

Embodying God ¹

“Glorify and bear God, in your body !”

1 Cor 6:20

To be God-bearers

We need to be like Mary ;

Indeed, to be like Jesus Himself

–Who BODIES God to us all !

Thus, for us to EMBODY God

Our bodies need to be ...

Integrated expressions of our spirits,

Chosen ‘spirit-homes’ for God

Within graced human beings.

Our bodies need to BE PURE,

Like that of Jesus Himself :

–To be simply and integrally

Responsive to the Holy Spirit within,

By being TRANSPARENTLY OPEN

To what is best in human nature –

To that Easter wholeness of Jesus’ “New Humanity.” ²

Yet, because our consciousness wanders,

And our bodies lose energy and tire,

And, especially because our very nature

Is INCLINED to selfishness...

There can be a disintegrating of our spirit-body’s unity.

*Thus, disciplining ourselves
Over a considerable time period,
Often helps us to avoid
Swings of emotions
–Which can provide a ready context
For some of our unChrist-like choices.
This especially applies to choices
That are DIRECTLY expressed through our bodies,
Like self-indulgence, unchastity,
And addictive behaviours.*

*Indeed we WILL lose out
In our continuing spirit-body CONTENDING,
If we are not open
To the GRACE of the Spirit of Christ ...
In every breath that we breathe.*

*To become God-bearers...to embody God ...
Is always Abba's Gift to us.
We can never initiate
The Spirit's Integrating Presence within :
Only God can beget God !
Our part is to be OPEN,
To open our spirits to the Divine
–To have our bodies resonate integrally with our spirits
... So that our bodies are responsive
To God indwelling our spirits !*

1 Poem 471 Year 3, Prayer Ministry Woolloowin Community, Brisbane Sep 2001

2 Eph 2:15 NRSV

3 Note: On new address: I was transferred to Woolloowin, on the invitation of an old friend, Br Peter Anderson, who was living alone.

Christ's Symbols ¹

Symbols mediate the spiritual to us.
Psychosomatic human beings NEED symbols
If they are to be drawn
Into their own, and into other's spirits,
And, surpassingly,
Into the transcendent Spirit of God !
Christ's Paschal Mystery
–The greatest of human spiritual realities –
Is revealed,
–While still clothed in Mystery –
Through the Church's symbols
... The sacraments of His Presence.

A Differentiated Life ¹

*The more human – that is, the more Christlike – our life,
The more it is differentiated !
For a MORE Christlike person...
There exists a higher degree of significance for all events
–Because, they see life fundamentally, as a GRACED journey.
For them, small habitual actions and responses
Usher in the Divine !
Even ‘the trivial’ can be openings
To the Eternal !*

*Thus, in this context, weightier matters, within relationships,
And in the life of various communities,
Can become significant spiritual occasions
–Where GRACE seems to shine forth,
Radiating the Presence of God,
Sanctifying all involved.*

*Contrarivise, people who constantly deaden their conscience
Do not allow CHRIST TO RISE within their experience.
Gradually they lose their differentiating ability
In a substantive way :
Their life becomes uniformly banal, uninspiring, and truly repetitive.*

*To change, they need to learn the lessons of DEPENDENCY :
Trusting...that one’s life, essentially, belongs WITH others
–Wherein the gifts of others are ever more valued,
And the interchange between all,
Holds significance for a richer life for oneself.*

Thus, their lives become ever more wondrously DIFFERENTIATED !

It is then but a little step

To dependency on God, THE DIVINE OTHER,

And to the DIVINIZATION of one's life

—Where ALL life becomes meaningful,

And suffused with Love !

But “God does not have favourites”,²

Gifting different ones, differently.

Thus, mentally challenged people

—Who rarely differentiate between major and minor events —

Are, like younger children,

Drawn, OPENLY, into Mystery.

Here, they are gifted SIMPLY

—Without need of differentiating —

So to ENJOY Christ's action or presence, SIMPLY !

As the years pass, this simple joy deepens.

1 Poem 473 Year 3, Prayer Ministry Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, Oct. 2001

2 Rom 2:11 (J.B.)

I Become Yours ¹

*Abba, You run out to meet me,
Throwing Your arms around my neck,
Kissing me tenderly ...
Full on my lips.
My eyes are closed,
My lips burn as incense,
My heart is afire !
Your breathe into my nostrils :
I become Yours !
...Yet only a shadow of the image
Of Your Beloved, Jesus.*

¹ Poem 474 Year 3, Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, Oct. 2001

NOTE: 'I have used this poem ever since as a Mass prayer"-Author.

Raised Up into Your Glory ¹ *

(To Abba :)

*Raised up into Your Glory,
My death becomes Your life ...
Spirits communing together :
Paschal GODBURST OF LIFE !
As You raise Me – Risen –
Back home to You ...
I am overwhelmed :
Paschal GODBURST OF LOVE !
Paschal GODBURST OF LOVE !
Paschal GODBURST OF LOVE !*

*All humanity's PRESENT –
Now devoid of shame !
Rapt in Glory, You give Me
Paschal GODBURST OF Thanks :
Your own Glory, O Abba,
Fills my total being –
Promised Spirit of Love,
Paschal GODBURST OF JOY !
Paschal GODBURST OF JOY !
Paschal GODBURST OF JOY!*

*Now I lose OUR SPIRIT
Into humanity,
Into all Your Creation –
GODBURST OF GLORY !
GODBURST OF GLORY !
GODBURST OF GLORY !*

We praise You !

We thank You !

We love You !

We glorify You !

We praise You !

We thank You !

We bless You !

We glorify You !

We praise You !

We thank You !

We bless You !

We glorify You !

1Poem 475 Year 3, Prayer Ministry Wooloowin Community, Brisbane. Oct. 2001

*Written to be sung. Tune: "Land of Hope and Glory"!

#This and ff in higher key.

Note: This song is a heavily re-written song version of another poem, "Abba, You Amaze Me !" (Poem 465)

O Let Your Love Shine Through ¹ *

(To God :)

LINE 1. *O Let Your Love shine through,*
v.1. Greater peace of mind ...
v.2. Empty out our hearts ...
v.3. Abba, love in us !

LINE 2 *v.4. Jesus, live through us !*
v.5. Spirit, move our hearts !
v.6. Mary, mother us !
v.7. Glory be to You !

LINE 3 *... Open up our hearts,*

LINE 4 *And let Your love shine through !*

O ...

1 Poem 467 Year 3, Prayer Ministry Woolloowin Community, Brisbane Nov. 2001

*Written to be sung. Tune: "O Let Your Love Shine In".

NOTE: Verses 2 – 7 are the author's original lines.

Open Up Our Hearts ¹ *

*Angels we have heard so long ...
Softly singing in our hearts,
And all nature in reply,
Echoing their joyous song –
Gloria – in excelsis Deo !
Gloria – in excelsis Deo !*

*Spirits sing in exultation,
As we share God's Life within !
Open up our hearts still further,
To each other, as we sing –
Gloria – in excelsis Deo !
Gloria – in excelsis Deo !*

1 Poem 477, Year 3, Prayer Ministry Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, Nov. 2001

*Written to be sung. Tune: "Angels We Have Heard on High".

