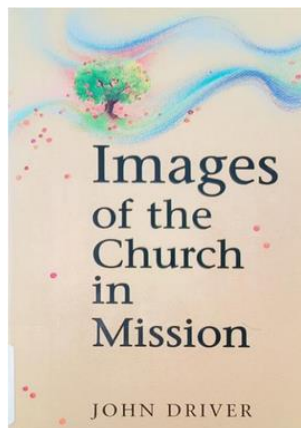


Church as the Body of Christ Joon Park Sermon Transcript of January 15, 2023

Brothers and Sisters,

As all of you know, Holyrood is still in transition, a psychological or spiritual process where people are coming to terms with previous and current changes, letting go of their old paradigms. It is like standing on both sides of a threshold with one foot rooted in something that is not yet over, whereas the other foot is planted in something neither yet defined, nor yet ready to begin. In other words, this is an uncertain state where outdated constructs no longer serve us well, while we aren't certain about what we need to do next. So, during this transitional period, our destination is not yet clear and people's tiredness, exhaustion, confusion, anxiety, and disorientation still linger in people's minds.

In this critical and transitional time of Holyrood, I'd like to help you explore some basic questions about 'faith and church' through a short series of dealing with some biblical images of the church motivated by Mennonite missiologist and pastor John Driver's seminal book *Images of the Church in Mission*.



Through this process, we will be asked the following questions: What is God's mission in the world? What is the church's role in God's mission? What is the church by the very nature of its calling? What is more, who are we as a Holyrood community of faith? What's Holyrood's mission as a church? Which biblical images of the church represent the current status of Holyrood or the future of Holyrood? By thinking and answering these questions from week to week between New Year's epiphany and Lent, what I hope is that all of us can find a biblically missional foundation as a church built, not on human smartness or intentionality, but on the rock of Christ, which is unswervingly true and firm, regardless of any situational threat or change.

According to John Driver, the church is not only an instrument for proclaiming the kingdom of God. It is also a visible and concrete demonstration of that kingdom. As such, "the church becomes God's unceasing experimental plot, planted in the midst of human history and condition, and pointing to the ultimate restoration and reconciliation of the whole world." In the course of its missional, messianic journey, the church finds its meaning to lay down its life for others, like its Lord. "Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it" (Matt 10:39).

In the book, John Driver draws out 12 biblical images of the church in mission under the category of pilgrimage, new order, peoplehood, and finally transformation. But we will narrow down to five images of the twelve out of the book for our own divine imagination and exploration of the Bible and share them with you from this week onward. I'd like to begin with this question: Why is image as important as a church journey toward God's mission for the world?