

I Give to You, Jesus ¹

*Jesus, You have given the fullness of Yourself to me,
Now open my heart that I may give all to you :*

*Enable me now to give You my body,
That I may be chaste, and responsive to Your Spirit.*

*Enable me to surrender my spirit to You,
That I may think, and feel, and image life – as you would.*

*Enable me to abandon my heart to You,
That I may always choose to love You.*

*Enable me to give You every breath I breathe,
That all outcomes, especially the ultimate one for me, be Yours.*

*Let me always be able to say WITH You, Jesus,
“Into Your hands, Abba, I entrust my spirit”. ²*

Unite Me More to Abba ¹

*Jesus, please unite me more to Abba,
Your Father, and mine!
In this embrace, I tenderly ask both of You,
To fill me, to overflowing,
With Your Spirit!*

*Thus, humbly ALIVE in Your Love ...
Free me, enthuse me, empower me –
To breathe forth this Spirit
Gently into others,
Into all who wait
... In hurt, in hope,
Open-heartedly ...
For love to re-vitalize their lives.
Truly, the Glory of Abba,
Is a people fully alive! ²*

Year 2 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 322 Taringa Community Brisbane, Aug 2000.

2 Cf. St Irenaeus, 2nd Century.

O Jesus, Good Jesus, Welcome ¹

*O Jesus, good Jesus, welcome ...
A thousand times welcome into my heart.
Let me feel, right at home, within You.
I really love and thank You, Jesus.
Thanks for uniting me to You in this special way.*

*I'm overawed in Your Presence
... O Divine brother!
You make me feel uniquely connected to God !
I'm just not worthy
Of such wondrous intimacy !
So I can never thank you enough :
Your whole presence
Is total Eternal Gift !*

Jesus, Enfold Us Tenderly ¹

*Jesus, enfold us tenderly
Within the life-giving embrace of Abba.*

*Jesus, LOVE Abba, with OUR hearts!
Surrender to Him, OUR wills...*

*Enlighten us, in Your wisdom,
With the simple insights of Your Spirit.*

*And gather us together, out of our differences,
To humbly celebrate OUR KIND-NESS,
In You.*

Faith's Courage ¹

The God of Life

Urges us to a 'faith-that-does-justice'. ²

With that 'URGE' we call the Holy Spirit!

Jesus, who is our Life, ³

Invites us to embrace a courage and boldness

Which banishes FEAR,

The most powerful enemy of faith ...

"Why are you AFRAID, you of LITTLE faith?" ⁴

Faith releases ITS OWN gift of courage

– Particularly when we encounter injustice

... Urged on by the Spirit!

Year 2 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 325 Taringa Community Brisbane, Sep 2000

2 Anonymous source.

3 Jn 14:6

4 Mt 14:31

Gospel Poverty, Chastity and Obedience ¹

Living out Gospel POVERTY allows us

To unlock the potential

For the Spirit's gift of UNLIMITED OPENNESS to God and, to others.

This psychological gift of SIMPLICITY

Enables us to DETACH ourselves

From identifying

With what we possess, access and rely on.

In doing so, we become increasingly open

To GOD'S REALITY !

Living out Gospel CHASTITY allows us

To unlock the potential

For the Spirit's gift of UNLIMITED INTIMACY with God, and others.

This psychological gift of TRUST

Enables us to REND ourselves,

From clinging to one's own sense of self, or clinging to creatures

... So as to SURRENDER ourselves,

Our deepest inner-selves,

To God's LIMITLESS LOVING !

In doing so we become witnesses to the self-less love – of Christ.

*Living our Gospel OBEDIENCE allows us
To unlock the potential
For the Spirit's gift of UNLIMITED REVERENCING of God's good will.
This psychological gift of DEPENDENCE
Enables us to COMMIT ourselves
To accepting that 'all is gift' :
That we BECOME ourselves
Through God, and through others.
In doing so, we treasure all that God is, in us,
And God's every desire for us!*

Our Estranged God ¹

*As in the Bible,
The stranger among us,
Often turns out to be the one
Who brings us to God.
Jesus Himself
Found God ... the Presence of His own Abba-Yahweh...
In the stranger, the Syro-Phoenician woman,
And in the estranged, shunned leper, forced outside the town.
Similarly, Francis of Assisi discovered
That, in kissing the leper, his lips met Christ's!*

*Both Jesus and Francis found
That, in God's world ...
By identifying with the lepers,
They were, themselves, increasingly marginalized
– Made to feel like shunned outsiders
... In effect, becoming lepers! ²*

*But Jesus' yesterdays
Are our todays ...
And, for us now,
Jesus is the stranger, 'the estranged one',
– The outsider we shy away from
... Shockingly, in OURSELVES,
As much as in others !*

God's Gift - of - the - Moment ¹

Our hands are OPEN ...

Upraised in prayer,

Ready to receive ...

Ready to give ...

All we can thus offer

In love to Abba,

Is what Abba chooses

To place in our hands,

At this very moment !

This most relevant of gifts,

Is all we can now offer

To our needy neighbour :

God's gift-of-the-moment.

¹ Poem 328 Day 1, 8day RETREAT, Douglas Park, Sydney, Oct 2000.
Sr. Yvonne Parker, SGS was my director.

The Deepest Familiarity with God ¹

The Annunciation

Declares 'Our world is with child'

– Because of the consent of a teenage girl !

The teenage Mary's deepest instincts

Allowed her to trust ...

That the luminously enthusiastic stranger before her

Truly en-personed

Yahweh's own mysterious, wondrous desires

– Even if they seemed, to all appearances,

Scandalous and bewildering !

Only the deepest familiarity with God's Presence,

In her childhood and teens,

Allowed Mary to trust

So unrestrainedly, openly, and simply !

The Spirit Dream ¹

The Spirit Dream in the depths of our heart,

Gives birth to our deep dreams.

These dreams are but water-colour-washes

Relative to Christ's vivid clear-eyed vision for each.

Our deep dreams are GIFTS from the Spirit Dream

– "Gifts to His beloved as they slumber." ²

The spirit of evil, however, can even tarnish this dream realm

– Tainting it by ambivalent suggestion and insinuation.

But, be certain –

Christ's radiant Easter Presence

Has ALREADY vanquished these phantoms of the night :

Within, He stands –

The radiant still point of our swirling hopes,

The anchor for our fickleness, the bedrock of our confidence.

The Spirit Dream works Christ's wonders

In those of humble heart

...Whose hearts are opened wide in trust ...

Creatively fashioning –

Paschal-like reveries of hope,

Marvels of Godly delight and desire,

Evocative invitations to forgiveness,

Experiences of profound communion

– All offers of surpassing beauty

Spangled with symbols of love !

To capture and focus the evanescent energy

Of these deep dreams ...

To have them highlight our everyday living ...

To realize and to fulfil these dream aspirations ...

Is to sensitively open our daytime hearts

To the Spirit's ENABLING GRACE.

Graced Human Dignity ¹

Adopted in Christ, the Beloved,

Little by little, “grace upon grace”, ²

We come to resemble

The One of whom we dream ...

The One in whom we live!

Indeed, our life of faith

Is a cumulative transfiguration

Into the One

We are destined to BECOME, ever more fully

– *“He who is the reflection of God’s glory,*

And the exact imprint of God’s very being”, ³

– *He “who loved us and sacrificed Himself for our sake”. ⁴*

Thus, by being “transformed to His image” ⁵

We also need, and are enabled,

To ‘love others, and to sacrifice ourselves for them’. ⁶

1 Poem 331 Day 3, 8 day RETREAT, Douglas Park, Sydney, Oct 2000.

2 Jn 1:16

3 Heb.1:3

4 Gal 2:20

5 2Cor 3:18

6 cf Gal 2:20

Humble and Creative Relationships ¹

Jesus,

Humanity's humblest and, thus, most down-to-earth person,

– “LEARN from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart” – ²

Is also its most creative:

“For in Him were created, ALL things in heaven and on earth”. ³

In marking out a way for us to follow

– “Learn from me” – ⁴

Jesus wants us also to be humble and creative

In all our relationships.

