

# 1 John 3:19-4:6

*Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.*

Date: 08 June 2025

Preacher: Rev. Mike Stewart

- [ 0 : 0 0 ] Good morning, St. John's. Such a joy to be with you on this glorious day.! Would you please be seated as we pray together!
- Father, by your Spirit, open our understanding to hear and receive your Holy Word, that together we might grow in our love for Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.
- Such a joy to be with you here, my dear brothers and sisters, on this Pentecost Sunday as we are bearing witness to the Spirit's work in the lives of those who have just been confirmed and tonight in the lives of those who are to be ordained, Ryan and Jacob.
- And Ella, happy birthday to you. And I want to say happy birthday to all of you here, if I may, because Pentecost Sunday, of course, was the day that the church was born.
- So Ella, you're sharing your birthday with the whole of the Christian church throughout the world today. Happy birthday, church. Over 2,000 years old and you're looking great, I have to say.
- [ 1 : 4 8 ] You're looking great. Pentecost Sunday, of course, my friends, is the day of empowerment. It's the day the disciples of Jesus were clothed with power from on high.
- We just heard verses from the Gospel of John, chapter 20, read to us, and I don't know if you've ever noticed the parallel between John, chapter 20, and the opening chapters of the first book of the Bible, the book of Genesis, meaning origins.
- John, in chapter 20 of his Gospel, tells us what happened on the evening of the first day of the week, which, of course, we now know as Easter Sunday.
- The risen Lord Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, receive the Holy Spirit. Receive the Holy Spirit.
- The risen Lord Jesus, whom the Apostle Paul calls the second Adam, who makes all things new, who bore on his brow the crown of thorns, the symbol of the first Adam's curse.
- [ 3 : 1 6 ] And in Genesis, chapter 3, you may remember that we are told that in the evening, the cool of the day, Adam and Eve heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden.
- They heard, as it were, the rustle of his steps. And we're told that they hid. They hid behind the trees.
- In John 20, the disciples are hiding behind locked doors. And John tells us that Jesus appears to his disciples in the evening, in the cool of the day, and shows them his wounded hands and his side, and twice speaks the words to them, peace be with you.
- Peace be with you. This, my friends, is the peace of the restored. The peace of the reconciled.
- This is the peace of the forgiven. The peace of the justified. This is a peace that the world cannot give.



Amen. Happy birthday, church.