NOTE: About 30% of Stanza 1 and 80% of Stanza 2, are original, by the author.

Communing with the Father ¹

Prayer

*Is Jesus' Spirit in us
Communing with the Father.*

*While the Spirit, at times
Gives us actual words ...
We can, through Him,
Commune with the Father
With "groans", or in silence
... "Sighing" for our Abba. ²*

*Prayer enlarges the heart –
Freeing, and radiating our spirit
'Til we are opened
To God's Gift of God !*

¹ Poem 478 Year 3, Prayer Ministry Wooloowin Community, Brisbane. Nov. 2001

² Rom 8: 26.

Whom Does Satan Choose to Tempt ¹

Satan

*–Evil at loose, in ‘worldly-wise’ Spirits –
Uses the lure of people, incidents, material goods and all media
... Especially the ambivalent and glamorous aspects of these ...
To convey images to our minds
–To disarm, to distract, and to deceive.
These are always self-centering, self-advancing, and self-indulging images.
In so doing, Satan attempts to ensnare us
With the lure of immediate gains, instant pleasure or obvious advantage
... Short-circuiting divinely created natural cycles,
Human growth processes, and the evolutionary nature of relationships.
Such short-circuiting seeks
To sideline God, or to relegate God to irrelevance, or to passing significance.*

*Satan’s approach is flexible and multi-faceted ...
Employing manipulation, delusion, deception, pretence and pretension,
As well as guile, suggestiveness and ambiguity.
Lucifer’s preferred ‘targets’
Are self-made individuals who are arrogant, boastful or sarcastic,
Or vain, envious, cynical or egotistical.
The more they parade their ‘OWN’
Importance, power, sex appeal, prestige and influence
–The more Satan relishes his task !*

*This is because these are the sorts of individuals
Who are most susceptible to the deliberately contrived challenges of Satan :
Challenges that are purposely complex, cunningly ingenious, and deliberately subtle
–Appealing to these self-flattering, competitive individuals !
Thus, far from preferring to seduce the simple, the humble and the innocent,
Satan loves to ‘set up’, manipulate, or ensnare –
The obviously worldly-wise, those who are conceited and controlling
... Smug in their over-confidence, and certain of their ‘insider’ status.*

Lucifer himself FELL
From sublime heights of dignity, to utter humiliation and degeneracy
And he loves nothing better
Than to bring down other tall poppies
–Undermining celebrities, de-stabilizing ‘control freaks’,
And crushing those who ruthlessly empower themselves.
Paradoxically his best ‘disciples’
Are those whom he’s ALREADY humiliated
–Ruthless egotists, of deeply wounded pride,
Whom he entices
Into a vindictive cycle of vengeance.
These unerringly prey on ‘lesser lights’ of the same ilk
–As THEIR victims,
To be seduces, ‘set up’, and brought down !

The ATMOSPHERE Satan prefers to work in, and generate,
Is an environment of rationalisations, back-stabbing and projecting onto others.
Disclaimers disavowals, distortions, deviousness, dissembling ... all abound !
And he persuades such practitioners that such tactics ...
Constitute justifiable self-defence, necessary assertiveness or karma at work !
There is NO END to it.
All such self-deceivers
Are, in effect, endless replications of each other
–Banal, slavish reproductions
Of Satan himself.
This profoundly non-creative TEMPTER,
The original self-seducer, and self-deceiver
–Who can never advance beyond his own self-imagery,
Who can NEVER transcend himself ... in love of another,
Is imprisoned within the hell of his SELF !
And is driven to multiply this misery of self-hatred !

Sin Breeds Mistrust : Christlikeness, Love ¹

*Abba's depthless love, gave Jesus, open-ended CONFIDENCE ;
Sinlessness in Jesus, gave Him CERTAINTY ;
His transparent TRUST in Abba's companioning Presence
Let Him radiate TRUTH.*

*Sin, in us, breeds mistrust and doubt in others.
Within any community or person, this unfolds and deepens :
Deep sin causes instinctive scepticism
... Causing many to doubt the TRUTH of what's been said ;
Deeper sin causes ingrained cynicism
... Causing many to doubt the VALUE of what's been said ;
Deeper sin still, causes distrustful despair to fester
... Causing many to doubt if there is ANY HOPE in life !*

*To be freed from such a morass
Of mistrust, doubt, and despair,
We need to open our hearts to the radiant Light of Truth
WHO IS Jesus !*

*We need to seek forgiveness for our scepticism, cynicism, and despair,
And begin to share again
In the certainty
That Jesus' new Paschal innocence gives ;
And to be buoyed again
By the confidence
That Jesus' openness, clarity, and simplicity ... of heart,
Offers all our hearts
—If only our faith is transparent !*

Needs, Wants : Integration and Addiction ¹

Our needs, specifically, originate in our HUMAN NATURE :

All of us, thus, have the same needs at this level

... Such as a clear identity, good self-esteem, a sense of belonging,

And all need to be loved and to love

... So as to function WELL as human beings.

Interestingly, our WANTS originate in our human WILL :

And happy the person who only wants

... Who only desires and chooses ...

What is WITHIN the compass of our NEEDS.

However many want ... desire and choose ... BEYOND our needs,

Indeed, even choosing what is CONTRARY to human need,

And, unhappily – what proceeds from DISORDERED instincts and drives.

For ADDICTS of every kind,

Who are driven, not by human shared needs

But, almost entirely, by their wants,

The REVERSING of this entails

Moving from their destructive attitude –

‘Some is good : more is better’

To one flowing from our shared needs –

‘Some is good : more according to the rhythm of the need’

... From excess, to moderation.

*Overwhelmingly, however, for ADDICTS ...
Any “more” is not a realistic option, at all.
Too much damage already has been done :
Their unbalanced bio-chemical circuitry
Is far too easily triggered.
The only NEED their body can realistically respond to ...
Is abstinence.
Their human spirit’s most urgent need
Is to RE-SET their bio-chemical circuitry,
Through complete abstinence.
Otherwise, addicts ... and even those only habituated ...
Will LOSE their continuing SPIRIT-BODY struggle
For personal INTEGRATION.*

*At a natural level, we need to ensure
That, while our spirit and body do not contend,
Our WANTS are INTEGRATED with our NEEDS.
At a deeper level, the hope is ... that, what is of God within us,
Is allowed to actively integrate, the needs of our spirit-body,
WITH our freely chosen wants.*

*Our part – is to be, and to stay OPEN
To God's integrating presence within us.*

Our part is to be PURE like Jesus :

*– Our minds, like His, focussed on the unifying power of love,
–Our spirits, like His, TRANSPARENT TO ABBA'S SPIRIT ...
Intensifying, integrating, and clarifying, who we are TOGETHER,
–Our bodies, like His, treated with reverence, gentleness and restraint.*

*Above all, as loved and loving persons,
We are to be ever open, ever sensitive,
To the GRACE of the Spirit of Jesus Ascended
–Conscious of BEING LED, in every breath that we breathe.*

*Even our desire to be, and to remain, integrated ...
Is always Abba's gift to us, through Jesus' Spirit.*

*We can never initiate any aspect
Of the Spirit's Presence within
–Only God can beget God !
Our most human response
Is to ever rejoice, and to be ever thankful.*

Pour Out Your Blessings ¹ *

(To Jesus Ascended :)

Pour out Your blessings ...