And He also tells us HOW to be so ...

“If anyone wants to be a follower of mine

Let him RENOUNCE HIMSELF,

And TAKE UP HIS CROSS, EVERY DAY,

And follow me”. ⁵

1 Poem 332 Day 3, 8 day RETREAT, Douglas Park, Sydney, Oct 2000.

2 Mt 11:29, Cf. Nm 12:3

3 Col 1:16

4 Mt 11:29

5 Lk 9:23

Beacon of the Good News ¹

O *“Word of God from the Spirit,
To be used as a sword”,* ²
– *A sword of truth*
– *A double-edged weapon*
Of humility and courage –
Pierce my hidden pride
... The core of my self-deception ...
And let flow forth, unstemmed,
Your inner streams of light !

Let this light
First illuminate, and purify my life,
So that I become
One more beacon of the Good News
... Of Jesus Crucified and Ascended !

1 Poem 333 Day 3, 8 day RETREAT, Douglas Park, Sydney, Oct 2000

2 Eph 6:17

God's Arms, Outstretched In Welcome ¹

God waits ...

God waits ...

Waits, with outstretched arms,

Arms, outstretched in welcome !

But then,

Waits no longer !

And runs ...

Runs!

Runs, with outstretched heart,

To embrace us,

To kiss us.

I Surrender My Decision-Making

1

*Lord of my heart !
To You, I surrender my decision-making
About the needs of my life.
In Your love, anticipate all my needs
– Firstly, by revealing to me,
The treasures I already possess,
And, for the rest, delight me with Your Spirit of Surprise !*

Surrender ¹

O Abba, love of my life,

I breathe You in ...

I drink in the sound of Your whisperings ...

I hunger for Your fragrance ...

– I surrender to You ...

Your Kiss ... is love's homecoming

Your murmured intimacies ... love's peace

Your enveloping Breath ...life in You

– O Abba !

Isaac ! ¹

Abba 'smiled on' Tom ²

In October days ...

Sun-shining with the joys of Jubilee, ³

Moistened with the tears

Of a prodigal's joyous return : ⁴

"To 'Tom', be added 'Isaac'

– To Christen this time, new begun"

... When Abba 'smiled on' Tom.

1 Poem 337 Day 5, 8 day RETREAT, Douglas Park, Sydney, Oct 2000.

NOTE: "Following the writing of Poem 337, today, I had this deep sense of Abba adding to the names of my life—'Ron' and 'Gregory', being my baptism names, 'Joseph', my Confirmation name, 'Tom', my Congregational or Habit Day name. I sensed 'Isaac' was the name given to mark that deeper sense of intimacy with Abba, Jesus, and Loyce, into which I had been drawn."—Author.

2 In Hebrew, 'Isaac' means 'God smiles'

3 This year, 2000 A.D., was the Church's Jubilee Year.

4 Written with Poem 334, Day 4, in mind.

A Lantern Lit Within ¹

*Each person in touch with God,
Is a lantern lit within :
What lights their spirit
Is incandescent Love.
This lustrous light, shining on others
Reveals itself in constant kindness.*

The Whole Person ¹

*There are none so deaf and blind
As the self-righteous.
How easily the ugly 10% of others' lives
Becomes the most of what they focus on :
So much human beauty lies hidden
From those who don't want to see ...
Who focus, only selectively,
On PART of the other.*

The Bridegroom's Flute ¹

*The Bridegroom supports His Spirit-flute
In tender caressing hands,
Filling its emptiness with gentle Breath,
Proclaiming to all whose ears it wakes,
His wedding Song of Love.
This self-same Song His Father plays
To celebrate His Beloved's Paschal Nuptials
With His Ascendant Bride – us, His Church
... Fragrant with the scents of earth.*

O Paschal Father ! ¹

O Paschal Father!

Transform OUR spirits,

Re-born of Love's Energy

... Into Your Image, re-enfleshed in Him!

... Into Your Word, re-embodied in Him!

... Into Your Beloved, wholly en-Spirited!

With our hearts, wondrously enflamed

With the Spirit You share!

Trust ¹

For all humanity, trust grows quite SIMPLY
... Just as it does for a toddler,
Repeatedly being affirmed
– Affectionately, emotionally, verbally –
By the nurturing presence of its mother
... The trusted one.

Trust,
While being treasured SPIRITUALLY,
And warmly called TO MIND,
Powerfully and self-evidently resonates, in our BODIES as well
... Leaving clear biochemical traces and imprints,
That can be re-triggered and re-accessed.
Thus, in our personal decisions
To trust specifically chosen others,
The re-summoning of accompanying body ‘memories’
... Quite significantly, and pleurably ...
AMPLIFIES our conscious choice.

In the process of trusting
The body thus gains an orientation, an expectancy ...
And its OWN yearning – for trustworthiness.
In effect, trust develops a homing INSTINCT
For the other.
As time goes by, and trust blossoms,
Our key sense, of self-worth, is enhanced :
We FEEL valued
... Sensing it, even biologically.

Thus, while trust cannot be taught,
It can be learnt:
Trust forms ... experientially,
And is affirmed ...psycho-somatically.
The cellular 'history' of our trust-patterns
Is laid down semi-permanently in the body.
Thus, we are orientated towards the trusted one
– Even in his or her absence, or perceived absence.

Thus trust, when broken, can be restored,
Without undue difficulty,
Precisely because of our sub-conscious, even unconscious
Predisposition for the trusted one.
Still, loss of trust can be permanent
... If we are repeatedly disappointed,
And this is re-inforced
By the sustained emotional absence of the other.

*Our trust in God, in Jesus,
Is the same – and different.
It too is laid down
... Both spiritually, and psycho-somatically.
But there is one surpassing difference :
The absence of God in our life
Is only ever perceived.
It is NEVER REAL !
God, in Jesus, is faithfully present, ETERNALLY.*

*Moreover, God's trustworthiness is ABSOLUTE :
God's friendship, support, and compassion
Is always, ALWAYS, present !
While ever-available,
It is crucially,
All-encompassing !
This is so, even of those who have, most deliberately,
Ruptured the very basis of this trust itself
– The Presence of God
– By choosing to be CLOSED to God's Presence !*

Angel of God ¹ *

REFRAIN:

*“Angel of God, my guardian dear ²
... To whom God’s love commits me, here,
Ever this day be at my side –
To light, and guard
To love, and guide ... ”*

*Guardian Angel I love you, ³
Continue to protect me from---*

*The clouding of my intellect
... In discerning to know Yahweh.
Thus enlighten me
Through a deep desire for PRUDENCE ⁴
– Especially through its gift of wisdom –
In what I think, say, and do.*

REFRAIN

*Guardian Angel, I love you,
Continue to protect me from –*

*The weakening of my will
... In my desire to be open to God’s goodness,
Thus guide me to be always JUST :
– Measuring out equally to each,
– More to those in need,
– And an infinite measure to You, Abba
... Namely Jesus, the first fruits of our new creation!*

REFRAIN

*Guardian Angel, I love you,
Continue to protect me from –*

The waning of my resolve

...In daily carrying Christ's Cross

... Arising, especially, from my self-deceptions.

Guide me to be always COURAGEOUS, persevering, and big-hearted

– Waiting upon God's timing.

REFRAIN

Guardian Angel, I love you,

Continue to protect me from –

The unregulated, unreasoning, regardless desire

For the creature in my life

– Be that a person, attitude, activity,

Role, feeling, food or possession.

Thus guide me to be detached and MODERATE

... In all, but love and freedom.

Help me shoulder Jesus' "light yoke"⁵

– The discipline of discipleship

1 Poem 343 Taringa Community Brisbane, Oct 2000.

* Written to be sung. Tunes: REFRAIN (1) ---Traditional tune. Remainder—PLAINCHANT.

