



A New Zealand Prayer Book (He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa) includes 'Song to the Holy Spirit' in the Midday Prayer. Sometimes the winds of change make us feel uneasy whether they are in the Church, organisations to which we belong, communities or families. I appreciate the way the poet James K. Baxter begins by offering another perspective on wind, one of hope. I offer this as my prayer for you all this month and pray that among the poem's many images for the Holy Spirit there is one which brings you hope.

Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You blow like the wind in a thousand paddocks,  
Inside and outside the fences,  
You blow where you wish to blow.

Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are the sun who shines on the little plant,  
You warm him gently, you give him life,  
You raise him up to become a tree with many leaves.

Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are the bright cloud in whom we hide,  
In whom we know already that the battle has been won.  
You bring us to our brother Jesus  
To rest our heads upon his shoulder.

Lord, Holy Spirit,  
You are the kind fire who does not cease to burn,  
Consuming us with flames of love and peace,  
Driving us out like sparks to set the world on fire.

Lord, Holy Spirit,  
In the love of friends you are building a new house,  
Heaven is with us when you are with us.  
You are singing your song in the hearts of the poor,  
Guide us, wound us, heal us. Bring us to the father.

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