

## Flesh of the Church, Sinew of God <sup>1</sup>

*We are the body of the Beloved,  
Christ's Eucharist alive in the world  
... Really, truly en-fleshing the Beloved's Presence  
In this place, now, with these people !  
Thus to eat and drink the Beloved's body and blood,  
Is to dine on the flesh of the Church,  
And to drink deeply of its life-blood !*

*As Abba's sons and daughters, beloved adoptees,  
We each give sinew, bone and a face to God  
... Revealing Christ's identity, through our body language,  
In the obviousness of our emotions, and in the flow of our conversation.  
We especially personify Jesus ...  
As we SENSE being affectionately caressed by Abba,  
And as eagerly desire to channel this Love to all !*

WONDROUSLY –

*We too, IN Christ, can Divinize  
– With our humble touch and healing words –  
All that is human, limited, and needful.  
We too, can EMBODY Eternity, now, in this place  
... With arms that cradle and embrace,  
With hands that sooth, caress, and give assurance,  
With eyes that smile Abba's Love on the world !*

*We too, in Christ, can breach the walls of death  
... By focussing our gaze on Abba  
– Who communes Eternally with us, WITHIN time –  
Thus NEGATING death's once potent power  
To separate us from God !*

*Abba  
As Your Beloved Kin,  
Encamped in time,  
We are gathered around the God-fire  
That flares within our spirits  
Transforming our world itself,  
Through Your fiery Spirit ...  
Into the burnished Image of Your Beloved !*

*Alive and aglow with Your Life, Abba,  
We truly PERSONIFY Your Beloved,  
Give RESONANCE to Your Word  
Becoming ...  
Earthen transparencies to the Light of lights !  
Laughing eyes to the gaze of Love !  
Above all, we EMBODY Christ's love  
For You and the Spirit –  
Relating as He relates !  
Communing as He communes !*

## The Spirit's Relating <sup>1</sup>

*The Father's and Son's mutual communing*

*Transcends all our sense of union.*

*Their mutual bonding is ALIVE*

*... Being not something ABOUT Themselves,*

*But OF Themselves*

*– A MUTUALITY, Eternally personal : THE SPIRIT !*

*This Person does not say,*

*“I AM the Relationship”,*

*But “I AM THE RELATING”*

*... The One-Who-Relates Abba to His Beloved,*

*And the Beloved to Abba.*

*Only TOGETHER do Abba, Jesus, and the Spirit proclaim*

*“We are the Relationship”.*

## Spirit <sup>1</sup>

*Our human spirit  
Derives from the fact,  
That ours is a spiritual soul.*

*For us, forever tied TO time,*

*To be spirit*

*Is to experience life BEYOND time !*

*For us, forever tied to specific places,*

*To be spirit*

*Is to experience life AS BOUNDLESS*

*For us, forever subject to fickle emotions,*

*To be spirit*

*Is to experience life AS CHANGLESS !*

*Also, to be spirit, is to live The Truth*

*– In a way that is beyond human fallibility,*

*And human infidelity –*

*Wherein our heart can unite with another's*

*... Without fallibility, without experiencing loss of trust.*

*To be spirit*  
*Is to be open to the Absolute ...*  
*To relate to One,*  
*Who TRANSCENDS all our selves utterly, Eternally,*  
*Both individually and communally.*  
*It is also to welcome all other spirits ...*  
*To dwell within our spirit*  
*... As we can choose to dwell within theirs, if invited.*

*Especially, to be spirit, is to live Endless Love*  
*– Beyond the fullness of human faithfulness –*  
*Wherein, we long for all hearts*  
*To twin with ours, ETERNALLY!*  
*When spirits DO UNITE,*  
*Time, space and limitation vanish!*  
*Love deluges the universe!*

## The Gift of God <sup>1</sup>

*To be married, sacramentally*

*Is to receive each other,*

*As a gift FROM God,*

*And to receive, in our uniting,*

*The Gift OF God ...*

*Wherein, the two, truly become one.*

## Blest and Poor, As God is Poor – Beatitude 1 <sup>1</sup>

“BLEST ARE YOU POOR, WHO KNOW YOUR NEED OF GOD:

ABBA’S KINGDOM OF LOVE IS YOURS.”