2 Traditional Church prayer... "rule" changed to "love".

3 For the phrase Guardian Angel, I insert 'Jesse'---the name 'given to me', at this time. Use your angel's name!

4 Of the four stanzas, the first focuses on the human intellect, the other three on aspects of the human will. Also the single word underlined in each stanza is one of theology's four CARDINAL VIRTUES—in order.

1 PRUDENCE. 2 JUSTICE. 3 COURAGE. 4 MODERATION.

5 Mt 11:30.

Your Warmth, Your Breath ¹

Jesus, You carry me in Your arms ;

I look up into Your face ...

And see Abba there!

Silently, You look down into mine ;

You smile – a confident smile.

I, like a deeply trusting child,

Rest my face on Your chest

And feel Your Warmth and Your Breath.

Addiction's Child ¹

When the eye's seduced, and the heart's enticed,

A cascading rush of images

Compels delight.

They light up, with electro-chemical urge,

Favourite adrenaline circuits

– Releasing cocktails of brain bio-chems.

These are first, alluring and pleasurable,

But, long term ... toxic

TRULY TOXIC –

To our personalities,

To our dreams,

To our feelings,

To our self-worth,

To the spirit of life !

Our self-worth finally collapses under the weight

Of this self-glamourized process

Of self-deception.

Self-anger brews into depression

– Sending our thinking, feelings, and behaviour awry

... We've lost our way !

We're enmeshed !

Year 2 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 345 Taringa Community Brisbane, Nov 2000. NOTE: This poem was the result of long term reflection on all those with addictions, but particularly on the many prisoners I had taught in Drug and Alcohol, Gambling, and Anger Management Courses, over 15 years.

To Be Saved Together ¹

*If we are to be Christ,
We need to engage this world completely,
And immerse ourselves in its joys, its sufferings, and its disjointedness.*

*In a complementary way,
If we are to share in Christ's transcendence,
We need 'to be IN this world, but not OF it'. ²
Thus, to be in this Christ who transcends His self
– Is to be in Him, who lives WHOLLY FOR OTHERS !*

*Paradoxically,
Jesus' transcendence, now, in this 21st Century,
Is to be 'the nearest thou at hand,' for us. ³
Thus, for us, Christ is ALWAYS the nearest neighbour
– Especially that neighbour who is poor
– Especially, poor in personality terms.*

*Yet, deep down we KNOW
All are poor – because all are dis-graced
... At varying degrees of separation from God!
Thus, rendered insecure,
Without God as our anchor
... To these varying degrees ...
We all become prey to fears
– Fears that see most of humanity constantly repeating its sinful past,
– Fears of being inferior, of being unworthy,
– And fears of the opposite ... of the call to Divine Dignity !*

All such fears generate suffering
– *Especially, the deep anxiety, that ‘I’m alone’.*
This can deepen into a painful anguish
... For those who feel ALIENATED from others.
Every Christian who believes
That Christ is always the nearest neighbour,
Needs to be a loving brother or sister
To this Christ who still suffers on, in those who feel
‘We’re isolated! Outsiders ! Outcasts ! Pariahs’ !
The stinging pain of being thus abandoned, or rejected,
Renders these “Christs,” as our most impoverished brothers and sisters.

Some of these “Christs”
... Become imprisoned in reactive addictions,
... Imprisoned, psychologically, within their abandonment,
Or imprisoned, literally, as an outer sign
Of their inner anger at being outcasts or pariahs. ⁴

Christ does not redeem us FROM our weaknesses but IN our weaknesses.
We must love the outcast poor IN their weaknesses
... And not seek to love them AS ideally reconstructed fantasies !
While some of us ARE wholly present to others’ emotional, social or family weaknesses,
But cannot countenance their DELIBERATE sinful weaknesses ...
Others do strive to love the SINFUL outcast poor,
But can’t countenance a CONTINUATION of a sinful weakness.
Jesus admonishes us “First, take the plank out of your own eye
And then, take the splinter out of your brother’s eye.” ⁵

*To truly help an outcast brother,
We need to come to him bearing our own sinful weaknesses.*

*Pride in one's ability to help and strengthen,
Allows no entry for Christ to do His 'redeeming work' !
Indeed, Christ redeems through the very weaknesses
Of those who extend the hand to help !*

*We helpers, thus,
Need to allow Christ to be present, and act through,
Our vulnerabilities, our fears, our defence mechanisms,
Our own sinful histories, and even our own current sinful desires.*

*It is precisely through our sinfulness
That we can become compassionate
– Co-suffering with those who fail ...
Churned up inside, by kindred feelings
– Kind, because we 'are one of a kind' !*

Thus our strengths flow to them – through our weaknesses!

*Indeed, we come to accept
We need to be saved TOGETHER !
Together, we need to open our faltering hearts
... To Christ Crucified.*

*Still, it is not the case that we Christians
Abrogate our strengths and human gifts :
We, simply cannot RELY ON THEM !*

We so very easily TAKE THE CREDIT for them

... When, at all times,

It is God's work !

The Spirit animates ALL TOGETHER

... So that Abba is glorified, in the Person of the Paschal Jesus !

Year 2 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 345 Taringa Community Brisbane, Dec 2000.

2 Traditional Church axiom.

3 Martin Buber's 'I- thou' relationship.

4 "Insights, perhaps, from my teaching prisoners for 15 years". – Author

5 Mt 7:5.

Worshipping Christ in the Outcast Poor ¹

*Being present to the outcast poor,
Is paradoxically,
A cause to celebrate
– For ‘our boast, is in Christ Crucified’ ! ²*

*If Christ is nowhere more present than in the outcast poor,
How can we resolve the dilemma ...
That He is also nowhere more present than in the Eucharistic Sacrifice ?
Perhaps we are AFRAID to own the reality
That, when we pray,
We pray to Christ present in others,
We offer Christ, present in others, to His Father,
We worship the Christ, within others !*

*Are we, then, worshipping others ?
No. Christ is transcendent
... Transcendent, out-of-others, out-of-us, out-of-the-outcast poor.
Of course, Christ is not solely transcendence :
Yet, it is often this transcendent Christ, we choose to worship,
– The Christ who is essentially ‘beyond us’.
However, Christ is also, essentially, the God who-is-with-us,
The God who is essentially man !*

Because the Christ who shares our D.N.A.,

Is essentially God

And essentially man,

We believe Him, when He reveals

That the Father, Son, and Spirit

Are essentially three !

And essentially one !

Thus to worship the Christ of this Trinity of Love

Is to worship Christ dwelling in those around us

And, crucially so, in the outcast poor.

Similarly, we find reconciliation with Christ ...

And experience union with Christ ...

Dwelling in the heart of the Community

... And crucially so, in the spirits of the outcast poor.

It surely follows

That there is to be no separation

Between our interior life and our apostolate :

We serve, pray to, and are in union with,

The one Christ ...

And it is the Sacrifice of this same Christ

Indwelling the Community's heart,

And the hearts of the outcast poor,

Whom we offer to Abba !

O Glorious Oneness Of Our Days ¹ *

*O Glorious Oneness of our days !
Enshrining loving hearts within!
Wondrously move our hearts to praise ...
Your love, in making us Your KIN !*

*O Father, Son and Spirit – ‘Love’,
Invite us to Your Feast to be ...
Guests of the Banquet of Your Love,
Resting in Your Eternity.*

*Joy! Living Joy! Eternally ...
Wed all our spirits in one flame !
Thrilling in Your Simplicity,
‘Love’, ‘Love’, ‘Love’, is Your Holy Name !*

Year 3 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 348 Summer holidays, Gold Coast, Jan 2. 2001.

* Written to be sung. Tune: All People That On Earth Do Dwell.