Let's have a Banquet of fun !

Pour our Your blessings ...

We've got 'the Liar' on the run !

Pour our Your blessings ...

Let all the Family join in :

'We all sing and thank You, Abba,

For making us Your KIN !'

1 Poem 482. Year 4 Prayer Ministry, Wooloowin Community, Brisbane. January holidays, 2002.

*Written to be sung. Tune : "Roll out the Barrel"

Note : My image here was of dancing with Abba and the Spirit, in Jesus – in the Dance of Love – as the culmination of Christ's Passover !

Indescribably Enhanced ¹

*In love ...
An ordinary person
Introduces another
To the extraordinary :
Each one, leading the other
– Both indescribably enhanced –
Into the boundlessness of love !*

Contemplation ¹

Contemplation

Is Abba's sharing of His WONDER with us :

Through His Spirit's gift

Of INNER OPENNESS,

We are led, in Jesus Ascended,

Into the heart of the Trinity

—Into that wonder

For the love of Each Other,

They all share.

O What wondrous communing !

Those Not Like Us ¹

With those who are NOT LIKE US,

We often –

Dismiss them

Avoid them

Trivialize them

Romanticize them

Belittle them

Misunderstand them

Demonize them

Even, co-opt them

But, we don't accept them !

Yet in Jesus , we CAN

Because , in Him

We can ... come ALIVE

–His Spirit within our spirits –

Truly WITHIN them !

Ocean of Mystery, Ocean of Love ¹

(Before reading, see NOTE ... for the inspiration for this poem.)

*Afloat in a sea of womb'd silence,
Cushioned by love,
Nurtured by unseen shores,
Blissfully free
Of care, time, and limits ...
Each of us is readied
To enter the DRY world ...*

*The sea empties
And we are BORN !
Enveloped now by air
–Land locked !
Limited !
'Alone' !*

*Life's Grace then readies some of us
To be RE-BORN in new waters :
To be plunged
Into the Ocean of Life
Cascading from the side of Christ Ascended
– Into His Spirit's world, immersed in love,
Into an ocean of caring people,
Into an ocean of Divine Light
... Lives flowing into each other's
... Lavished with love !*

Years drift by, decades pass ...

Still, the Ocean beckons ...

A murmurous, homecoming call

– Seeming, more and more,

To issue from WITHIN

... Calling us to a deeper, simpler COMMUNING.

It persists

Through noise, distraction, waywardness, and glitz

... It's call, insistent, heartwarming.

Yet it is only THE FORGIVEN who respond to it :

Only those who bear the marks of the Crucified

... Imitating His gentle compassion,

Walking in His humble footsteps.

These follow the call –

Intermittently at first ... then, with confidence,

Drawing ever closer together,

Through ... silence

... solitude

... waiting

... watching

... stilling the heart

... submitting the will

–To be READIED by the Spirit,

Ready for the Ocean's

Fondest call.

How ? Why ? Why me ? ... Becoming what ?

When ? Where ? ... Who ?

Whose ? Who with ? For whom ?

No more questions !

One answer only

–Love.

Love's the SOLE MEASURE of Mystery

Love, Mystery's sole purpose

Love, the Ocean's content

Love, the Ocean's Glory !

To be in the Ocean

Is to be of the Ocean

–To be its Child,

Mystery's Child :

Beloved Son

– Eternally one in Him

TOGETHER ...

Alpha becomes Omega

Gift becomes Giving

Loved becomes Loving

Lovable becomes Love

Love becomes One ...

Spiritual Director, Sr Yvonne Parker.

NOTE. *This poem arose at the end of Day 2, following Abba's affirmation, through a clear five-fold message, all in the one day.*
of His desire for me.

Firstly, came a sentence from the Scripture of Jesus concerning the figtree :

“ ... Up, and threw itself, INTO THE SEA ;”

Secondly, Jonah's suggestion to the sailors :

“Take me, and throw me INTO THE SEA !”

Thirdly, in reading the Song of Songs' 'Cantata of Love' reflection

—The Bride's “anxiety about falling 'into the abyss of love'”

Fourthly, Abba's invitation in the book, “THE FATHER SPEAKS TO HIS CHILDREN” :

“Come and cast yourself, into the ocean of My love

... The Ocean is that of My love and your trust

... Dive into this ocean of My love !”

Fifthly, a quote from the book 'Images for Reflection' :

“In the depths of the sea.

In the depths of solitude,

You are You, Eternal God.”

All day I was very moved by Abba's loving insistence, and that night I wrote Poem 486.

Ocean of Mystery, Ocean of Love.

The Scent of Sacrifice ¹

Abba's transforming power come to us

... And to others, through us ...

In Jesus Ascended

—By way of His ever-present Spirit within us,

That Spirit breathed forth by Jesus on CALVARY.

This Empowering, this Divine Scent of acceptance

Is released, only by our sacrifice,

For others, in Christ

—The offering of our very lives

On the altar of humanity's need.

We are called upon daily,

To burn as incense for our God

—A fragrant holocaust FOR others —

To God's delight, and for God's Glory !

To sacrifice is to be in Christ, giving all,

To sacrifice is to substitute ourselves for others, in Christ,

To sacrifice is to be a thanksgiving offering to Abba,

To sacrifice is to be accepted by Abba, and sealed with His Spirit,

To sacrifice is to be welcomed into the Fellowship of Love.

He Could Not Save Himself ¹

“He saved others, he cannot save himself.”

Mt 27:42

*Sacrifice is abandonment,
Love too is abandonment – to the other.
Such was Jesus’ sacrifice
... To His Abba-Yahweh,
To the One –
Who flooded His heart with love,
Who fathered THERE, a people
Whom Jesus made His own,
... Through some ‘went their own way,’ ²
Grieving His heart.*

*Ever since Abba’s missionary call came to Him in the Jordan,
His people had multiplied
Through time and space.
Jesus KNEW
It would break His heart
Just to hold them together :
With each contending with the other,
For priority.*

In His loving response to Abba's all-encompassing love

Jesus surrendered Himself

To the Beloved of His heart :

"I am my Beloved's

And my Beloved is mine." ³

Now with this pledge re-echoing in His heart,

Jesus knew He could be no less

For HIS PEOPLE.

The way was clear –

The price of following it demanded

... Both a life of humble service

... And 'loving TO THE END,' especially loving those who oppose Him.

Jesus' Abba-Yahweh also let Him see

That His people's constant contending

Was poisoning the very Tree of Life

That nurtured them !

A new seed needed to be buried

In the earth of their old humanity

And there, DIE ...

