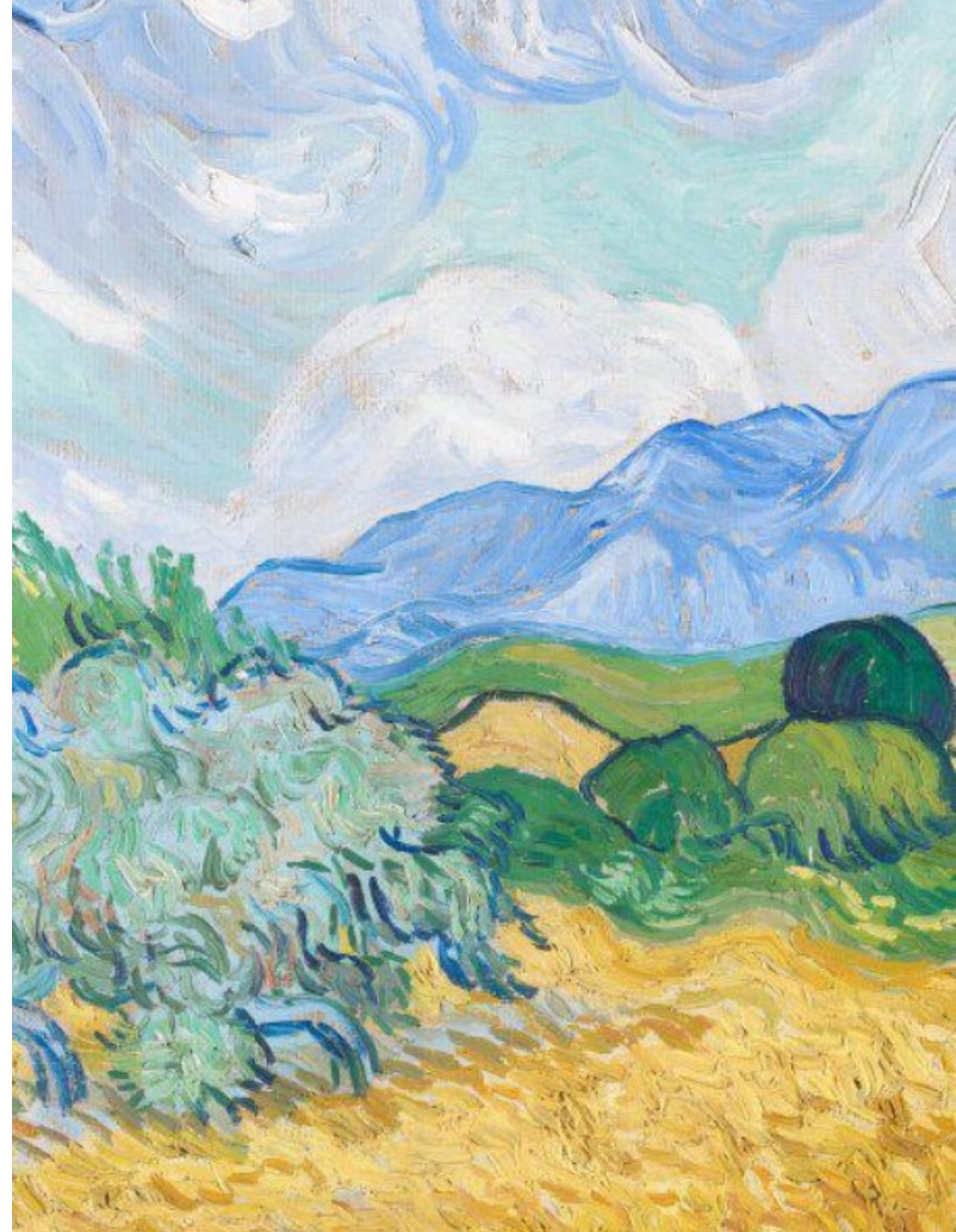






PAUSE, DISCUSS, EXPLORE

- **What part does nature play in this narrative?**
- **Where do you imagine yourself in the story, and why?**