Resting, Childlike, In Your Peace ¹ *

*Take us in Your arms, O Abba,
Hug us as You hug Christ so,
Draw us to Your breast, and hold us ...*

*Never ever let us go !
Let us rest our head upon You,
Stroke us, as we gaze above ;
Caress us with Your tender kisses ...
Inflame us with Your burning love !*

*In Your Face, we see reflected ...
Image of Your Son Divine !
Then I realize – all so humbly –
His Image is also mine !
Let us listen to Your heartbeat
Listen to Your Word unfold ...
Let us place our hand within Yours,
Awe'd, yet calm ...as Myst'ries told.*

*Breathe Your Spirit deep within us,
Warm our hearts ...and cause to grow :
Thus release Your peace within us ...
Seeds of love for us to sow.*

*Him, with joy, we breathe back to You :
Gifts of Myst'ry are released.
Rock us, in Your arms, and keep us,
Resting, childlike, in Your peace.*

Shine Out, Through Me ¹ *

O Abba, shine out now, through me

– To humble, wise, and holy be ...

O Abba, shine out now, through me

– To humble, wise and holy be ...

O Christ, enhance this gift in me

– By sharing Your simplicity ...

O Christ, enhance this gift in me

– By sharing Your simplicity ...

O Abba, shine out now, through me

– To humble, wise and holy be ...

O Abba shine out now through me

– To humble wise and holy be ...

O Loyce, create yearnings deep ²

– To always share this gift complete ...

O Loyce, create yearnings deep

– To always share this gift complete ...

O Abba, shine out now, through me.

Year 3 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 350 Summer holidays, Gold Coast, Jan 2001.

* Written to be sung. Tune: I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen.

2 My familiar name for the Spirit—LOVE, JOY and PEACE—(LOYCEE).

O Abba, Sing Us Songs Of Love ¹ *

O Abba, sing us songs of love
...Christ's song Your Spirit plays within ...
Your murmuring whispers in our skies,
Your rhythmic oceanic sighs ...
O Abba, sing us songs of love
Your noontide-forest's humming choir ;
Your starlit cosmic lullabies :
Each person is Your tune to play.

O Abba, sing us songs of love ...

Year 3 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 351 Summer holidays, Gold Coast, Jan 2001.

* Written to be sung. Tune: [I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen.](#)

NOTE: "Mostly prompted, as a poem, as I stood in the summer surf at Tugun, listening to the surf, and looking inland, to the bush of the headland."—Author.

Abba, Creator of Wondrous Love ¹ *

*Abba, Creator of wondrous love,
Move us to love Mary's humble heart.
With lives that witness to her faith, so trusting still,
We stay faithful and responsive, to Your Will.*

*To Good News proclaimed by Gabriel,
Mary welcomed Your Eternal Son,
As, over-shadowed by Your Fatherly Spirit ...
She became the humble temple of Your Love.*

*Abba, empty out our hearts – of self,
To accept Your Love, Your Light, Your Peace ;
To offer glory, for Your wonderful kinship ...
Just as Mary filled her humble heart with praise.*

*Glory give to Abba's wondrous love !
Glory to the Son of Mary's faith !
And, to Your Spirit dwelling deeply in our souls,
We give glory, for Eternal gifts untold !*

I Continue To Utterly Surrender ¹ *

PLAINCHANT:

1. *I continue to utterly surrender to You, Abba,*
My DEEP DESIRE TO FULFIL MYSELF ...
I watch and wait, in silence and stillness,
For Your special presence, Abba ...
*** [here, allow an image, or sound, or smell etcetera,*
to arise from your immediate prayer environs]
Evident in your (e.g. IMMENSE POWER AND BEAUTY IN THESE WAVES)
... Loving You, for moulding Your image of me,
Into Your OWN SELF IMAGE – JESUS ...
(Pause)
... I feel eternally LOVED BY YOU, Abba.

2. *I continue to utterly surrender to You, Abba,*
MY DEEP DESIRE TO FEEL GOOD...MY SELF ESTEEM ...
I watch and wait, in silence and stillness,
For Your special presence Abba ...
*– See ** [], above –*
Evident in Your -----
... Becoming open and empty, to receive You, Abba
– As You VALUE ME, AND MAKE ME FEEL UNIQUE ...
(Pause)
... I feel eternally FAVOURED BY YOU, Abba.

3 *I continue to utterly surrender to You, Abba,*
MY DEEP DESIRE FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE
I watch and wait, in silence and stillness,
For Your special presence, Abba ...
– See **[], above –
Evident in Your -----
Becoming Your Covenant servant,
Utterly RESPONSIVE TO YOU, ABBA,
(Pause)
... I feel eternally TRUSTED BY YOU, Abba.

4 *I continue to utterly surrender to You, Abba,*
MY DEEP DESIRE TO POSSESS AND TO FORM ATTACHMENTS ...
I watch and wait, in silence and stillness,
For Your special presence, Abba ...
– See **[], above –
Evident in Your -----
Continuing to be a 100% dependent on You,
And on Your PROVIDING LOVE, Abba,
(Pause)
...I feel eternally THANKFUL TO YOU, Abba.

5 *I continue to utterly surrender to You, Abba,*

MY DEEP DESIRE FOR ALONENESS AND PRIVACY ...

I watch and wait, in silence and stillness,

For Your special presence, Abba ...

– See **[] , above –

Evident in Your-----

Being drawn to You, Abba, in Your community of Church,

And thus, into YOUR COMMUNION OF LOVE, with Jesus and Loyce.²

(Pause)

...I feel eternally AT HOME IN YOU, Abba.

6 *I continue to utterly surrender to You, Abba,*

MY DEEP DESIRE FOR HUMAN INTIMACY ...

I watch and wait, in silence and stillness,

For Your special presence, Abba ...

See **[] , above—

Evident in Your-----

Being overwhelmed by Your wondrously personal,

And DEEPLY, DEEPLY TENDER LOVE, my God ...

(Pause)

...I feel eternally ONE WITH YOU, Abba.

7 *I continue to utterly surrender to You, Abba,*

MY DEEP DESIRE FOR SPECIALNESS OF IDENTITY ...

I watch and wait, in silence and stillness,

For Your special presence, Abba ...

*– See **[], above –*

Evident in Your-----

Being enraptured within the Mysterious Oneness

Of Your OCEANIC LOVE, my God ...

(Pause)

... I feel eternally AT PEACE IN YOU, Yahweh.

Year 3 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 353 Summer holidays, Gold Coast, Jan 2001.

* Written to be sung. Tune: Plainchant of my own.

** The explanation within the brackets, [], is the same for each stanza.

2 My familiar name for the Spirit—LOVE, JOY, and PEACE—(Loyce).

Days Of Sunshine, Nights Of Love ¹ *

(A love-song to Abba, from US-IN-CHRIST :)

1 *Our heaven is You ... and I,* **
 Your sun kissing our moonlit sky, **
 Your Glory Cloud shining
 ... My heart ensbrining ...
 To make me Thine !

2 *Ours is a Love Divine,* **
 As Your Life and mine entwine, **
 With my heart near bursting,
 And spirit thirsting ...
 To share our Love!

3 *Days of sunshine, and nights of love !*
 Our moon reflecting Your Sun above,
 With our lives belonging,
 Our hearts are longing ...
 To sing Your Love !

Year 3 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 354 Summer holidays, Gold Coast, Jan 2001.

* Written to be sung. Tune: Blue Heaven from The Desert Song.

** "This line, and three others, so marked, retain the rhyme scheme, and the words, of Blue Heaven. The rest of the Poem is original, Lyrics-wise".—Author.

Forever Is Happening Now ¹

*If we believe 'heaven is forever',
Then we need to come to our senses
– And rejoice NOW!
“Forever” happened a long time ago,
And is happening NOW!
Yes! Heaven’s already arrived!
So ... we need to CELEBRATE with Abba,
As His homecoming children!*

The Secret of Divine Darkness ¹

Light is a Mystery, as is the divine darkness of grace.

The secret of this darkness, within the womb of God

Is that ...