So as to bring forth a new humanity ...

With renewed vitality,

And with a renewed vision of living together.

In His long reflection on this,

Jesus' heart convulsed at the prospect of death :

He so LOVED LIFE !

Was there no other way ?

*Abba, who fathered Jesus so fondly,
Spoke to Jesus' heart through the Scriptures –*

“Love is stronger than death

And as unrelenting !” ⁴

Abba's words, in effect, was a plea to Jesus

To ENTRUST His future, and His people's future,

To His fatherly care.

For His part Jesus knew

He could not save Himself

–Or His beloved people

... Carrying the weight of ALL their lives, as He did.

He, as a mere human,

... Truly, the most SELFLESS heart of them all ...

So identified with His Beloved Abba

– “I and Abba are one” – ⁵

That only total and unending trust in Him

Would enable their common humanity

To be saved.

Crushed by the consequences of His earlier ‘Here I Am’

His IMMERSION in the sinfulness of His people, at the Jordan –

Jesus' ‘Here I Am’ on the Cross

Saw Abba's CONSUMING LOVE for Jesus

– “My heart burns for You

With the fire of God” – ⁶

Ignite the INCENSE of Jesus' filial offering of Himself

... Yielding the fragrance of purest love.

Abba's heart was overwhelmed !

For Jesus, the HOLOCAUST OF HIS LIFE for humanity,

Allowed Him to descend into the very limits

Of human evil ...

In death's darkest realms.

Here HIS UTTER HELPLESSNESS

Called forth an overwhelming outpouring of love from Abba,

Calling forth a boundless source of New Life ⁷

For His Son's fatally wounded humanity,

— DECISIVELY "FREEING HIM FROM DEATH" ⁸

And its morass of consequences,

... Therein re-creating humanity

As a "New Creation" in His Son! ⁹

Abba's outpouring of love is limitless and eternal!

The sin-bearing Jesus, once a SEED BURIED IN DEATH,

Is now the immortal source of vitality

Of a new humanity ... saved, raised

And pressed lovingly to Abba's heart ...

In the most loving of embraces!

A Godburst of new life on offer

—For all found in Jesus Ascended!

1 Poem 488. Day 4, Annual Retreat, Douglas Park. November 2002.

2. Cf Acts 1:25 3. Cf Song 2:16 4. Song 8:6 (I.B.) 5. Jn.10:30 6. Song 8:6 7. Cf 5:26

8. Acts 2:24 9. 2Cor 5:17

A Universe Ablaze ¹

*Jesus' love for Abba
In His Easter Sunday Ascension, ²
Sets our universe ablaze !*

*Aflame with God's love,
All in Christ
– Sister and brother, neighbour and other –
Set each other's heart alight
...To create a whole Church community,
On fire with love !*

*O ! To be re-ignited by the other's fire
– Fuelled by Christ's –
When we've grown cold in love !*

1 Poem 489. Day 5, Annual Retreat, Douglas Park. November 2002.

2. See the evidence for this Ascension in Jn 20:17.

– “I am ascending ...”

The Silent Language of Love ¹

*John of the Cross's wise counsel on prayer,
Is that our greatest need
Is to hold our tongue
... And to speak to God
In the mostly silent language of love.*

*This quietness, this stillness –
Allows our hearts, to learn to listen
To the deep needs of others ;
Allows our personal presence with others
To reveal a glimpse of God's Presence ;
And allows our actions at times,
To speak our love for them
... And thus, for God.*

Sunrise in the Heart ¹

Many sleep through the sunrise of Christ

In their hearts.

Those who are AWAKE, to gaze on His Beauty,

Find, that God's Flame within

Delights and awes, before it dazzles and blinds,

Stirring hope ... wonder ... surprise

In our rainbowed, dancing eyes !

Colouring our spirits !

What were once

The night-clouds of our life,

Now becomes heralds of light

Shot through with the brilliant colours

O God's Approach !

The Still-in-heart , pause to gaze

On this "Glory, dwelling in our Land," ²

On these gloriously dawn-suffused trails of GRACE

... As their very faces, their eyes, reflect

–The PINK flush of Jesus' New Life !

–The BLOOD RED of His Sacrifice !

–The PURPLE of a King's person !

–The GOLD aura of His Promised Paradise !

*However, their open gaze cannot directly engage
The incandescent WHITE of the Lord's Face
—The full wondrous brilliance
Of Light's sole source —
Jesus' divinized human love in its full glory!
In this life, it still simply OVERWHELMS us!*

*Thus, ONLY in the privileged EARLY sunrise of Love
—With all the colorations of Love, save WHITE, to delight us —
And THEN, in those privileged precious moments suffusing our spirits,
Before night settles the peace of the Spirit on our souls
... Can we, with our heart's unshielded gaze,
Behold Love, Face to face ...
Behold the Ascended Jesus' divinely human gaze!*

*Thus, for NOW, the grace we're given
Is to experience Love in its many-hued variety
—Rainbowing our spirit
With Christ's divinely human wonders —
... Until, as Son, He rises fully in our hearts
In Paradise
Light within Light ... within Light ...*

1. Poem 491. Day 5, Annual Retreat, Douglas Park. November 2002.

2. Ps 85:9 (Grail)

A Through Road ¹

*To see Love, Face to face,
We must journey through death
– Because, for faithful hearts,
Death has become a ‘THROUGH ROAD’,
Pioneered by Christ
... A pilgrim’s shortcut,
To the Love of Jesus’ life
– Abba, our God !*

*The usual access is by way of the servants’ entry !
It is a rather narrow, quite humble affair
–A re-fashioned gate of a sheepfold !*

*But then – surprise :
It gives entry
To a hidden, high-walled garden
–A PARADISUM , –
Whose exquisite fragrance
Spicing the air,
Stirs our hearts to love,
Enticing us Within ...*

*To share this pilgrimage
Is to share the FELLOWSHIP of refugees returning from exile :
Each group, following another
Keeps assuring you –
'Just follow His footsteps, follow Jesus' lead ;
This is His HOMECOMING track ;
He loves to walk it
With each new group
... His HOME'S just over the Rise.'*

*Death – as a PASSAGE WAY –
Has never been so pleasant !
So filled with promise !
So transformative !*

As Feather Down ¹

*Loving Jesus,
To offer Your Wisdom to others,
Is to become transparent
To Your freeing Light.*

*With the deepest reverence
We need to lay
Your sunlit words
Upon others' spirits
... As lightly
As feather down
Alighting from the air.
Your freeing Divine words
Are as the dawn's first rays
Kissing the dewdrops
... Causing them to reflect and radiate a sun's full glory !*

The Cluttered Entrance to Our Hearts ¹

*Erecting a tower of self-fulfilment
Will result in a hollow, showy highrise
– Of one always, it seems, ‘in need’
Of extending and upgrading.
Contrariwise,
Emptying our dwelling of SELF,
Invites God’s wondrous Infilling !*

