

Today we're celebrating a lot of transitions. These seniors' graduations, the fourth graders move on to middle school, and in a few minutes the deacons' being ordained and installed.

Yesterday across the pond there was a big transition to celebrate, too, when Prince Harry and Meghan Markle got married. The amazing thing to me is how much press the sermon at the wedding got! It made the *New York Times*' "Weekend Briefing." Of all the things that happened all over the world this weekend, Bishop Michael Curry's sermon made it into the second paragraph.

The sermon talked about love—but not just the love between a couple getting married. The love that God has for us, and the love that Jesus sums up by calling us to love God and love our neighbor. Jesus' ministry was "a revolutionary movement grounded in the unconditional love of God for the world."

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I hope that you seniors (and you seniors, and you middle-aged people and you young people) have experienced this unconditional love here, or in some other church. It's the same kind of unconditional, overwhelming love that the disciples felt when the Holy Spirit rushed over them in our passage from Acts.

With that unconditional love, the Holy Spirit bound together Jesus' disciples as they waited for what was next after Jesus ascended into heaven. They didn't know what was coming, but the whoosh of the Holy Spirit bound them together, forever, in love.

Like you seniors are bound together with each other. Sharing amazing experiences with Jesus. Here. In your home. In your church. Because the Holy Spirit has been with you, here, binding you together, with Jesus, in unconditional love.

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But that love is not just for each other, binding us together here. That love sends us out, so that the world looks more the way that God wants it to look. Bishop Curry's sermon at the royal wedding painted a beautiful picture of a world with so much love that there's no hunger or poverty or war.

One of the most important steps toward that world came when the Holy Spirit sent the disciples in our passage out to preach, and about 3000 people came to faith on that first Pentecost. Today's another important step, when the Holy Spirit is sending you seniors (and you seniors, and middle-aged, and younger folks) out into the world to work toward that world so filled with love that there's no hunger or poverty or war.

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One way that the Spirit's activity in our lives has been recognized throughout church history has been through the anointing of oil. It's not a tongue of fire, and it's not a super strong wind. I have a feeling the buildings and grounds committee is happy about that! But it's a tangible reminder of what the Holy Spirit does intangibly—bind us together in this church and send us out to serve the world.

So I want to invite all of the high school seniors to come up and stand on the stairs. Yep, that's right, come on up. Stand up here, facing the congregation. As we sing the next hymn, Sean is going to anoint you with oil. It's not magical oil from some magical source. It's just olive oil, probably from Jewel or Trader Joe's.

But by the power of the Holy Spirit, as Sean anoints you, it will remind you that the Spirit binds you together in this church, and sends you out to serve the world.