While blinded by a marvellous Light within ourselves,

– Closing our eyes, in a mixture of awe and fear –

We are first surprised, then overwhelmed ...

As the murmuring assurances of the Spirit

Coaxes the eyes of our heart to OPEN ...

As our trust, resurgent, soars free

... Home, into the Light of Glory,

Incandescent with Life

...Home to God!

Anchored in Love ¹

*Jesus, when He walked our dust,
Was surprisingly courageous.
This was because His confidence,
As a uniquely OPEN son of the earth,
Came to be anchored in the Love
Of the Eternal Abba-Yahweh
He trusted so deeply !
And this trust
Gave birth to ...
COURAGE.*

Pierced through, Curled in Pain ¹

*All who invite us
To suffer with them ...
Extend HANDS to us,
Pierced through ... curled in pain.*

*If we take their hand in ours,
Then their pain become ours,
And with the faith that is ours,*

*We pray,
“Abba, into Your HANDS,
We entrust our spirits.” ²*

Year 3 Prayer Ministry.

¹ Poem 358 Taringa Community Brisbane, Apr 2001.

² Lk 23:46.

The Ascension's Promised Gift ¹

*The Spirit given to each in baptism,
In our immersion into the Trinity,
Is the Gift of the Ascension,
Of Abba's loving embrace of the Ascended Jesus
– A gift of the Divine Uniting.
Thus baptism seals and anoints us
With the Spirit,
Not merely as individuals
But as members united in a Church Community.*

*The Spirit in US, as Church,
Continues, and expands
The mission of Jesus's Incarnation, Crucifixion, Rising and Ascending.
And just as Jesus "Did not count equality with God,
As something to be clung to", ²
And in a self-limiting way,
'Emptied Himself, and became as men are', ³
So the Holy Spirit,
In coming to dwell within us,
Also enters into a divinely self-limiting KENOSIS.
Thus, while the Spirit confines His Glorious Presence WITHIN US
Yet the Spirit expressly does so,
So as to insert us into the Risen and Ascensional Life of Christ!*

*Before this era – humanity's Easter – began,
The activity of the Spirit
Was confined, it seems
– Firstly to the Old Covenant's en-Spirited individuals,
In their varying roles, and for varying periods of time ;
– And then permanently, to the PERSON of the earthly Christ.*

*However, it is only and precisely
The exalted Jesus of the Ascension
Who communicates the Spirit UNIVERSALLY,
And, in a wondrous and mysterious way – ETERNALLY !*

*The Ascended Jesus makes it most clear
That the Spirit is His Gift,
Mutually given out of love, with His Father:
“And now I am SENDING DOWN TO YOU,
What the Father has promised”.⁴*

*Equally
It is the Spirit's own Self
Who makes Jesus Ascended, AVAILABLE and ACCESSIBLE to us.
“Anointed,” with the Spirit's very person,
We become the communalized CHRISTOS, “the anointed One of God,”
– The KYRIOS of humanity, and of all creation !
As “a new creation” in Him⁵*

*We are –
Free FROM the possessive grip of the world, the flesh, and the devil !
Free TO BE DIVINELY ALIVE, and at ease in God's company !*

*Thus, in the SPIRIT,
Jesus reaches out to the believing Community ...
So to ANIMATE it with the Spirit's universal transformative presence.
Equally, the Spirit is the Father's Gift to us,
“The Promise” of the Father
“Poured out – that you both see and hear”.⁶
Thus, through this Spirit of the Father,
We also have immediate access
To the wondrous CREATIVITY
Of the Father's encompassing love !*

*In John's expression of the Good News,
We behold Easter Sunday's Risen Jesus ALSO being EXALTED,
And welcomed into His Father's Embrace, on the same day.
Here, witness Jesus' emphatic Easter Day claim to Mary Magdalene –*

"I AM ASCENDING to my Father, and your Father !

To my God, and your God !" ⁷

*As a consequence of this Easter Day Ascension,
Witness also the Ascended's Jesus' RETURN, on Easter evening,
To breathe the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles.*

Thus, for John, time is telescoped :

The whole Paschal Mystery is CENTERED on the one day :

Jesus' new, transformative humanity

Communicates the Holy Spirit to the Apostles

– Gathering them into His embryonic Pentecostal Church,

... A "new humanity" IN HIM. ⁸

So by that Easter Evening,

In a group of faith-filled-human hearts

– To the delight of the Trinity –

A new world began ...

And a "new creation" is revealed.

The Spirit who raised Jesus, the Spirit who exalted Him,

IN-CORPORATES

These humble believers INTO Jesus,

Into the very PERSON of the Risen, Ascended Jesus !

Into history's New Reality !

The Spirit, as the Spirit of Prophecy,

Is given in its TOTALITY, PERMANENTLY,

To this Universal Assembly, in Christ,

New-born in the Spirit !

And so, all its members become evangelical prophets,

Witnessing, in the Spirit of Church,

To the Good News ...

Of Abba's Presence

Alive in Jesus Ascended !

Vivifying a regenerated world !

Moreover, “where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom”... ⁹
So that, Abba and Jesus Ascended’s Spirit
Is a Spirit of Freedom
... Freeing humanity from the anarchy of sin and of death,
And freeing US TOTALLY, PERMANENTLY, and UNIVERSALLY, IN CHRIST!

*In Him, we rejoice in the wondrous limitlessness
Of our DIVINIZED human love !
We are EN-PERSONED in Abba’s Beloved,
Drawing us into Fellowship of Love with Abba
... Both eternally breathing forth into us,
Their Spirit of Love!*

Year 3 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 359 Taringa Community Brisbane, June 2001.

2 Phil 2:6

3 Phil 2:7

4 Lk 24:49

5 2Cor 5:17

6 Acts 2:33

7 Jn 20:17

8 Eph 2:15

9 2 Cor 3:17

Jesus, Our Prayer ¹

Jesus is OUR PRAYER :

Abba communing with us,

We communing with Abba.

To pray is to identify with Jesus

...Through the gift of His grace...

And thus, COMMUNE –

Trustingly.....from the heart, in deep dependence,

Humbly.....from “one’s inner room, in secret”, ²

Confidently.....knowing, like Jesus, we are profoundly loved,

Faithfully.....certain, that Abba-Yahweh is surpassingly faithful,

Longingly.....reflecting our dignity as pilgrim sons and daughters,

Lovingly.....tenderly, affectionately with Abba whom we love,

Eucharistically.....in union with others, as Christ’s Body, in his Passover.

As Our Brother God ! ¹

*“And the Father’s Dream-for-Us was given flesh,
And pitched His tent among ours ;
And we sensed His profound dignity,
The dignity that is His
As the Father’s Beloved ...
Nearest to Abba’s heart.” ²*

Abba, we affectionately ask You,

To pour forth Your HESED

... Your Covenanted LOVING KINDNESS –

Into our expectant hearts.

Thus graced, we ...for whom Your Beloved’s ENFLESHING

Enables us to identify with Your Covenant’s unfolding ...

Are, by Jesus’ sacrifice of His life,

Taken up into His Transformative Humanity !

Here, en-Spirited, we are drawn into Your Glory,

. As our BROTHER-GOD ...

Into Your kinship of love !

Year 3 Prayer Ministry.

1 Poem 361 Taringa Community Brisbane, July 2001.

2 Cf Jn 1:14, 18 freely translated.

A Heart's Breath Away ¹

*Encompassed by Mystery,
By Mystery seduced ...
Mystery centres all our loving :
The true home of all our dreams.*

*Mystery readies the heart to choose Itself ...
In Mystery, our spirits rest, content ...
Spirits, members of each other,
At home in Mystery's depths.*

*For each, Mystery is a heart's breath away ...
Calling from our emotions' deep source.
Within Mystery, thus, are our spirits homed ...
There, anger's anxious fears rest ...stilled.*

*Our hearts' comfort: within Mystery, embraced ...
The sea of our longing wells within,
Its shoreline found, by journeys into trust ;
Surrender found, as Mystery draws forth our hearts.*

*Love incandesces within this sea of Mystery ...
Filling those, empty of self, with luminous self-giving ...
Truly at home, in the heart of others' spirits ...
Becoming peace to a world, weary of mistrust.*

*Thus, all need to be servants of their dream,
Because their dreams are lodged in Mystery :
By becoming servants, in a Mystery-seeking quest,
They're freed to become Love's own guest.*

A Retreatant's Heart ¹

A RETREATANT'S HEART is a special GIFT

Abba loves to treasure

... Just as He does, the heart of His Beloved.

