

**The Forum**  
**St. Bart's, New York**  
**August 23, 2015**  
**The Rev. Dr. Robert S. Dannels**

**“Homecoming in Literature and Scripture”**

**Literature:**    Longing for Home by Frederick Beuchner  
                  The Return of the Prodigal Son by Henri Nouwen  
                  The Search for Home by Craig Barnes

**I.       Original Blessing and Belonging**

- A.     Born in God's Image and in the Likeness of Parents/Family
- B.     Childhood Markings - The story of Jesus going to Jerusalem with family (Luke 2)
- C.     Growing (or not) in Identity and Purpose
- D.     History, Forebears, Family and Community DNA

**II.      Leaving Home**

- A.     Healthy Maturing; Establishing One's Self-Differentiation - “Out-going Tide” (Beuchner)
- B.     Unhealthy Departures Motivated by Pride and Self-Service - Luke 15 (Nouwen)
- C.     The Alienated Nomadic Soul: The Danger of Being Homeless (Barnes)
- D.     The Challenges of Untethered Lives (Dante, quoted in Barnes)
- E.     Remembrances and Recollections
- F.     Establishing New Rituals and Measures of Belonging

**III.     Longing for Home**

- A.     To Long and Belong
- B.     Desire to Return-To God and Others-“Going Down to Come Up” (Barnes)
- C.     The Arduous Road Home (Barnes)
- D.     Homecoming/Reunion; God Welcomes Us Home (Nouwen)
- E.     “In-Coming Tide” (Buechner)
- F.     The Response of the “Elder Sons” of the World
- G.     Celebration and the Communion Table (worship) - Luke 24
- H.     Creating Homecoming for Others (John 21)

**IV.     A Hopeful Final Home**

- A.     Realized Eschatology
- B.     Ever present and Final Dwelling with God
- C.     The Communion of Saints and All the Company of Heaven