(MT 5:3)

*A poor baby*

*A poor child*

*A poor teenager*

*– Such was Jesus*

*The poor man*

*Of Nazareth.*

*As God’s Eternal Beloved, He “was rich”,*

*But He “became poor”. <sup>2</sup>*

*In Eternity, He is infinitely rich,*

*–Through Abba’s utter gift ... of ‘His All’.*

*He is also infinitely poor*

*– Through the utter surrender of ‘His All’ to Abba.*

*Thus, as Gift OF Abba ...*

*As Gift TO Abba ...*

*Abba and He ARE –*

*One in Their Giving, ever poor,*

*One in Their Receiving, ever rich,*

*One in Their Spirit ...*

*Giving God ! Receiving God !*

*This wondrous Richness,  
This wondrous Poverty,  
Took root on earth  
In time and space,  
Within Jesus' humanity ...  
The template for our own.*

*It began in the utter poverty  
Of Jesus' zero consciousness :  
As infant, Jesus was NEITHER  
Able to KNOW, NOR to CHOOSE  
—Being the Divine Gift OF Abba,  
—Or being the Divine Gift TO Abba  
... WHAT POVERTY!*

*The mustard seed of Jesus' consciousness  
Relied for growth, totally, on the nurture  
Which Mary and Joseph supplied :  
Enabling it to sprout, and gain leaf,  
To branch, blossom, and bear fruit.  
It was SOLELY through them  
That Jesus CAME to know and love  
His OWN Eternal Father  
... WHAT POVERTY!*



*As a small child, He came to love Abba,  
Through trusting THEM.  
In later childhood, He came to sense and trust  
Abba's Presence  
Both through them,  
And, increasingly, in a more PERSONAL way.  
Through Joseph, King David's descendant,  
Jesus, as a member of this CHOSEN RACE, came to realize  
That He belonged-to-God  
—As ONE of God's own people !  
With Mary, He simply and lovingly COPIED her  
... As she responded to God's invitations  
With the fondest faith and trust  
... WHAT POVERTY !*

*Thus did Jesus' love for Abba grow, and grow,  
But, unlike ours, HIS did so, consistently  
—Without the brake our self imposes  
—Without the mistrust, our wavering hearts generate  
—Without the distractions of our endlessly seeking pride of place.  
This love for Yabweh, modelled on Mary's and Joseph's ,  
Then blossomed into something intensely personal,  
—Into the most trusting, fondest friendship with His God-companion  
... Wherein, He was swept into the profound intimacy  
Of fondly calling Yabweh, "Abba !"*

*Then, as Jesus matured  
Into a deeply dependent adulthood,  
This fond, filial friendship  
Settled into a profound peacefulness  
... As he delighted to commune constantly with Abba Yahweh,  
Who filled His heart to overflowing !*

*Jesus thus TOOK YEARS to come  
To a fulsome knowledge and love  
Of the one from whom He came  
... Of Him with whom He was one !*

*... WHAT POVERTY !*

*Thus Jesus learnt to love through trusting others,  
And this trust in His parents, and grandparents,  
Extended easily to trust in friends, and in His synagogue tutors.  
It generated, too, a NETWORK OF TRUST with His fellow Nazareans.  
And it is especially this trust and faith,  
That He dearly hoped would be reciprocated, later,  
In the hearts of those who humbly reached out to Him for healing.  
Because His dependence on Abba Yahweh, came communally and naturally,  
Jesus sensed that He simply ought not attempt  
To be, or do, anything ALONE :  
He was, essentially, one of a people ;  
He felt one part of an organic whole  
... WHAT POVERTY !*

*The very best of what Jesus knew of life and love  
Emerged, when He surrendered to Abba  
All His own desires and understandings  
... Submitting, with deepest joy and humility,  
To the utter, utter goodness  
Of Abba's Wisdom  
... WHAT POVERTY!*

*Jesus prayed that such Wisdom would characterize,  
Would suffuse, the whole of His OWN life  
... Relying on Abba Yahweh to lead Him  
—Heart within Heart—  
To breathe in this Divine Wisdom.*

*With it, He sought to clarify and amplify His personal calling.  
As He 'enfleshed' this Love-Wisdom in His life,  
His deepest sense of self ... was of BELONGING  
... To Abba, and to Abba's people  
—And of longing to belong, more and more!  
Indeed, His key sense of self  
Was of DEPENDENCY,  
And of FILLIAL BELONGING  
... WHAT POVERTY!*

*From the depths of this trustful, childlike intimacy,  
Jesus emerged, galvanized by the conviction  
Of being CHERISHED, even FAVOURED  
– And in this consciousness, deeply yearning  
To have others CO-EXPERIENCE these gifts of Abba.  
He longed to SHARE with them –  
Abba Yahweh's loving insistence on purity of heart !  
Abba Yahweh's astounding sense of inclusiveness !  
Abba Yahweh's whole-hearted sense of compassion  
And Abba Yahweh's breath-taking sense of justice !*

*... To share ALL*

*That Abba-Yahweh had lavished on Him !*

*... WHAT POVERTY !*

*One thing really STOOD OUT for Jesus,  
In His eager urge to spread Yahweh's good news :  
His Abba's responsiveness to THE CRY OF THE POOR !  
This heartfelt love of the poor  
Already resonated profoundly in His own heart,  
Because He was so utterly and overwhelmingly DEPENDENT ON ABBA  
Being so amazingly CHILDLIKE and SIMPLE !*