*So the lesson God always engraves on our hearts, is –
Cling to nothing,
Cling not even to creation,
Or to any individual creature,
But only to the Creator.*

*Our many contending human desires
Weary us, or distract us
From our attraction to beauty’s Trinity of Love.
We need to pray for the gift
Of holy indifference ...
For a firm detachment –
From particular possessions ... to the God who is All,
From particular creatures ... lest we mistake them for the Creator,
And, even, from specific graced ways
Of being oneself, or even of doing God’s work !*

*Then, far from seeking TO POSSESS God,
Our gift is TO BE POSSESSED by God
... Gently, putting aside
The desire to own SOME thing,
The desire to be SOMEONE,
The desire to choose SOME path,
The desire to love SOME one
... Content to leave these options to God's choosing.*

*Indeed, Love encourages us
–To forfeit our desire for specifics ...
For the encompassing desire for The One Love ;
–To pray for the gift of abandonment to the Triune God ...
To Abba, Jesus and the Spirit's ALL INCLUSIVE Fellowship ;
–To invest minimal energy in even jettisoning
The clutter at our heart's entrance,
But, simply, TO LET IT GO;
–To face the world with upturned open hands,
So ALL that is received, is given !*

Night Reveals the Universe ¹

*Drawn by the Spirit of Love's Seasons,
Some are called beyond simply loving others positively,
To a love that is, by degrees,
Self-sacrificing ;
Many happily married couples experience this challenging call.*

*Yet, some faithful hearts are called, more deeply still
—Into an often long-term, effective sacrifice of their life
... For another, for their family, or the community.*

*Beyond this, some are called, VERY DEEPLY,
Into a voluntary holocaust, like Christ,
Of ALL they cherish
... For the love of others.
Here, one's love is truly self-transcending,
Being taken up into Jesus' radical self-surrender to Abba.*

*Further, in a profoundly life-changing way
Some even share
In Jesus' experience of His Father's seeming ABSENCE on Calvary
...In His not being able to sense Abba's Presence in any way !
This dark experience of lost personal contact
Can ... even with deep faith ... be long-lasting
... Even disorientating, isolating, or depressive.*

*Contrariwise, for some others,
This Approach of God,
Of being drawn into the Divine,
Of being enfolded in Mystery
– Even in the midst of deprivation and suffering –
Can HEIGHTEN the Presence of God.
Their being drawn into a RADIANT INTIMACY
With Abba, Jesus, and the Spirit,
Stuns them into a spiritual kind of blindness.*

*Blinded by the momentary OPEN GAZE OF LOVE,
Unable to ‘see’ for a period,
They are unable to articulate,
Their wondrous experience of intimacy
And of Divine Immediacy.
... Blundering around emotionally,
And seemingly confused.
But ... by degrees, they discover
“Night hides the earth,
But reveals the universe !”²*

*Still ‘unseeing’, they learn anew
That Abba, Jesus, and the Spirit,
The self-revelatory Light of our world,
Dwells IN our darkness,
–So as to deepen the sense of Their Communing!
THEY hover so near, so close in the blackness,
That the Divine Breath caresses our face*

While revealing

A universe of lesser lights.

These are seen ONLY in the seeming absence of the Divine's Radiant Gaze

... Galaxies of wondrous graces of accompaniment,

... Layered gifts of awe and inspiration,

... Beckoning beacons of comforting light,

... Guiding lights,

... Lights that reveal

—GIFTS ALL, called forth from the darkness, into our lives !

Ultimately, this loving Fellowship of Light

Unable to restrain its Divine delight –

“Calls us out of darkness

Into His own wonderful Light”,³

Transforming our night into day

Enabling UNION !

“O guiding night !

O night more lovely than the dawn !

O night that has united

The lover with his beloved

Transforming the beloved into his lover !”⁴

1 Poem 495, Day 6, Annual Retreat, Douglas Park. November 2002.

2. Author unknown 3. 1Peter 2:9 4. St John of the Cross, The Ascent of Carmel.

Like Father, Like Son ¹

*We need still silence
For Our Lover
To work His wonders within :
To harmonize
Our yearnings, our openness
With His ;
To set aflame, with soft Breath
The tinder of His Love
Within the shelter of our heart.
Here in simplicity, in innocence, in trust,
Our Spirit's identity is born
... Pink-fleshed, open-armed,
"To be lifted close to the cheek" ²
Of the world's fondest Parent.*

*Here, our word of destiny is sounded,
Within the Word
... Our very own divine NAME
Whispered with utter fondness,
With infinite fatherly regard.*

Like Father, like Son :
The glorious Face of Jesus
Is the Template of all beauty
Of all our images of longing, loyalty and love,
And, especially of who we are TOGETHER, in Abba's sight !
Jesus' Face imprints its vivifying, mysterious image
On the heart's core of each He loves into being.
It is the homing compass for those who lose their way
Marking each with a unique beauty,
Each with a unique appeal for a doting Father,
And sealing them – as Family !

1 Poem 496, Day 6, Annual Retreat, Douglas Park. November 2002.

2. Hos 11: 4.

One Together, Together One ¹

The One we seek

Is seeking us

With infinite desire.

The orientation we have to God

Is a Father's Birth-Gift.

To be true to it,

Is to discover that our destiny

... Is one with God's.

Our departure point in seeking the God of Love

Is our Goal !

We seek but to claim our origin :

The seed for the Tree of Life, and its fruit,

Are one in the God of Love !

The One Love

That prompts us to begin,

That entices us on

... Trailing Its fragrance even through the black of night –

Is our Welcome Home !

For our Love IS ...

One Together,

Together One

... With us.

Our worth is being born of Love !

Our identity, being children of Love !

Our destiny, being one with Love !

*“How gently and lovingly
You wake in my heart ...
Your fragrant beauty stills me
Our grace, Your glory fills me
So tenderly
Your love becomes my own.”* ²

1 Poem 497, Annual Retreat, Douglas Park. November 2002.

2. St. John of the Cross – The Living Flame of Love.

God Is Life ¹

*'O Lover of life,
You whose imperishable spirit is in all !'* (J.B.) Wis. 11:26 – 12:1

*God never stops offering life :
God is life,
And whoever is filled with life,
Is filled with God !
Being, with God, the lover of all life,
–We are OPEN to all that LIVES !
–To all others who are ALIVE in God !*

*Thus to be filled with life imperishable,
Is to live in God the Eternal
–To be Eternally at home in God !
Alive in God
Forever !*

Enrapture ¹

PREAMBLE : “On the night of Day 7, on my bed, before sleeping ... a key enlightenment for me, seemed to come as a gift from Abba, Jesus, and the Spirit. It concerned the nature of God’s Enrapture of a Christian’s spirit. The key image was one of two Seraphim EMBRACING, ... forming a perfect unified SPHERE.

Seraphim are the highest order of God’s angels. Sometimes, they represent God’s OWN SELF ; sometimes the Persons of God – as here ! Seraphim are most often represented with SIX wings. My imagery of them is based powerfully on the Altar of the Blessed Sacrament, in the Franciscan Parish Church at Kedron in Brisbane (my Sunday Church). I wrote this poem the same night !” – Author.

