

Pastoral Prayer
May 19, 2024

O Holy God,

No matter what we say to you about it, send us your Holy Spirit. Shake us up where we need shaking. Comfort us where we need comforting. Engage us where we need engaging. Calm us where we need calming. Inspire us where we need inspiring. Love us – we always need the Holy Spirit's love.

And if we complain that you aren't quite what we'd expected, God: as the contemporary saying goes: "You be you."

Send your Holy Spirit to the hearts and souls and minds who most desperately need it. Some of those are the sufferers, the hungry, the war-ravaged, the homeless, the threatened, the sick, the oppressed, the grieving. Send your Holy Spirit with the assurance of love and the power of healing. Some of those who need it are the helpers who bring the food, foster the peace, build the homes, protect from the threats, treat the ill, deliver the oppressed, and comfort the grieving. Send your Holy Spirit with the assurance of love and the strength to serve. And some of those who need it are food-takers, the war-makers, the house-deniers, the bullies, the punchers, the oppressors, the death-dealers. Send your Holy Spirit to them with the demands of justice and the demands of love.

Let your Holy Spirit accompany these young people we have celebrated today for their graduations. May they be filled not just with the direction and strength for service, but with the joy of your presence. Let your Holy Spirit accompany the keiki among us, so that the love we bear for them is magnified by the love in which you hold them. Let your Holy Spirit be with our adults and our kupuna, guiding us through our days to wisdom and to sharing, and blossoming within our hearts with the wonder of your presence.

Send your Holy Spirit, O God.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.