*... WHAT POVERTY !*

*In the months leading to His baptism,  
Jesus' deep sense of dependence on OTHERS,  
Led Him to become a disciple of His cousin  
—Almost His twin by age—  
... John, son of Zechariah and Elizabeth.  
The Baptist's sense of urgency for Yahweh's kingdom,  
Helped to clarify Jesus' own outlook and feelings :  
John's call to a whole new way of thinking and being,  
Moved Jesus to IDENTIFY Himself  
With the "ptochoi", the poor, and the "tapeinoi", the lowly  
—Together, as Abba Yahweh's own "nepioi", or little ones  
... WHAT POVERTY!*

*Jesus knew, within Himself, in prayer, that it was they, "the poor,"  
Who knew THEIR NEED OF GOD!  
And in His own ministry, He soon sensed in His heart,*

*That it was "the lowly", the "the little ones",  
Who were most often, most prepared,  
To share in His own intimate experience  
... Of childlike dependence on Abba.  
'Abba', Jesus declares, 'delights in FATHERING ALL  
Who call on Him with NEEDY hearts !'  
In response, Abba, through His Spirit  
Points them to His NEEDY SON,  
The model of a heart, impoverished of self,  
Of a heart, with a truly spacious spirit !  
... WHAT POVERTY!*

*Thus, Jesus urged these “little ones” to WELCOME dependence,*

*Not rejecting it, as immature,*

*But welcoming it – precisely, AS A CHILD,*

*... With simplicity and trusting abandonment*

*... Be they “hungry or thirsty”,*

*“Strangers or naked”,*

*“Sick or imprisoned”,<sup>3</sup>*

*–Specifically because they, like Himself,*

*Had little or no resources, to meet their own needs*

*... WHAT POVERTY !*

*Jesus’ decision to identify with “the poor and lowly”*

*Moved Him, also, to seek to COMPREHEND*

*The matrix of personal and societal sin*

*That ENTRENCHES poverty, and FORCES ‘dependence’.*

*Thus, He sought out John’s “baptism of repentance”,*

*Thereby initiating His own CHOSEN IMMERSION into the sea of sin,*

*Threatening to engulf all His brothers and sisters*

*... WHAT POVERTY !*

*In this symbiotic immersion in the lives of Abba’s ‘little ones’,*

*Jesus marvelled at being so PERSONALLY affirmed :*

*He was astounded by Abba’s public declaration*

*Of what was, until THEN,*

*An inwardly private, intimate friendship !*

*Stunned too, by the Descent of the Spirit –*

*In HIS anointing and sealing of this RELATIONSHIP WITH ABBA*

*– As the vehicle for FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD,*

*Especially for the poor and lowly, so sidelined by life !*

*Within this epiphany, of support,  
Jesus felt wonderfully and uniquely affirmed  
By Abba Yahweh's exclamation of delight in Him,  
As "My Beloved Son !"  
And by Abba's equally heartfelt use of the 'suffering servant' scriptures  
To confirm Jesus' sacrificial destiny :  
His MISSION to the poor !*

*Abba's declaration to the universe, of His delight in His Beloved Child  
ENBOLDENED Jesus to go ahead, and freely SHARE with the poor  
His own deep sense of childlike dependence on Abba !  
He urged them, not just to be dependent,  
But to CHOOSE dependence : to seek a baptism of FORGIVENESS  
– So as to WELCOME this Kingdom of Dependence, as "little ones"  
"Unless you CHANGE and become like little children  
You shall not enter Abba's Kingdom." <sup>4</sup>*

*After His ritual immersion in the lives of His 'anawin',  
Waves of joy and humility swept over Jesus :  
He felt the need for a very deep, and sustained experience  
–Of INTIMACY with Abba –  
Before He publicly launched His "good news".  
In being "Led by the Spirit into the wilderness", <sup>5</sup>  
He sensed Abba Yahweh's own desire  
To prepare and to strengthen Him.  
Indeed, this Moses-like preparation for leadership  
Became, in part, trial by ordeal.*

*Satan, alerted by –*  
*... Abba Yahweh's outpouring of fatherly love,*  
*... Jesus' humble, filial obedience,*  
*... And the Spirit's Anointing of Jesus for mission*  
*– Broke cover, and subjected the Beloved*  
*To a barrage of temptation !*

*Initially, this most deceitful of spirits, suggested to Jesus ...*  
*'Satisfy your own material needs first,*  
*Before worrying about God and others :*  
*Lift yourself out of poverty*  
*Before focussing on the poor !*  
*One needs to be rich*  
*To help the poor !'*