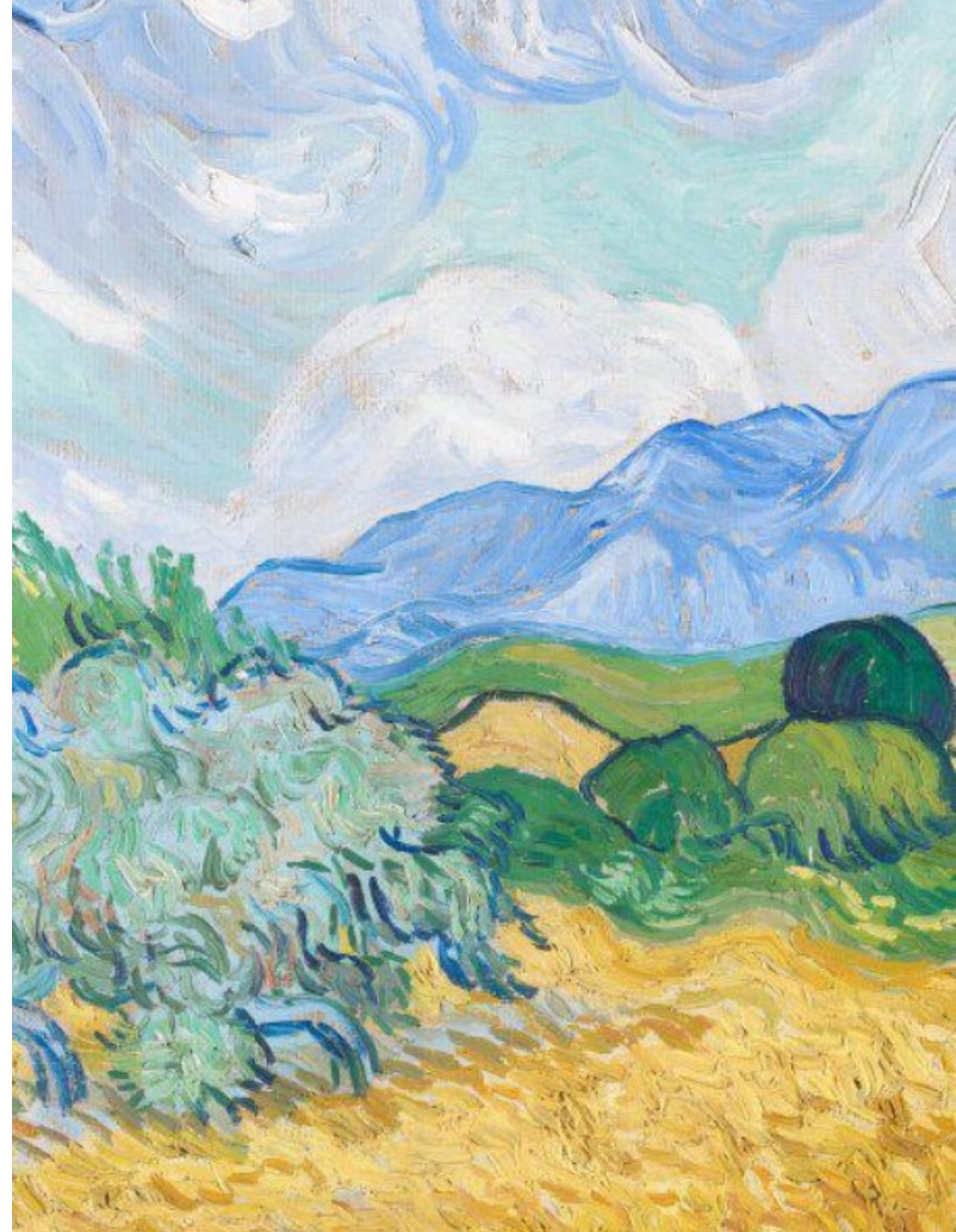


¹²On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. ¹³Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see whether perhaps he would find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.



PAUSE, DISCUSS, EXPLORE

- **'And his disciples heard it.' If you were there and heard what Jesus said about the fig tree, how might you respond, and why?**
- **What difference does it make to read the entry into Jerusalem alongside Jesus's encounter with the fig tree? Does anything surprise you?**





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