

Dear friends,

My name is the Rev. Eimsook Joung. I am the Rector designate of Immanuel Anglican Church at Regina, Saskatchewan. I am very excited and look forward to being with you. I would like to share a little bit of my story with all of you.



I look like a Korean and the reason is that I am one! I was born in Seoul. It is a large city of some 10 million people. It is the capital of South Korea. I am a Korean in terms of my ethnicity, but I am a naturalized British citizen. I came to the Arctic over eight years ago as a missionary from London where I ministered as an associate pastor of a very large church called Trinity Church Brentwood, Essex in London, the UK.

To help you get to know me, let me share my story. I was born into a Roman Catholic family. My father was not particularly religious. My mother is a very committed follower of Jesus. She had a wonderful encounter with the Lord Jesus. I went to the Roman Catholic Church faithfully as I was a devout catholic. I went to a Methodist missionary school and then to university in Seoul where I trained to be an industrial designer. I worked with the famous Samsung Company as a management graduate trainee. I loved my job, and I was earning a good salary and doing well.

My home life was very difficult as my father lost his job. He used to drink very heavily and physically abused my mother. He was an alcoholic, a drunkard, and a violent man. Our home was not a safe place and it lacked peace. I slowly lost hope until I was introduced to a Godly woman who was a Presbyterian minister, Pastor Park. She took me under her wings and shared the Gospel with me. She prayed for me and began to teach and mentor me. It was only then that I came to a real faith in the Lord Jesus. I was surprised by Joy! God is so real to me!

I took an active part in the life of my local Presbyterian Church and was drawn into the life of our congregation. I read the Bible, participated in the life of prayer and practical service to the needy in our church. I had to learn to tithe and honor God with my treasure, time, and talents for the glory of God.

I sensed the call of Jesus to serve Him in His ministry. My friends began to encourage me as they recognized God at work in me. I knew that God was calling me. In 1998, I went to serve as a missionary in the USA. I worked with Korean immigrants who lived in Rhode Island. I did not speak English and I worked with Korean people in our native language. I lived in the USA for a couple of years and then I felt the call to serve in China. I went to Guangzhou in China. I learnt Mandarin Chinese. I did a part time MBA and started a business to support the

work of mission in China. I established a local newspaper in our town. After five years in China, I got the opportunity to go to the UK to study theology at Crowther Hall: The College of the famous Church Mission Society. This was at the University of Birmingham in the UK. I then studied at the famous Trinity College, the largest Anglican college in the Anglican Communion, at the University of Bristol in the UK.

This is where I was really exposed to the Anglican tradition. I was introduced to lively growing churches in the UK. My Principal the Rev. Canon George I. Kovoor who is also the Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen introduced me to Pastor Peter Linnecar who was also his student. Peter was the Senior Pastor of Trinity Church at Brentwood in Essex in the UK. I was hired by Pastor Linnecar to be the associate minister with special responsibilities to serve the elderly and develop the international ministries. I helped the church with its technical IT needs and edited the film projects. I maintained its website and helped the church develop international relationships with the church in Korea, Singapore and Malaysia.

Canon Kovoor knew Bishop David Parsons, the Anglican Bishop of the Arctic who requested British clergy to serve in the Arctic. Canon Kovoor contacted me and asked me to consider ministering in the Arctic. He later introduced me to Bishop Parsons. It was a real struggle for me to leave London. I said “yes” to God and came as a weak servant to the Arctic to serve as an Anglican priest. I am not bound to denominations. I love God and work with all churches that love God, obey the Bible which is God’s Word. I have had the experience of the renewal of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the gift of Jesus to His Church.

I was appointed as the Rector of Holy Comforter Church at Rankin Inlet in Nunavut. My time at Rankin was very tough. I was lonely and very cold. I was completely overwhelmed by the Inuit people and their church. I did not speak their language Inuktitut. It took me several years of making mistakes and being misunderstood by the people. Praise God! He never abandoned me.



In my last year, we had a breakthrough when they realized that I was committed to them. I also began to understand their ways and slowly the ministry began to grow. With God’s help, I fundraised over one hundred thousand dollars for the new church building and cleared off over thirty thousand dollars of unpaid bills. Thankfully in 2019, we consecrated our new church building for the glory of God. I then started fundraising for a new project to build the parish hall next to the church. Having established the church on a firm footing, I contacted Bishop David Parsons and shared

that folks in Rankin Inlet, NU needed a pastor who could minister to them in Inuktitut. I wanted to minister in English and serve in a small town where my gifts could be used.

The Bishop suggested that I go to Fort Simpson, NT. I prayed and obeyed. The Lord helped me clean up long standing problems in the parish. I led the church through several crisis: the severe flooding of the island, the Covid Pandemic and now the wildfires. After five years, I knew my time was up. I am delighted that God has called me to you. I want to meet you and get to know you. When you see me as I move around the town, please stop me, and introduce yourself to me. I will need your prayers, encouragement, and support. On my part, I will love you, pray for you and serve you to the best of my ability. Together we will seek God's face, learn His ways, learn to love and work together for the glory of God and the blessing of God's Church.

Peace and Joy!

Rev. Eimsook Joung

Rector Designate Immanuel Anglican Church, Regina