*Secondly, he snidely suggested ...*  
*'Forget about the way of childlikeness and dependence :*  
*Use your own miracle-working powers*  
*To impress and sway the crowds !*  
*Then they'll KNOW that God's on your side*  
*Such power will convince them !'*



*Finally, Satan ENVIOUSLY tried to bribe Jesus*

*–With the prospect of an alliance between them*

*... Actually, a disguised ploy for DEPENDENCE, on himself :*

*‘Power, independence, and untold influence will be yours,*

*If you ally yourself to ME ... to those worldly forces,*

*... Those hidden manoeuvrings ... those dark powers I CONTROL !*

*Trust and exploit these hierarchies of privilege and licence*

*– To exalt your dominance over others, and to promote your cause*

*!*

*Then, you’ll be able to enforce ‘our’ teachings, with ease !’*

*Jesus simply replied,*

*“Blest are the poor, who know their need of God :*

*Abba’s kingdom of love is theirs !”<sup>6</sup>*

*Yes ! Blest are those who HUNGER for Abba’s Presence;*

*Yes ! Blest are those who MOURN for Abba’s seeming absence in their lives*

*– All such, know their need of God.*

*The particular challenge by Jesus, to His POOR disciples*

*–Ever under pressure, to assert their independence of God –*

*Is that they REMAIN poor, ‘poor and needy in spirit’.*

*Jesus remained so, to death :*

*He KEPT on trusting, dependent on Abba until His last breath*

*Entrusting His very spirit into His Father’s tender care*

*... A spirit utterly emptied of self,*

*... A spirit as poor as God is poor, Eternally*

*“All I have is Yours,*

*And all You have is mine !”<sup>7</sup>*

*Thus did Jesus begin humanity's new era,  
With this greatest of all assurances to us all –  
‘Blest are you poor  
Who know your need of God :  
Abba's kingdom of love is yours !’<sup>8</sup>*

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BEATITUDE 1

1 Poem 604, 8 Day Retreat, Camden, Sydney, early Oct 2004, Day 1.

(Sr Yvonne Parker, Spiritual Director)

2 JB 2 Cor 8:9    3 JB Mt 25:44    4 JB Mt 18:3    5 JB Mt 4:1    6 Cf Mt 5:3    7 JB Jn 17:10    8 Cf Mt 5:3

NOTE: There are 8 poems: for the 8 beatitudes, for the 8 days of the Retreat.

## Boundlessly Deepening Human Freedom <sup>1</sup>

*Ultimately,*  
*Only Christ Himself ... the Truth of who-we-are*  
*– And not some human PROCESS –*  
*Can lead us into the Mystery*  
*Of our inner life*  
*–As to how the Divine encompasses the human, within us.*  
*He does this ... not only IN complete freedom,*  
*But by boundlessly DEEPENING human freedom !*

## The Ungentle and the Gentle – Beatitude 2. <sup>1</sup>

*“Blest are you who are gentle :  
Abba’s promises will be fulfilled in you” (Mt 5:4)*

*Rebecca’s was an ungentle spirit  
... Ready to cheat her blind husband,  
To snatch Isaac’s inheritance, for her favourite, Jacob;  
Isaac’s was a gentle spirit  
... Seen by God as a selfless, obedient person,  
Very much the sacrificial lamb, he was asked to become.*

*Zachary’s was an ungentle spirit  
... Both breaking trust with God – “But I am an old man”,  
And making demands on God – “How can I be sure of this ?”;  
Mary’s was a gentle spirit  
... Simply, trustingly, putting her whole life  
At the service of God’s Desire – “Be it done unto me ...”.*

*John the Baptist’s was an ungentle spirit  
... Preferring, immediately, to CONFRONT his converts,  
Rather than to invite and persuade them :  
PROVOKING the crowd, as a whole – “Brood of vipers !”  
ORDERING the soldiers bluntly – “No intimidation ! No extortion !  
... Be content with your pay.”*

*Jesus' was a gentle spirit*

WELCOMING CHILDREN – *“putting His arms about them”*

COMFORTING THE WEARY – *“Come to me ... my burden is light”;*

LEADING BY EXAMPLE, NOT BY DIRECTIVE – *humbly washing feet ;*

PUTTING OTHERS' FEELINGS FIRST – *comforting His Mother and the women,*

*While being brutalized Himself on the way to Calvary ;*

BEING IN TOUCH WITH OTHERS' NEEDS –

... *With the cured girl, “Taking her by the hand,*

*He directed that something be given to her to eat”;*

... *With the leper, “Jesus reached out His hand to touch him”;*

... *With the boy with convulsions, “Jesus took him by the hand,  
helped him up, and restored him to his father”.*

... *With the blind man, “Taking the blind man by the hand,  
He led him forth, outside the village”*