As Abba and Jesus enfold each Other

–As two six-winged Seraphim in a mutual embrace –

I ...we, are WITHIN Their Kiss

This is ENRAPTURE !

Their Kiss IS the Spirit of Love.

In this first phase, as it were,

The ENRAPTURING, represented by the wings,

Closes IN ...IN ...IN

Until Both fully encompass each Other

In the Kiss of Love !

In Enraptured Oneness !

... To the eye, a perfect sphere.

*In the alternate phase, as it were,
The wings of ENRAPTURE
Open OUT ... OUT ... OUT
In a GODBURST of Giving and Creative Love
–Unfolding the wondrous DISTINCTIVENESS of Abba and of Jesus,
And of the Spirit of Love !
Their Unfolding, beautifully extends to all of Creation,
And, in a privileged and uniquely personal INDWELLING,
To ourselves.
This Godburst thus reveals
The Divine in the Three
.
Whereupon, the Enrapture again, and inclusively,
Folds inwards
... In an Eternal Rhythm ...
Into Divine Oneness.

Thus, all human spirits, who are of God
Vitaly dwell
Within on another,
Within Abba and Jesus' Kiss
–In ENRAPTURE !*

Brothering ¹

To brother is to be like Jesus.

To brother is to be a sacrament of Jesus, our brother ; to brother Jesus to the world.

To brother is to cherish together the love of our Father.

To brother is to freely give away as brother, what we have received as son.

To brother is to invite others to share this love and so experience family.

To brother is to nurture each person as brother or sister.

To brother is to invite our brothers and sisters to heal family divisions.

To brother is to be with each, in their struggle for identity within the family.

To brother is to ensure that family consciousness shapes family structures, not vice versa.

To brother is to allow tenderness to empower our familial hopes and responsibilities.

To brother is to love each brother and sister with intimacy and warmth.

To brother is to welcome vulnerability as family gift.

To brother is to embrace and make whole, brothers and sisters whose lives are hurting or broken.

To brother is, ultimately, to relate to our brother and sister, each as friend.

¹ Poem 500. Year 4 Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane. Nov 2002.

Brothering was first published in OUR LIFE, late 2002. 'anonymously' by the author.

Longing ¹

*Because God never stops offering life,
This life must needs be
The Gift of the Godself
... For us, a wondrous Companionship Presence !
Therefore, our LONGING for God
Is God's Presence
... Experienced AS absence.*

1 Poem 501. Year 4, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane. December 2002.

NOTE: Peter Anderson's transfer to New Guinea saw the close of the old Woolloowin house. I transferred locally to Clayfield Community. – Author.

Centering Our Love ¹

Divine Love is an ever-moving stream
Deluging our spirits :
Ours it is ... to LET it flood our being.
Channelling it FULLY to others
– Keeping nothing for ourselves
And when the Spirit prompts us ...
Channelling it, especially,
To our 'lost ones'
To our enemies
–Seemingly, undeservingly ... just like us !

1 Poem 502. Year 4, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane. December 2002.

NOTE : This poem is a reflection on an article, Notes on the Prayer Centering by Thomas Keating.

Back to Your Arms ¹

Jesus, I hear Your Voice,

Calling me back home :

It guides me through life's maze ...

Past all the dead-end streets ...

Back to Your welcoming arms !

Lifted to Your shoulder,

Able to gaze into other's loved-filled eyes,

I view my world, as Your world.

With Your vision, with Your compassion ...

Your healing becomes my healing,

Your relating, my relating,

Your Life, my Life.

God Transcends All ¹

Christ's desire that we ...

"Be in this world, but not of it" ²

Urges us to meet God

In ourself

In the other

In relationships

– Knowing that God TRANSCENDS all three

... But not knowing what that truly means.

1 Poem 504. Year 5, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane. January 2003.

2 Theological saying, based on Scripture (see John chapter 13-17).

Being Empty for God ¹

Faith

Is being empty – for God

Hungering – for God

Thirsting – for God

Yearning – for God

With our longing ... arising from

Our be-longing ... to God.

Drawing Together – Lovingly ¹

Our own past, good or bad,

Is not to be confused

With the nostalgia or irrelevance.

We need to let go of our past,

Even as we honour it, and utilize it

As the building blocks of our future.

... For God's Eternity, radiates OUT OF

Every moment, of every day, in every person,

Drawing together lovingly, their past and future,

Into THIS present moment :

Ours, is to let this happen.

One Master Only ¹

*Jesus was proclaimed in the hearts and mouths
Of His post-Pentecostal disciples
As ... “Lord !”, “Deliverer !”, and “Son of God !”
All these titles, in time, came to clash
With the self-proclaimed identical titles of the Emperor
–Notably, the degenerate Caligula.
What to do ?*

*They remembered Jesus’ directive –
“You cannot have two masters.” ²
The chose Jesus.
And the orientation of their lives became –
Ever more radical
Ever more centered
Ever more communal
... Ultimately, ever more Christlike.*

¹ Poem 507. Year 5, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane. February 2003.

² Lk 16:13.

Prayer's Seven Illusions, Seven Affirmations ¹

- *To believe I can INFLATE prayer ...*

That I can PUT myself in God's Presence ...

Is an illusion.

O Abba, You are beyond all our knowing,
Beyond even our hoping :
Your grace enables ALL we do.
Truly, in the beginning IS the Word
—Your Word to us
... To enable our Word to You :
“Without me, You can do nothing.” ²

- *To believe, in prayer, that ‘OURS’ is the desire,*

While God's is the response ...

Is an illusion.

O Abba, You not only fill us with desire for You,
But through Your Spirit, prompt and accompany ...
Our every yearning
... The hungering of our very being for You !
Through Your Spirit,
You even sensitize our expectant hearts, to listen,
And enable our openness to You,
Who, of course, alone responds to all such graced desire !

•
To believe that it is I, as an individual alone,

Who am praying to God ...

Is an illusion.

O Abba, though Jesus has assured us that

“No one can come to the Father except through me,”³

We continue to be astonished

That only, in Jesus Ascended, can we commune with You

Within Your FELLOWSHIP of Love

—As Equals, Eternally !

This dazzling INTIMACY of MANY-IN-CHRIST,

Speaking to God ...

Is replicated by Your Spirit of Communing,

Who, even substitutes FOR US, in Christ,

So that, “when WE cannot choose words in order to pray ...

Your Spirit Himself expresses OUR plea

... In a way that can never be put into words”⁴

... So that You Abba,

“Who knows everything in our hearts,

Knows perfectly well what He means !”⁵

Thus Abba, both Jesus Ascended and the Spirit

—Each in Their own way—

Are OUR prayer to You :

We simply never pray

... As individual ALONE !

- *To believe that my prayer is INTRINSICALLY WORTH SOMETHING*

To God ...

Is an illusion.