– Because a retreat is, fundamentally,

Something God does

For us, In us, and With us.

Our heart's grace is singular

–To wait,

Empty and hopeful ... like the farmer for spring rains,

To wait for Abba's loving initiative

... All through the retreat.

A retreatant's heart needs to be,

A sensitive, discerning one.

Symbols

... Arising out of our dreams, or from nature enfolding us,

Or from experiencing Scripture and Eucharist ...

Are the gateways and portals that our hearts need

For our inner journeyings

... Into truer experiences of Love

... Into surrendering to Mystery.

To enhance this process, to deepen it,

We need to ALLOW the heightening of our outer senses

– A frequent retreat grace –

To make our inner – “heart's” – senses responsive and intuitive.

The heart of the retreatant needs to be particularly RECEPTIVE,

Rather than questing, and being proactive.

An open, sensitive heart delights Abba

In His yearning to commune with us.

Indeed, openness to His Spirit's PROMPTINGS

Needs to be our heart's

New 'normal'

– Its mainstream, ever-sensitive state of readiness.

Such a perceptive, prayerful heart

'Returns' to these Spirit-moments,

In the graced unfolding of the retreat

... Be they understated, or dramatic,

... Be they, consoling, affirming, or even revealing our resistance.

'Returning' thus, with a listening heart,

Deeply respects the Spirit's eagerness to communicate,

And honours the Spirit's chameleon methods!

Indeed, it allows us to discover, repeatedly,

That it is the Spirit, NOT US,

Who both expands our vision and dreams,

And removes barriers to our COMMUNING :

"The Lord will do the fighting for you :

You have only to keep STILL." ²

More trustingly,

'Returning' allows God's Mystery

To touch ours, at ever deeper levels,

– Ultimately transforming, Christianising, our 'core' emotions.

... So more and more we see, hear, and perceive,

As Jesus does.

Moreover, a retreatant's heart is a thankful one :

A sensitive, open, prayerful heart

Is, instinctively, a EUCHARISTIC one,

Allowing –

The flow of awe, the surging of passions,

The intimacies of communing,

To settle into the rhythm

... Of Jesus' own CENTERING

Paschal Mystery !

1 Poem 363 Douglas Park 30 Day Retreat Sydney, Aug 4th – Sep 5th 2001.

Author's spiritual director was SR. YVONNE PARKER S.G.S. It was lightly based on the Ignation model. A group of 9. No common input.

2 Ex 14:14

Homecoming Banquet ¹

Every Eucharist is a homecoming banquet.

Abba, call me home to You, daily

... As You did to Jesus, personally, in His life

... And as You do to US-IN-JESUS, through the Grace of Adoption,

Within His Ascended Person.

Seal my spirit, with Your Homecoming SEAL

– The Spirit of Homecoming

... Whose scriptural symbol is the homeing pigeon.

In Your Arms ¹

*I feel really at home
In Your arms, Abba
– Truly, as close as Your Eucharistic Son
... So close, I can sense
The beating of Your heart
... Constant, comforting,
... Encompassing,
... Fatherly.*

A Family Resemblance to Jesus ¹

*Abba, as Scripture lovingly teaches,
You are deeply attracted to me
And to each of us,
And want to unite Yourself to each personally.
Is it because I have that family resemblance to Jesus ?
If so, I'm so honoured to be one with Your Beloved Son,
And glorify You, when people compliment me
For being just a little like Jesus, my brother –
The very one who introduced me to Your Family !
Also, like Jesus, I love Loyce ²
– For constantly putting me in touch with everyone,
And with Your creation.*

1 Poem 366 Day 1, Douglas Park, 30 day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 5th 2001.

2 My familiar name for the Spirit—from LOVE JOY AND PEACE--- (Loycee)

A Brother's Face ¹

*Of the earth, am I,
An earthen being, am I
Yet...only a heartbeat away
From Mystery!*

*I, in time, attract Mystery's eye ...
A gaze brimming with affection.
Yes! Mystery smiles a smile for me,
Lavishing love, ever so gently on me.
And ... as I am DRAWN within,
Mystery lights up my waking spirit, alive with Life
– Cascading gifts of intimacy, caresses of delight upon me,
Wholly ... ENVELOPING me, in love!*

*And Mystery unveils a face, a face of pure EQUALITY,
A face like mine, a brother's face!
... I fall in love with Him ...
He surprises me – covenanting His love for me, through self-sacrifice
... Sealed in His own, human-red blood!
His profound compassion FILLS my ever-distracted spirit
... Wedding my heart to His!*

My Brother draws me ever-deeper into Mystery itself

And so, en-Spirited with His LIKENESS,

I truly feel FATHERED by Mystery :

Feeling familied, feeling at home,

Feeling re-born, feeling LIKE A SON

– Mystery's son, like Mystery's very own Son, Jesus.

Amazingly, Jesus wants to live His very own life, in me !

And gifts me, with His own New Life, to be lived in Him !

Such indescribable INTIMACY !

Such depthless EMPATHY !

Such heart-bursting JOY !

Such pure PEACE !

... Mystery's Love shared ...

Close To Your Heart ¹

Thanks Abba, for letting me stay

... So tranquilly and contentedly ...

Close to Your heart

– There, to share in Your deep love for Jesus,

And in His outpouring of love for You ...

Re-Arranging My Whole World ¹

Loyce, thank You for shadowing me ²

All day long

... Seemingly re-arranging my whole world,

Re-setting my chemistry, even my personal exchanges,

Re-scheduling sunshine and skyscape

– Making it easier for me,

To be receptive, to surrender to Abba ...

1 Poem 369 Day 2, Douglas Park, 30day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 6th 2001: Feast of The Transfiguration.

2 My familiar name for the Spirit—from LOVE, JOY AND PEACE... (Loycee)

A Table of Plenty ¹

*Abba, I really long
For a deeper, vaster, measureless
Emptiness of spirit
– And, a deeply relaxed body,
To reflect and express this.*

*Abba, make Yourself at home in my heart
– With Your whole family as well
– With ALL Your friends, most welcome here.*

*Abba, I'd love You to gift me
With true smallness of self
– So there cannot be any space, or time,
For my old self
To intrude its pride and envy, its anger and lust.*

*My deep desire, Abba,
Is for You to grace me with peace
... At Your Table of Plenty ...
Resting in simplicity, in deepest trust ...
In heartbeat closeness to Your Eternity.*

The Spirit's Chameleon Presence ¹

The Spirit is truly a chameleon spirit

Revealing a rainbow Presence ...

In the twists of the wind, in the silence of stillness,

In earth-quaking upheavals, in the humming crescendos of cicadas

... In the near infinite forms of nature's variations

... Through night and day, and every seasonal change

... Across every micro and macro world

– SIMULTANEOUSLY revealing a Presence of endless variety !

Yet, all this is simply within the physical creation !

What of the Spirit's wondrously layered personal Presence

Within our own spirits, minds, emotions, and imagery ?

The Spirit, as a friend, is wondrously subtle and suggestive

– Effortlessly achieving a myriad of spiritual effects,

– Within an incalculable number of human minds :

... Seeding our CONSCIOUSNESS with graced thoughts,

... Moving our SUB-CONSCIOUS to prompt our spirits,

Thus, the Spirit's Presence emerges

In that emotionally energized interplay of body and spirit

... So suitable for the Spirit's under-stated "quickenings" and enlivening.