*Jesus' Spirit invites US to be gentle*

*So that He can enter, animate, and Christen*

*Each circumstance of our lives.*

*Yet, within each of us ...*

*Our ungentle spirit and our gentle spirit*

*Uncomfortably co-exist, like weeds with wheat.*

*Thus*

*While our ungentle spirit seeks to insert the self into most processes,  
Our gentle spirit is content to be unacknowledged ;  
While our ungentle spirit is impatient, seeking quick solutions,  
Our gentle spirit respects growth, and human incompleteness ;  
While our ungentle spirit gives little time to silence and reflection,  
Our gentle spirit reveres both, as necessary for human growth ;  
While our ungentle spirit seeks to organize and structure participation,  
Our gentle spirit seeks to attract and welcome co-operation ;  
While our ungentle spirit ... to plan, limits the range of others' choices,  
Our gentle spirit prioritizes equality and free choice ;  
While our ungentle spirit uses 'distancing' responses with upset people,  
Our gentle spirit uses touch, sensitivity, and affirmation ;  
While our ungentle spirit seeks to achieve, to compete and be distinctive,  
Our gentle spirit like to be of service, to participate, and to include ;  
While our ungentle spirit believes happiness is a goal, attained through effort,  
Our gentle spirit believes it is a gift, which grows only if we share it.*

*Jesus, the gentle one,  
Invites 'both' our spirits, to live in harmony  
"Enough for me to keep my soul, tranquil and quiet,  
Like a child in its mother's arms" <sup>2</sup>  
... Our ungentle spirit cradled within our gentle spirit.*

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**BEATITUDE 2.**

1 Poem 606, 8 Day Retreat, Camden Sydney, early Oct. 2004, Day 2.

2 J.B. Ps 131:2

NOTE: 11 quotes for the gospel on page 1 are uncited.

## In Him We Weep – Beatitude 3. <sup>1</sup>

*“Blest are you who mourn now :  
God will be your consolation” (Mt 5:5)*

*“A Christian does not live for himself alone, but belongs to God.” <sup>2</sup>*

*Because we do not live for ourselves, but for God ...*

*When God grieves, we grieve ;*

*When we grieve, God grieves.*

*We humans sorrow, because of sin and sin’s effects*

*... Both in ourselves, and in others :*

*When I’m cruel, all others wince,*

*When any other is cruel, I wince.*

*Abba Himself, to whom we belong,*

*Recoils when any of us is hurt, or cause a hurt !*

*All our mourning is always ...*

*“Like the mourning for an only son” <sup>3</sup>*

*– For Calvary’s Jesus, the Beloved of Abba !*

*Weeping in the garden, He wept for us all :*

*Because, so often,*

*WE cannot summon tears to weep ...*

*Because in our hard-heartedness to others,*

*We “do not recognize our opportunity*

*When God offers it.” <sup>4</sup>*

*Yet, Jesus bears both our pain, and this deep sense of lost opportunity.*

*Through His tears, we slowly begin to lament*

*Our crucifying betrayals.*

*Yes ... as He hangs in torment, racked by pain*

*– An “Only Son” lavished with love by a loving Father*

*And now brutalized by our treachery –*

*We finally find tears of our own to weep ...*

*From, our depths, we call to You –*

*O broken-hearted Abba !*

*Listen compassionately to our cries !*

*O listen to Your Son’s pleas ;*

*“Abba forgive US, we know not what we do.” <sup>5</sup>*

*Yes, in Him, we GROAN, when ...*

*“Hemmed in by enemies on every side,*

*Our loved ones, dashed to the ground,” <sup>6</sup>*

*Your loving-kindness, O Abba,*

*Seems “hidden from our eyes”. <sup>7</sup>*

*Yet, in reality,*

*Your Divine Compassion*

*Is obscured by OUR rage, OUR lust, OUR fears*

*By OUR greed, OUR pride, OUR lack of hope !*

*But now, gentled into a new vision, by the tenderness of Your grace,*

*We plead –*

*Let us be to You, like Your First Born !*

*The Beloved of Your eyes !*

*The Delight of Your heart !’*



*In response*

*Your swift forgiveness works its wonders*

*Because,*

*You draw us into Your Family*

*... Not as a niece, or a cousin, or grandson ...*

*But AS Your own Beloved Son !*

*IN Your Beloved Son !*

*Yet unbelievably ... for all Your boundless love ...*

*Our worldly misgivings, and ambivalence of heart*

*Still linger in dark crevices of our spirit,*

*Cloying our vision and, whiteanting our will.*

*So, as we pine over lost opportunities,*

*Yet stubbornly want to love on OUR terms*

*—As one of “the many, who behave as enemies of the cross of Christ” — <sup>8</sup>*

