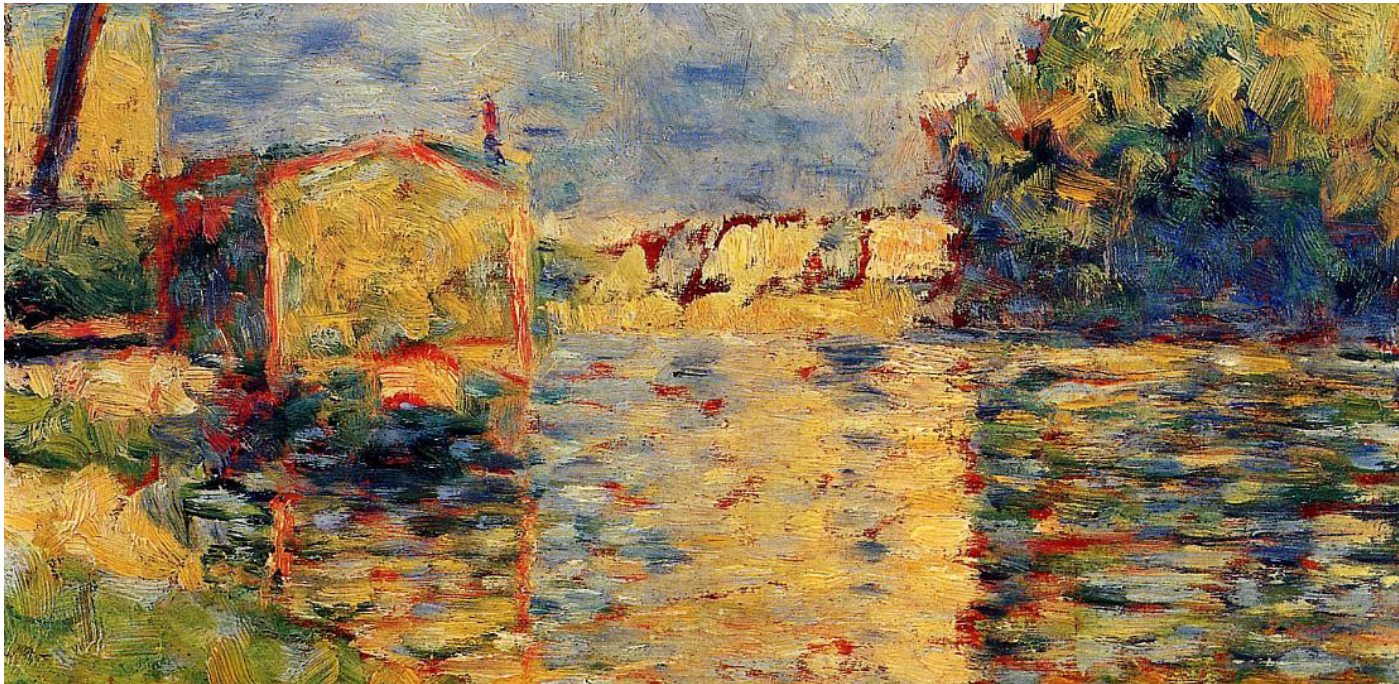


26. Change



To illustrate his famous claim that “All life is flux”, the philosopher Heraclitus (d. 480 BC) used a river. Its ever-moving water (captured here with brilliance by Seurat) never stays the same - so no one can step into it twice. Change is the only constant.

What incredible change over the last year! Every single aspect of life has surged and swirled along an unforeseen course. Esther de Waal (*Seeking God*, 1984) speaks for most of us when she admits that, “I am not very good at change and, caught up in the miseries and confusions of what I’m losing, prefer to cling to the safe and the known.”

During the pandemic, we’ve heard this human resistance to change in the much-expressed longing for things to return to normal. But prophetic voices have urged us to seize this moment. They’ve cited multiple opportunities - socially, environmentally, and in the way we ‘do’ Church, for example - to go with the flow, learn from this experience, and become proactive change-makers.

There is much to grieve, but we are repeatedly shown the divine creativity surging and swirling within change. “Behold, I am doing a new thing,” God proclaims to the despairing exiles in Babylon, longing for their past life. “Do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43.19)

Today...

...teach us, O God, to look
for your ‘new thing’ in change.

Amen