

The Church as Resident Aliens

Resident Aliens Sermon Transcript by Joon Park, February 19, 2023

Brother and Sisters,

Since Epiphany Sunday on Jan. 8, we have dealt with the images of the church in mission inspired by Mennonite missionary and author John Driver's book.

I think now that we are still in a transitional period, it is timely pertinent to think of the nature of the church that is birthed for the mission of God, which helps us not to forget why we are called to this church, Holyrod Mennonite Church, and what our church exists for.

It's already been six weeks as of today since we began our journey to learn of the images of the church: Church as the body of Christ, church as a family, church as the bond of love, church as a community of faith, church as a cold water, church as a new humanity, and church as salt and light that was highlighted last week. Wow! Which images are still in your memories or hearts to meditate and embody?

And today, on the last week of this series before moving on to the Lenten season that starts next Ash Wednesday, I'd like to explore the intrinsic image of the church and Christians that has been told from the Old Testament to New Testament to early church era, which is "resident aliens or sojourners or pilgrims." Very dynamic terms that are contrasted with the words like settlement, status quo, stability, and conformity.

I now begin with Resident Aliens in the Old Testament.