*We can only lament,*

*“If we had only understood Your message of peace !” <sup>9</sup>*

*Yet AGAIN, the Face of our crucified brother, Jesus,*

*Beings us to our knees ... and to tears.*

*‘O ! How could we deny Him ?’*

*Then again, deep within,*

*We hear the whispers of the Beloved’s heart ...*

*“The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me*

*... To comfort ALL THOSE who mourn :*

*For your mourning robe,*

*Put on the oil of gladness !*

*For despondency, praise !” <sup>10</sup>*

*Our hearts jolt with joy !  
He who wept with us,  
Is now the source of our joy !  
His Spirit, the 'Promise of the Lord,' <sup>11</sup>  
Is ours !  
In Him, "all our tears are wiped away !" <sup>12</sup>*

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BEATITUDE 3.

1 Poem 607, 8 Day Retreat, Camden Sydney, early Oct 2004, Day 3.

2 St Ignatius of Antioch. 3 Amos 8:10 J.B. 4 J.B. Lk 19:44 5 J.B. Cf Lk 23:34

6 J.B. Lk 19:43 7 J.B. Lk 19:42 8 J.B. Phil 3:18 9 J.B. Lk 19:42

10 J.B. Is 61:1, 3 Cf Lk 4:18 11 Cf Acts 2:33 12 J.B. Rev 21:4

## Longing to Belong – Beatitude 4 <sup>1</sup>

*“Blest are you who hunger and thirst  
For what God desires : you will be satisfied” (Mt 5:6)*

*To long for God,  
And to be satisfied ...  
Is to BELONG to God.  
Thus to long for God ...  
Is both, to long to be WITH God,  
And to long with ALL our being :  
Only God can satisfy such utter longing !*

*If ‘belonging’ is, at heart, ‘longing’,  
Then to be with God,  
Is STILL to long for God :  
Possible ... only because  
God is EVER BEYOND all our longing !*

*To be with God, then,  
Is to DESIRE God  
... ETERNALLY.  
Nothing else fulfils our nature :  
“He made us, we belong to Him” <sup>2</sup>  
... AS creatures to God ;  
Yet wondrously,  
In Re-Creating us, we belong to Him  
... AS God to God  
... In Christ !*

*Thus our very nature, created or re-created,*

*Is to desire all that is OF God,*

*And all that IS God :*

*– Only God !*

*O Communion Divine !*

*At heart, we desire only what God desires :*

*– God !*

*Because God is Desire itself ...*

*God's desiring*

*Is to infinitely give to the Other :*

*Father to Beloved Son Eternally*

*Beloved Son to Father Eternally*

*... The Spirit – being God's Giving, Eternally*

*... The Spirit – being God's Receiving, Eternally.*

*In Christ, all of God's desiring*

*Is OURS :*

*The life of Abba, Jesus Ascended and the Spirit*

*Is LIVED OUT within us !*

*THEIR life is our life,*

*THEIR belonging, our belonging,*

*THEIR desiring, our desiring :*

*“Blest are we, who thirst for what God thirsts*

*... We will be satisfied.”<sup>3</sup>*

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BEATITUDE 4.

1 Poem 608, 8 Day Retreat, Camden Sydney, early Oct 2004, Day 4.

2 J.B. Ps 100      3 Mt 5:6

## Within the Warmth of Your Wings <sup>1</sup>

*Wrapped within the warmth of Your Wings,  
–Your enrapturing embrace –  
We gaze into Your eyes  
... Drawn to the fire  
Of Your Depthless Love,  
To the Love, encompassing All  
– Flowing freely into all those of open heart,  
Enlivening them !*

*Held gently captive here, within Your wings,  
We never lose heart  
... Never lose our heart  
To any but You !  
Attract us, so we can choose  
No one but you ...  
FREE us to serve, to love,  
None but You !*

*Enraptured thus, in You,  
In the embrace of All ...  
No enemy can last  
But the space of a fear :  
Our loving them, sees them TRANSFORM  
Into lovers – in You !*

*Mourning with Your broken-hearted Beloved,  
As straying, yet 'homeing' hearts of our Family,  
– Hearts aching for Your Peace –  
We become witnesses,  
Channels,  
Of Your Son's Paschal FORGIVENESS  
AsHe transforms –  
All hurt, all loss, all estrangement  
... Into the intimacy of Your Embrace.*

*That sunburst of joy,  
Rising from the heart of Your Homecoming Beloved,  
Irradiates the very fibre of our beings,  
All our RELATIONSHIPS,  
Such that all of 'open-heart'  
Are enveloped within the arms  
Of our Homecoming Father !  
O Blest Communion !  
What Enrapture is ours !*

**Unless ...** <sup>1</sup>

*We who exploit others in any way  
– Their dignity, their feelings, their gifts –*

