

Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Christian, what is your relationship to the Holy Spirit? The third person of the Holy Trinity.

The Lord, the giver of life. Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified.

Who has spoken through the prophets. The Holy Spirit. The source of the church's renewal.

[6 : 29] And life. The believer's reservoir of power. And unfailing guide. And if you are here this morning, my friend, and you are not sure who Jesus is, simply ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to you.

This morning's passage from John chapter 20 contains what some people call the Johannine Great Commission.

John 20 verse 21, having breathed the Holy Spirit into his disciples, Jesus tells them, as the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.

Jesus, the sent one par excellence, now sends his disciples in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And my friends, the one who is sent cannot change the message of the sender. Remember Jesus' prayer as the great high priest recorded a few chapters earlier in John's Gospel, chapter 17, where he prays, Father, as you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

[8 : 08] All three persons of the Godhead are involved in the great commissioning of the disciples of Jesus. the fruits of redemption that the second Adam has now won are conveyed to the world by the disciples of Jesus, who in a very real sense, once filled with the Holy Spirit, become apostles, apostles, which literally means sent ones.

It is to us, my brothers and sisters in Christ, that the good news of the gospel of peace is entrusted. And those who have just been confirmed this morning, on this Pentecost Sunday, have been empowered afresh by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, the very same Spirit whom Jesus breathed into the disciples on the evening of the first day of the week.

This is the Father's gift to the disciples of Jesus, the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And so if you're here today and consider yourself a Christian, it's your birthday today. And at any birthday party, a good parent knows how to give good gifts to their children.

[10 : 05] Indeed, as Jesus has already told us, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?

Well then, let us pray. breathe on me breath of God till I am wholly thine and till this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

Amen. Happy birthday, church.