O Abba, all of us are no more than dust or ashes ;

You “alone are good !”⁶

–To you alone be the glory !⁷

And as Your Spirit, through St Paul reminds us –

“The human race has NOTHING to boast about to God,

If anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord !”⁸

Thus, Abba while alone we always remain that “unprofitable servant,

Who has done what it was one’s duty to do,”⁹

IN CHRIST, our praying is that of God’s Beloved, Himself !

- *To act as if prayer can happen, without faith*

–To believe that MY EFFORTS can move God :

This is an illusion.

Abba, “I do believe ; help my unbelief !”¹⁰

Draw me to experience

How “No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ !” or any prayer,

Unless “He is under the INFLUENCE of the Holy Spirit.”¹¹

Draw me also Abba, NOT to trust in my own efforts,

But to imitate Jesus in His humility ...

“Jesus did not count equality a thing to be grasped,

But EMPTIED HIMSELF,”¹²

And prayed “Into Your hands, I entrust my Spirit.”¹³

• *Either ... To believe that I NEED particular aids*

–Such as special music, times, settings, ritual or even emotions –

In order to pray ...

Or ... To believe that special people

–Such as inspirers, preachers, singers, spiritual directors –

Can ensure a fruitful prayer experience, or deepen my prayer ...

ARE BOTH ILLUSIONS.

Abba, remind us always that Your conversing with us,

Is the most empowering and significant reality in prayer.

Your Spirit reminds us

“Do not worry”... ‘the atmospheric’ you seek or contrive

Do not condition Your Father’s tenderness :

“Your Father KNOWS what you need.” ¹⁴

Indeed, Abba, prayer is always 100% Your gift to us ...

–Transform our praying, Abba,

So that Job’s heartfelt prayer can become ours ...

“The Lord gives, the Lord takes away ;

Blessed be the name of the Lord !” ¹⁵

• *Finally ... to believe that we can KNOW*

That our prayer for ourselves, or others,

Has been answered ...

Is an illusion.

O Abba, while it is quite possible that You do respond

To our prayers for ourselves and others

In a timely and obvious way ...

Remind us always that we cannot KNOW or PRESUME

That our prayer is, or will be

ANSWERED in this, or any other way ...

“My ways are not your ways !” ¹⁶

And more deeply, Abba, reminds us

That it is ONLY Your Spirit ...

Who “reaches the depths of everything” ¹⁷

—Especially Your depths, Abba,

“For Your depths can ONLY BE KNOWN by Your Spirit !” ¹⁸

1 Poem 508. Year 5, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane. March 2003.

2. Jn 15:5. 3. Jn 14:6. 4. Rom 8: 26. 5. Rom 8:27. 6. Lk 18:19 7. Cf Ps 62:6, 7.

8.1Cor 1:29, 31. 9. Lk 17:10. 10. Mk 9:24 11.1Cor 12:3. 12. Phil 2:6, 7.

13. Lk 23:46. 14. Mt 6:8. 15. Job 1:21 16. Is 55:8. 17.1Cor 2:10. 18. Cf 1Cor 2:11.

Blow Away Evil's Ashes ¹

Abba,
I thank You for unmasking
The true face
Of my hubris, envy, and hypocrisy
And especially,
Underneath this evil cluster,
Exposing the vulnerability and fears
That entice me
To project these ego-drives onto OTHERS
... Under the guise of: 'REALISTIC' character assessments !

Abba,
Breathe the cleansing Breath of Your Spirit
Within my heart
–Intensifying the consuming fire
Of Your forgiveness ...
Burning out the deepest roots of this sinful cluster
With the fuel of Your love !

Especially grant me the grace
To search out
Any evil re-growth,
And gently ...
Blow away its ashes
... Without regret.

To Love, To Live, To Breathe ¹ *

To love You, Abba

To love You, Abba

To love You, Abba –

To love You ...

To live You, Jesus

To live You, Jesus

To live You, Jesus –

To live You ...

To breathe You, Spirit

To breathe You, Spirit

To breathe You, Spirit

To breathe You ...

Bow down before You

Love and adore You

Your Name is wonderful !

Yahweh ! Our God !

1 Poem 510. Year 5, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane. March 2003.

*Written to be sung. Tune: “Your Name Is Wonderful”.

Verses 1, 2, 3, are by the author. Verse 4, from the original short song.

To Love, To Live, To Breathe ¹ *

To love You, Abba

To love You, Abba

To love You, Abba –

To love You ...

To live You, Jesus

To live You, Jesus

To live You, Jesus –

To live You ...

To breathe You, Spirit

To breathe You, Spirit

To breathe You, Spirit

To breathe You ...

Bow down before You

Love and adore You

Your Name is wonderful !

Yahweh ! Our God !

1 Poem 510. Year 5, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane. March 2003.

*Written to be sung. Tune: “Your Name Is Wonderful”.

Verses 1, 2, 3, are by the author. Verse 4, from the original short song.

With Christ's Risen Vision ¹

For Thomas, in Jesus' absence
... On the Sunday following the Resurrection ...
SEEING was nothing more
Than encountering the evidence before one's eyes ;
Yet for Thomas in Jesus' Presence,
SEEING BECOMES BELIEVING
... Based on a leap of faith,
... Bolstered by the CERTAINTY, that is faith's gift !

For John, a witness to Jesus' discarded garments
... In the tomb, on Easter morning ...
BELIEVING IS SEEING
–Seeing BEYOND appearances, BEYOND the visual evidence,
Seeing with CHRIST'S RISEN VISION ...
Discerning WHAT IS REAL – WHAT IS OF GOD
And thus, IN CHRIST – what is authentically human !

Transparent with God's Love ¹

*For those with faith,
The world is utterly transparent
With God's love.
The Spirit's faithful ones
Become living transparencies
Within the Risen Jesus,
Within Abba
—Witnesses all, to Love.*

Being With ... ¹

Only by BEING WITH –

The materially destitute,

The emotionally stricken,

The spiritually impoverished

... Can we redeem them,

For, in being with

“The least of Jesus’ brethren”, ²

We are in His Redeeming Presence.

¹ Poem 514. Year 5, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane. May 2003

² Cf Mt 25:40.

At Home in Mystery ¹

God me

I do not belong to myself

... Indeed, I am, mostly, a stranger to myself.

My human condition surely, is poverty of being :

With a nature that's OPEN-ENDED ... a being, incomplete ...

Indeed, the imprint of my beginnings

Has left me with trceries

... "Reins of kindness", "leading strings of love"... ²

Impressed on my spirit,

A lingering SENSE –

Of being valued divinely,

Of a numinous identity,

Of an orientation within,

Of a homeing instinct !

But, this Spiritual compass-bearing

Can be easily, and even tragically,

Disorientated,

Confused,

Or misled,

... And our innate allegiance, seduced.