*Have ULTIMATELY,*

*No chance of escaping responsibility*

*– As we have to reckon with a God*

*Not only allied, but IDENTIFIED,*

*With the exploited poor and lowly ...*

*One with the poor, God-man of Nazareth*

*... Unless ...*

*Unless we mourn our hard-heartedness,*

*Unless we welcome the grace*

*Of a complete change of heart !*

*This necessitates surrendering all that we possess*

*– Especially all we cling to –*

*Even to giving our lives to the poor and lowly !*

*If we do so, we find we're in the company*

*Of the same, poor, God-man of Nazareth*

*... Who has already done so,*

*And who is the 'poor one', the 'lowly one',*

*To whom we surrender our life !*

**Nearest the Father's Heart – Beatitude 5** <sup>1</sup>

*“Blest are you with compassionate hearts :  
You shall experience Abba’s own tender compassion” (Mt 5:7)*

*When my heart's been broken  
– A dream lost, a friend betrayed –  
... From its wounds,  
My feelings have spilled out  
Over myself and others.  
Mysteriously,  
Such a heart is often 'graced' by God's Spirit  
As a home of prayer.  
Thus, when I sense the sufferings of others,  
My heart's wounds re-open, in empathy ...  
And, with the flow of compassion  
... Comes prayer.*

*Our Abba God  
Longs to choose such a heart  
To channel further  
The torrent of loving compassion  
Pouring from Christ's side on Calvary !  
Such a love especially enables  
All wounded hearts involved,  
To CHERISH ANEW –*



*How Abba RUNS to embrace straying sons and lost daughters,  
How Jesus tenderly walks, HAND IN HAND, with the blind,  
On their journey to renewed vision;  
How Jesus KNEELS TO BATHE both bruised feet and aching hearts  
In the waters of renewal ;  
How the Spirit fills open hearts, with the sense of a companioning presence.*

*Wondrously, the compassion channelled through such broken hearts ...*

*Not only renews and transforms crushed spirits,  
But soothes sinews,  
Regenerates trust,  
And transforms destinies,  
– Often through the accompanying power  
Of a transformed ‘elder brother’s’ PRAYER !*

*Prayer best begins in healed hearts,  
In hearts once broken,  
Because prayer’s end  
Is, to HEAL other broken hearts,  
Until all hearts change !*

*They heal best ...*  
*Who pray 'heart to heart' :*  
*If our hearts rest*  
*IN the heart of the Ascended Christ*  
*The one "nearest to the Father's heart" <sup>2</sup>*  
*... Where 'heart speaks to heart' – <sup>3</sup>*  
*Then –*  
*Worlds can heal !*  
*Whole people change !*

*Changed hearts*  
*Change the universe !*  
*For, when we move the heart of our Abba God,*  
*His Beloved's pierced heart*  
*DELUGES our universe*  
*With depthless forgiveness*  
*–An out pouring of joy connecting us all,*  
*Cascades ... of peace, to our hearts' content !*

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1 Poem 611, 8 Day Retreat, Camden Sydney, early Oct 2004, Day 5.

2 J.B. Jn1:18

3 Bl. John Henry Newman.

## The Stream <sup>1</sup>

*Preamble : On the evening of Day 5 of the Retreat, in response to my simple question to Abba*

*... "What about our life within, Abba?" ... I sensed His immediate reply, in the words –*

*"THERE FLOWS IN THE HEART OF THE RIVER, A STREAM, FLOWING FROM THE HEART OF SILENCE."*

*I immediately penned the words of this poem :*

*The 'stream' always flows WITHIN the river, at its heart*

*... Rarely on its surface, rarely touching its banks ...*

*Moving, periodically, to seek out its depths.*

*It does not hold itself apart from the mother-stream :*

*It is water, as she is water;*

*It flows, as she flows*

*... The same, but distinct :*

*While the river gives the stream*

*A womb-like context, and direction,*

*The stream, within, supplies its gift of nutrients to the river*

*... Becoming a 'life-source' for it.*

*Flowing from the heart of silence,  
The stream courses onwards  
– Silently, speedily, unseen, unsensed, by human onlookers.  
While it moves, with energy,  
It disturbs little, but the hidden depths below it  
... And this, only periodically,  
As its own cooler, denser waters,  
In dipping to trawl the river's bed,  
Lifts up a cloud of nutrients,  
Carrying them downstream,  
To nourish the plants and animal life there  
– Bringing about transformative life-giving change.*

*For a long time, stream and river companion each other ...  
Ultimately, the stream merges with the river,  
Identifying with it ...  
As they empty into lake or ocean, as one.*

*For us, our life-source is the Spirit  
– THE Stream of Life issuing forth from the heart of Silence.  
In this nourishing silence,  
The Word  
... With voice stilled, eyes lowered,  
Lips fragrant as incense ...  
Is being KISSED BY,  
And is KISSING,  
His Beloved Abba.*