Yet, it is within the sanctuary of each one's personal UNCONSCIOUS

... The Spirit's specially chosen dwelling place ...

That deep personal intimacy with the Divine Spirit can be experienced,

Yet, this is a sanctuary mysteriously where willing spirits unite

Without any evidentiary knowledge of their UNION !

Thus, the capacity for union with the Divine Spirit

WITHIN HUMANITY ITSELF

Far surpasses physical nature's capacity

To in-spire us to openness to such union,

Be that

... Those shifting traceries of shadows on lawns under sunlit trees,

... That scintilla of sparkles and spangles atop a million dancing wavelets

On a stretch of sun kissed seawater,

... And those countless micro-explosions, of raindrops on puddled soil,

Under assault from an afternoon tropical thunderstorm !

Still, the SPIRITUAL dimension of humanity surpasses all of these !

And WITHIN humankind – between US,

The Spirit's Presence is more intense ...

The more PERSONAL our graced relationship is with the Spirit.

The Spirit's Presence is, truly, a Mystery !

A Single Cell – The Seed of Glory ¹

*Abba, You are ETERNALLY creative in our lives
Loving to create
Life-filled relationships of TRUST:
You do this, most importantly, for each person, within,
So we can trust our own mysterious inner-self,
— Within every friendship, or relationship of ours, based on trust,
... To allow all these to be anchored in the bedrock of Mystery.
... O Sustain us Loving Abba,
As we linger, hesitantly, on the threshold of instinctive trust !*

For ALL these relationships we thank You, Abba

— The Mystery

*Cradling all possibilities of trust
In welcoming, loving and knowing hands.*

*O Creator Lover,
You love all that You have made ...
Eternally loving goodness INTO us all ...
Nurturing growth and trust wherever it appears !*

Thus Abba, You are so unbelievably worthy of our thanks:

Ours is the PRIVILEGE among all creatures

— Together with the angelic choirs —

To HONOUR Your Creative Love

With KNOWING hearts

And SINGING spirits !

For us, not to love Creation
— *And surpassingly, each person in the Risen Jesus the New Creation —*
Is to deny the Mystery of Christ's own Personhood
That forever transcends the universe for which He is —
The fountain and the goal, the Alpha and the Omega !
All Glory to You, O Abba, in Christ Jesus !

The Inner-Glory, for You, Abba,
Is that Incandescent Love
Between Yourself and Your Son
— *The very PERSON*
Of the Spirit of Creativity !

The Outer Glory, for You, Abba,
Is creation, luminously renewed IN Jesus,
Ascending to Your Fatherly Embrace.
Truly, Your Ascended Son
Is the most worthy voice of all creation
To SING Your Glory !

Even in His human origins
In that single cell
— *That drew earth to Heaven*
And gifted Heaven to earth —
There was the seed of Imperishable Glory
... That Divine Paschal seeding of humanity, IN Christ
Destined to be “the praise of Your Glory” ! ²

Abba,
While billions of suns, in billions of galaxies,
Blanch and fade in Your Incomparable Brilliance,
The true wonder of creation
Is that we, sinning human beings all,
Can behold
The incandescent splendour of Your Creative Love
Aglow in the compassion in the eyes of Jesus !

It is only THROUGH Jesus' eyes of love and longing,
When You raise Jesus, already in His Risen Beauty,
To Your lips and to Your heart,
That we can feast, with His gaze,
On Your unfathomable goodness ...
And would die, from excess of love,
Were it not for Jesus' own Eternal Life
Pulsing in our hearts ...

We would, were it not for Jesus, our brother in Glory
— Be crushed, in utter ecstasy, by Your Beauty, Abba !
— Be overwhelmed, by Your Wondrous Creativity !
— Be blinded, by the awesome brilliance of Your Truth !
... All that remains, for us,
Is to adore You, Abba,
With that awe-struck heart of Jesus
Who simply ADORES You, Eternally ...
In the Spirit of Wonder !

Special Note 1. Author: “During the writing of this poem, I received the grace of Abba’s Wedding Invitation. I accepted. I was given the time and place—at tomorrow’s 5pm Eucharist.”

Special Note 2. Author: “The evening, Aug 6th, the text for Abba’s Wedding Vow was given to me, straight from Scripture—I did not search for it: it was given to me—in a ‘blind’ opening of the Bible.” (Below)
ABBA’S WEDDING VOW [Ezek 16:8, 14b] N.R.S.V.
“I passed by you again
And looked on you—
You were at the age of love:
I spread my cloak over you
And covered your nakedness.
I pledged myself to you
And entered into a covenant with you,
Says the Lord...
And you became mine...
Your beauty was perfect,
Because of my splendour
That I had bestowed on you,
Says the Lord God.”

Special Note 3 “My Own WEDDING VOW, used the next day...at the Wedding within the 5 pm Eucharist, was informal and unscripted. However, I gave it permanent form, the following day, Day 4 Aug 8, as in Poem 375.”

Special Note 4. “The next morning, that is, the morning of the Wedding Day, Day 3 Aug 7th. I wrote two poems, Poem 373 and Poem 374 as a Wedding preparation.”

Sharing in Abba's Glory ¹

O Spirit of the New Covenant of Love, ²

I ask for the grace

Of a really deep — ETERNAL — sense

Of sharing in Abba's Glory — The Paschal Love of His Beloved !

I ask, also, for the grace

Of 'OPEN HANDS' to life :

... Open to RECEIVE, to being gifted,

... Open to GIVE, to surrendering all,

... Open to Abba's love FLOWING FREELY

— Streaming, cascading, flooding my spirit,

As it flows on to others,

To further spread His Kingdom of Love.

¹ Poem 373 Day 3, Douglas Park, 30 day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 7th 2001.

OUR WEDDING DAY!

El Shaddai ¹

On this, Your Holy Mountain, El Shaddai ... ²
Moses is the human heart of Covenant FAITH,
Elijah, the human heart of zealous HOPE,
And Jesus, the human heart of compassionate LOVE
— With His heart so eager, so bursting with love,
It encompasses the infinite goodness
Which You, Abba, had fathered in Him
... From His conception, in that single cell, ³
That so WEDDED Your Dream to ours
... And now, weds Your Person to mine !

1 Poem 374 Day 3, Douglas Park, 30 day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 7th 2001.

OUR WEDDING DAY!

- 2 A direct reference to the Gospel of the previous day to the Mount of the Transfiguration...and to Abba's Wedding Invitation to me, then.
3 See Poem 372.

Special Note 1.

Author: "This is my original entry into my earlier poetry book, for the Wedding".

WEDDING DAY

CEREMONY: 5pm MASS, DAY 3, AUG7th, 2001.
WITNESSES: MARY OF CARMEL; LOYCE, THE ETERNAL.
In Christ Jesus, I was wed to Abba.
...A post-Transfiguration grace
...Truly my life's TURNING POINT!
...A CLEAR SHIFT IN MY IDENTITY!

Special Note 2.

The liturgy for the Wedding was for Tuesday in the 18th week of the Year. Later, in 2004, using all three readings (and poems and hymns etc.), I re-constructed the whole Wedding, quite faithfully, and inserted it into my then new DAILY PRAYER BOOK—for use as weekly prayer, and for anniversaries. Found in week 1, pp25-32 of the book.

You Caressed My Feet ¹

My Wedding Vow ²

Young was I

When You proposed ...

Time hurried by ...

So long betrothed.

Your Promise, SURE :

You walked with me

Through seasons poor ...

Wavering, my heart

Naked my shame :

Softly, softly

You caressed my feet ... ³

Then took my hand,

Renewed Your Pledge,

Surrender came ...

Like the dawn !

Days of sunshine ...

Nights of love!

Ravish my heart !

Invade my home !

Trail Your Perfume

Through golden days ...

I rest content

With Your intent.

Make me Your own :

Shape my heart

For Your repose,

Let my life

Entwine in Yours ...