*As we encounter, at the heart of our being,
This Mystery of our origins,
And, thus, the Mystery of our fulfilment ...
An ambivalent seductive presence insinuates itself
Within the fringes of this Mystery
Our lives become subject to the struggle
Between these contending attractions !*

*Our attraction to the ephemeral presence, has no resolution
– Spiralling into an ever-tightening knot
Of addictive energies.*

*When this happens, Mystery's forgiveness envelopes our being
... Bathing our wounded spirits with healing,
Releasing addictions' energies for loving fellowship !*

*We are perennially surprised to discover
That every genuine stirring of such fellowship
Resonates with our homeing instinct
–Drawing us to be Godlike ... Christlike,
Firstly, to an emptying of self
... Becoming poor in spirit, open, and vulnerable ;
And then to become an open-hearted, welcoming presence
... Open to the Spirit's Infilling !
... Drawn into the Divine Circle of Love !
... A conduit for Christ's Presence to others !*

Our deep thankfulness ...
For such numinous experiences, within Mystery's Embrace,
Of Mystery drawing us unto Itself
... Ought be our constant response.
But our hearts are fickle, our resolve, fragile
... And we subtly begin, again, to congratulate ourselves
For this grace of Divine Intimacy !
Or, we even imagine, it is a privileged experience for us alone !
We shy away from desiring to encounter
This sense of Mystery within others
—The experience THEY share with Mystery —
Preferring to focus on our own LIMITED experience.

We thus fail to learn the lesson
Of true POVERTY OF ENCOUNTER :
That we need TO ENTER POOR, into the Mystery of the other
... if we are to sense in them, that SAME Mystery
As centres out being,
... If we are to be drawn into this Mystery, within them,
... If we are to come to know them, FROM WITHIN Mystery !
Only then
—Can we discover that we receive ourselves
As a GIFT FROM OTHERS !
Only then can we GIVE OURSELVES AS A GIFT in response,
And this remains open
To the Embrace of Mystery !
Only then do we discover that our home, is not IN the Embrace
But, as with the Trinity, IN THE CYCLE OF GIVING !

Thus our graced prayer ought to be –
To ABIDE IN THIS CYCLE OF LOVE,
Never looking for resolution or closure
To Love's Mystery,
But, TO ABIDE IN THE FLOW OF GIVING,
In the ENRAPTURE OF GIVING !

1 Poem 515. Year 5, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane. May 2003.

2 Hos 11:4.

Support ¹

Preamble : In Hebrew, the words 'truth' and 'amen' are derived from the SAME root word, meaning 'to SUPPORT' – as in 'The pillars support the roof of the Temple' or 'The eagle supports its nestlings on its wings' or 'Amen to that !'.

To believe in the truth of Jesus

Is to be true to Jesus,

To be faithful to Jesus.

It is to answer 'Amen' to Him – with our lives.

To support all that He is for us,

To faithfully imitate Him.

To have faith is to "have the mind of Christ", ²

So that 'the thoughts of our heart' ³

Are faithful to His

–So that our lives, witness to,

And support, what we express in words.

1 Poem 516. Year 5, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane. June 2003.

2 Phil 2:3

3 Cf Rom 10:9, 10.

Our Daily Offering ¹

*Loving, dearest Abba,
I offer everything I am, and do, today –
All my decisions, thinking, feelings, imagery and actions.*

*I desire to join my heart today
To the heart of our loving brother, Jesus,
Who gives Himself up, fully, to Your service
And to the service of all of us, His kin.*

*Fill me with Your Spirit, Abba,
So that I can live like Jesus today.
Please join all I am, and do, today
To His offering in today's Eucharist
– Becoming a Paschal heart with Him.*

*I pray IN Jesus
Who is the praying heart of our humanity
– With Mary and all the saints –
For Your Beloved's own beautiful Bride, the Church :
... Strengthen all whose faith is weak or failing
... And deepen the faith of all who look to You, as their Father.*

I pray that You especially take to Your heart today
–Each hurting, struggling person in the world,
–Every disunited family or community
–Every sidelined person, and every discriminated group
... So that all can be responsive
To the empowering, healing Spirit of Your Son.

To Be Holy ¹

To be holy is to be 'without sin', ²

To be holy is to be wholly good

As God IS

... Utterly, surpassingly good

Transcendently good

—Beyond all measures and expressions of good.

But ... our human nature is now tragically inclined to sin ;

Thus, for us to be holy NOW,

Is to allow Jesus, the Holy One, ³

To transform our hearts

Our very beings :

... To liberate us from sin,

To free us from death,

... Making us worthy, in Him,

'The Only One WORTHY' ! ⁴

He renews us,

So that Abba

Gathers us to Himself

As a "new humanity" ⁵

In Christ – His Beloved

... So we may 'Be holy

As He is holy'. ⁶

1 Poem 518. Year 5, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane. July 2003.

2 The Hebrew word for 'holy' is 'kadosh' which means 'exempt from evil'. 3 Mk 1:24.

4 Cf Rev 5:2, 12. 5 Eph 2:15 (N.R.S.V.) 6 Cf Jn 17:19-24, 1Pet 1:16.

Mary's Heart Almost Burst ¹

*Mary, at the foot of the Cross,
Is in the deepest empathy possible with Jesus :
His over-whelming GOODNESS floods her heart ...
All His last words resonate within the depth of her being : -*

"Woman, this is Your son ; son, this is your Mother": Jn 19:26.

*Mary knew, in this moment,
She had to die to the wonder
Of having Jesus
As her ONLY child.
But she sensed, in another way
-Within the all-encompassing Mystery of God's Love -
That there was ONLY JESUS
To be loved, in all of them !*

"Abba, forgive them ; they know not what they do": Lk 23:34

*Broken-hearted with grief, Mary can't but forgive
ALL her Son's brothers and sisters
Now ... her OWN beloved children.*

"Today, you will be with me in paradise !" Lk 23:43.

*With a sad hope-filled smile,
Mary took these words
As spoken to her, FOR US.
Her prayer-filled hope was that every remaining day
... For her life and ours ...
Would be OPEN to this "today" !*

#

“I thirst !”: Jn 19:28.

Mary too thirsted for our deliverance

–Through the swift deliverance of her beloved Jesus.

But, most of all, she yearned

For the encompassing arms of Abba

To enfold both Jesus and us.

#

“My God, my God, why have You deserted me ?” : Mt 27:46.

Mary, too, felt the emotions

That poured out of the heart of Jesus

... Praying every spiritual pulse

Of this deep-hearted psalm of surrender ²

... With Jesus.

#

“It is accomplished !”: Jn 19:30.

Mary’s heart almost burst

As she glimpsed what Jesus saw –

The vision

Of Abba’s adopted family

Banqueting in His Presence

–The glorious, joyous homecoming of His prodigal children

... The “closest to His heart”. ³

#

*“Abba, into Your hands
I entrust my spirit ...” Lk 23:46.
Mary’s heart opened
In this same Passover moment
... Abandoning herself WITH her Son
Into Abba’s arms
... Swept up in the moment
Of Jesus’ own Spirit
–To the Love of both their lives !*

1 Poem 519. Year 5, Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane. July 2003.

2 Ps 22 (N.R.S.V.) 3 Cf Jn 1:18.

JESUS’ LAST WORDS, QUOTED.