**Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

We are not citizens of this world, but citizens of Heaven. I’ll say that again – when we are in Jesus, when we have placed our faith in Him, we are no longer citizens of this dying world, but we are citizens waiting to return to our Home. See, when we pass, we pass, not from life into a place of death, but from a place of death into life – more alive than our minds can fathom. That is our confidence in Jesus Christ today.

Two Sunday’s ago, we talked about John 15. We talked about how we are ambassadors here in this world. We are in this world, but we are not of this world. We don’t think like this world, we don’t treat others like this world, we don’t collect stuff like this world… we are different. We don’t speak the same language… it’s no wonder that the world doesn’t understand. In Jesus, we reject self and follow Spirit. In Jesus, we don’t strive to be first, but rather a servant. In Jesus, we lay down our life and take up our Cross. We cast out pride, but the world says be prideful! We must decrease so Christ increases in us. None of that is what this world is screeching about.

Our scripture says *For our citizenship is in heaven –* Our conversation, literally, our community is in heaven. When we believe in Jesus, our citizenship changes at the moment of our confession. Our address is changed. Not only our future, but our very present moves instantly from the box bound for the fire to a Book sealed in Heaven. This portion of the verse literally means that our community becomes a fixed existence in God’s abode.

Many of you know that I was holding my mama’s hand when she breathed her last breath. When the last breath out was not followed by a next breath in… in that moment, a small smile played across her lips and peace came on her face. Mama came into her community. She left this foreign country we call the world and was truly home for the first time since the day she was born. That gave me peace even as my heart was breaking.

In John 14:2-3, we receive an assurance from Jesus. *In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.* The word mansion is an interesting word. It means residence or abode. People get caught up on the word mansion, but Jesus is saying that He is preparing a permanent dwelling for us in Heaven. In John 14:23, Jesus says this to His disciple about keeping His word and loving Him - *Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.* We will make Our home – our Abode – this is the exact same word as Mansion used in John 14:2. When we are in Jesus, He makes His home with us until we move on to the home He has made for us. We truly are not citizens of this world.

Finishing our scripture - *from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.* From which – the heavenly realm – we also eagerly wait – we talk about this at Advent – eagerly awaiting His second coming. Expectantly watching the sky. Hoping that today may be the day that He splits the sky and the world sees the Savior it’s been rejecting.

Anyone who has traveled to foreign countries knows the feeling of being a stranger in a strange land, a sojourner, being different. Traffic laws are different. The police are different. The houses look different, the food tastes different, the land lays different, the language may be different, even the people may look different. I recall many times sitting in the airport waiting for my flight to take me home. My ticket was in hand, all my paperwork was in order, but until my time came, I was still a stranger sitting in a foreign land. I was in that country, but not of that country. I did not feel truly home until I arrived back in my community.

Don’t think it strange that you feel like an alien in this world. *For our citizenship is in heaven.* Don’t be discouraged that you find the things happening around you strange and alien. Don’t feel unnerved that you no longer understand the language of the unsaved and lost. The closer you draw to God, the more what the world is saying will sound like pure babble. Know this – Our citizenship, our community is in heaven. We are simply on a journey moving ever closer to our eternal home.