I'll promise You —

'Your servant BE' !

Our lamp of love —

Enhance its glow ...

On through death

Let our love flow ...

To blossom

In Eternity.

1 Poem 375 Day 4, Douglas Park, 30 day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 8th 2001.

2 See Special Note 3. In Poem 372.

3 See text of Special Note 2. In Poem 372.

Also scripturally, in the Old Testament, a sign of wedding intent—in effect the proposal—was for the husband-to-be to cover the bare feet, “your nakedness,” of the reclining bride-to-be, with his own cloak or garment.

Special Note:

An important scripture was given to me, AS A NEWLY WED, for REFLECTION:

“Let the same mind be in you,
Which was in Jesus, the Messiah,
Who, though He was in the form of God,
Did not regard equality-with-God
As something to be exploited
--But emptied Himself,
Taking the form of a slave,
Being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
He humbled Himself
And became obedient to the point of death,
Even death on a cross.” Phil 2: 5-8 (N.R.S.V.)

At the same time, I was given this hymn, AS A NEWLY WED, for REFLECTION

1 “I fall on my knees to You, Father of Jesus,
Our Lord who has shown us, the Glory of God!”

REFRAIN:

May Christ find a dwelling place, of faith in our hearts;
May our lives be rooted in love, rooted in love.

2 May You in Your love, give us strength for our living,
The strength of Your Spirit: the Glory of God!”

The Cedar Planted in Our Soil ¹

God's First Born Son
Set aside heaven's garment,
... Divinity ...
Adorned with its unique colouration
... Eternity ...
And was planted in the earth, with us.

Here, He blossomed, and grew into a Cedar ...
But, again, surrendered His inheritance...

Being cut down
In the beauty of His humanity
... As earth's beloved ...
— Cut down to, fulfil a new contract:
To be milled, shaped, and polished,
And built into the Temple of the Lord!

He marvelled at His fate:
Life had turned full circle
— From being Son of Eternity,
... Emptying Himself ... ²
To now becoming Abba's Temple!
As such, His very humanity, His UPLIFTED body-spirit,
Became the cherished dwelling place
Of Heaven's Beloved
... The MEETING PLACE of His people ...
— Wedding earth to Heaven!

But we? What of us, His earth-brothers and sisters?

For those who stayed “closest to His heart”,³

He re-claimed His Eternal Inheritance

... Divine Kinship ...

To share with us!

1 Poem 376 Day 4, Douglas Park, 30 day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 8th 2001.

2 Phil 2:7

3 cf. Jn 1:18

River Moss ¹

Abba, I'm Your river moss – ²

Your dew pearls glisten

On my green,

Spangling in Your Sun.

Let Your love flow out of me

Streaming, cascading with life,

Flooding my spirit,

Flowing into others' spirits

... Enlivening theirs,

Receiving life and love from theirs –

To join their own streams

As ONE – one sacrifice of praise !

Enraptured in love !

1 Poem 377 Day 4, Douglas Park, 30 day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 8th 2001.

2 A shallow, sunlit section of the upper Nerang River, which circumscribed the Douglas Park Retreat Centre, provided the stimulus for this poem.

Author's comment: "This poem is an image of wedded joy; also an image of a missionary marriage, focussed on others—brothers and sisters of Jesus--- Abba's beloved children."

Our Intimate Journey ¹

Abba, I ask of You
The companionship of the Spirit,
To ENABLE, and to VIVIFY, our wedded love,
And always to call to my mind – my healing journey,
Our intimate journey together.

I ask for the gift of Jesus' wounds
Before I die
–As a seal to our wedding
'So that I will not pass into glory, more intact than Jesus' ²
... Your Beloved.

¹ Poem 378 Day 5, Douglas Park, 30 day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 9th 2001.

² Unsure of the author.

My Bones Danced Again ¹

*I was a dead man, Lord Jesus,
My heart calloused by sin :
My guilt, pushed secretly aside
Into the dark recesses of my heart ...
Clogging the arteries of Your Life within me.
I coughed up blood, Your blood,
 'Til long past noon ...
And, drained of Your Life
– With its pulsating love –
 I died.
Gluttons did their squabbling work,
 Leaving me ... a skeletal figure,
 Skewed on the very crossroads of life !

As Your sun's rays re-lit my lamp of life,
 That rattle of bones ... twitched !
 Sinews grew anew ...
 Tissue flushed, fresh and pink,
 Flesh pulsed with blood again.
 Tenderness, a long lost sense,
 Warmed my heart ... out to my finger-tips
Then – luminous within, as the day's dawning without –
 Light shone from WITHIN my heart,
 And, what had first been lost, now was first restored :
My SPIRIT flamed again, with THE DELIGHTS OF LOVE !*

Like birds at dawn, my voice caught song !
Once again my bones flexed, into the rhythms of old :
My bones –they danced again !
My bones danced Your Easter dawn-light in ...
Amid a cheering throng !
My bones danced again, danced to the rhythm
Of Your soaring Song !
Your Song of Life ! Your Spirit-Song ! Your Song Divine !

Then came the NEWS !
– A universe of suns reared back in awe –
That ‘throng’, were THE NEW CHILDREN of a Loving God
Of a God estranged to me ...our Abba God,
Whose call to Love of Life, to Liberty,
To a New Humanity
Was now, ENFLESHED, and radiant with GLORY ...
In the One who gathers all to Himself, as FAMILY
– You, my Lord Jesus !
Who now has spun ahead ...
To lead us all in the Dance of Joy !

1 Poem 379 Day 5 Douglas Park, 30 day Retreat, Sydney, Aug 9th 2001.

Special Note:-

See special booklet, containing the drama I wrote that, quite differently echoes this poem—“THE WOING OF SUSAN.”

He Pitched His Tent among Us ¹

The Tent of Meeting was a wilderness tent

... ‘The Servant’s Sojourn’ ;

A cloud, suffused with light, enfolded it in mystery.

This Mystery Cloud seduced me –

I tentatively approached

... Superficially disengaged, but deeply attracted.

An altar stood before the Tent.

Inscribed on it, were the words –

“To enter requires

The blood of one without blemish

–That of a totally selfless one –

To be poured out

Upon

This Altar of Sacrifice

... This Altar of Dreams.”

I went to go forward, but could not !

Nor back!

... Years passed ...

Seemingly, the passing seasons’ sun and moon

Danced duets to the pattern of my pain ...

Still ... my heart opened, little by little

– Opened to forgiveness

For my past attitude,

At once, both presumptuous and uncommitted.

Then,
There stepped from the Tent, HIS Tent,
A man ... with a strangely familiar face,
A face scarred, with healed lesions.
He led me ... with a once-pierced left hand,
Almost to the Altar of Sacrifice and Dreams.
Here, he lifted me in arms, also scarred,
And carried me beyond ...
Through the Cloud,
Into HIS Tent.

There to my delight and surprise,
He invited me to recline together,
And, face to face, to share in a glorious banquet
... With many others like myself
– Crushed spirits, RENEWED !
All were gathered in, by this WOUNDED ONE
Our servant-leader
Who, uplifting each, had carried us, one by one,
Past the Altar's threshold.
In hushed tones, the others murmured
“He's journeyed to the Altar
– Of His Sacrifice, and of our Dreams –
Many times before.”
His only words to me
... “Make this your home: it will fulfil all your dreams” ...
Struck me to the heart!
As I looked to him,
His welcoming eyes were those of a brother I had never known
– Surpassingly heartening, and intimate.

*I sensed another Presence there,
But saw no one
... Yet felt a wondrous fatherly regard
In all my newly revealed brother did and said.*

*And yet, another Presence still ;
It had as many facets as the enfolding Mystery itself
... The incensed air, the Altars fire, the encompassing company,
As well as our servant-leader's words of blessing
Over the bread we ate, and the wine we drank ;
But most of all THIS Presence
Radiated from The Cloud
... Which it luminously lit WITHIN !*