

There's a wonderful small chapel in South West Ireland which is in the shape of an upturned boat and is said to mark the transition between building in wood and building in stone: the boat-builders craft turned on its head and moved inland and, as in today's passage from Ephesians, every stone counts; the forces at play between them, keeping the whole structure together, just as every beam in a wooden ship is needed to keep it afloat and moving forward. We may image the building as static – set in stone – but the imagery used is not one of a building already complete but rather in the process of being built: a building-site where we are still finding our place,

‘an organic, not a static building: the whole is ’jointed together’
and is ‘growing’ into a ‘holy temple’.

(The Colledgeville Biblical Commentary p. 136)

And the builder is Christ, aligning us to become fully Christian, fully part of the one body, alive in Christ. There's no room for gerrymandering here, for the use of cheap materials assembled in haste by workmen with their eye on a quick profit and getting home early. It's being assembled with love; each of us is in the hands of a master craftsman, understanding our weaknesses and smoothing off the rough edges: still on the way, like a ship at sea, like a world turned upside down.

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