*Their Breathing quickens ...*  
*Life flows between Them*  
*– God's gift of God, to God, in God –*  
*Nourishing Each Other,*  
*Nourishing US, IN Christ.*  
*As Their Breathing*  
*Becomes Silence,*  
*The Spirit 'Life-Stream' bathes us in Their Love.*

## Transparent Hearts – Beatitude 6 <sup>1</sup>

*“Blest are you with transparent hearts :  
You will see God in everyone, and everything” (Mt 5:8)*

*Historically,  
Those hearts, rendered more obviously transparent  
... To God’s Presence,  
Such as Moses, Elijah, and Paul,  
Were each allowed in some way  
To gaze on God’s Face  
More openly.*

*In the Flow of Light  
Between God and them,  
The effect was a ‘Godburst’ of life.  
Their lives changed radically.  
It transformed their very persons  
– Widening their vision of life limitlessly !  
Further, because they now viewed humanity,  
Much more as God beholds it,  
This deepened their love of people immeasurably,  
And wondrously LIT UP other lives around them  
– So THEIR hearts also became more transparent !*

*As with Moses, Elijah and Paul ...*

*So too, now, with all open transparent hearts*

*Transformed in the Paschal Jesus.*

*Paschal grace, cumulatively, allows all these hearts*

*To view the fruits of Jesus' Resurrected Presence*

*In their own lives.*

*In deep gratitude, these hearts feel IMPELLED by the Spirit*

*To be witnesses of His Risen Presence, to others.*

*They especially, become witnesses of His Ascended Presence WITH Abba,*

*Wherein humanity, IN Christ, gazes openly on Abba's Face.*

*Day by day, they are graced to witness to the Risen and Ascended Jesus*

*... As his Spirit gathers them together in Eucharist,*

*To live His kind of sacrificial love !*

*By thus living IN JESUS ASCENDED*

*With all who are similarly open-hearted,*

*They share, wondrously, in the Ascended Jesus'*

*Open-eyed gaze upon Abba's Face !*

*Thus Abba,*

*In seeing each of their faces, simply as 'My Beloved',*

*Gives voice*

*But to one word,*

*"Jesus".*

*And the Paschal Jesus*

*—Utterly sure He speaks for us—*

*Gives voice*

*But to one word,*

*"Abba".*

*In such a Christian's transparent heart,*

*These two sounds as one ...*

*"Beloved !"*

*... In the Spirit*

*Who breathes forth Their Love*

*Within us*

*As ONE.*

*Thus, such a transparent heart*

*Becomes one who KNOWS fully*

*With Christ's knowing*

*... Knowing Abba as Jesus Ascended does ;*

*And becomes one who CHOOSES fully*

*With Christ's choosing*

*... Choosing Abba as Jesus Ascended does.*

*Such a transparent heart, thus,*

*–Becomes a place of full encounter, of Eternal encounter,*

*Where, in Jesus Ascended,*

*We meet Abba*

*With a pure, open gaze*

*– Especially in the people He indwells*

*... In the members of Christ's own Body !*

*It is a place of open union with others :*

*Because there is no holding back.*

*We share in the utter openness of the Ascended Jesus*

*To the waiting arms of Abba !*



*Thus, to be a transparent heart  
– Like Jesus Ascended –  
Is not only to see God  
In everyone, and in everything,  
But to be united to God,  
In everyone, and in everything !*

---

BEATITUDE 6.

1 Poem 613, 8 Day Retreat, Camden Sydney, early Oct 2004, Day 6.

## Paschal Peace – Beatitude 7 <sup>1</sup>

*“Blest are you who strive for peace :  
Abba will call you children of His heart.” (Mt 5:9)*

*Deep within Abba’s heart  
Is a realm of peace ...  
Its five doorways within,  
The five wounds of Jesus :  
One hand, touching the leper’s isolation,  
The other, holding Peter’s faith afloat ;  
One foot, kicks Temple greed a ‘jealous’ blow,  
The other, climbs Golgotha’s self-sacrificing heights ;  
And His heart, ruptured in love, deluges us all !*

*As we pass through these wounds,  
“Loving, till it hurts”, <sup>2</sup>  
Peace seeps  
Into the marrow of our spirit,  
Kindling an inner fire in our hearts ...  
Radiating the warm Presence of the Divine.*

*This same peace flows*  
–*When the prodigal’s face rests*  
*At last ...*  
*Flush against His Father’s cheek ;*  
–*When the prostitute’s lips kiss*  
*Jesus’ feet,*  
*Wet with her tears ;*  
–*When the leper’s open sores –*  
*... Tingling with new life ...*  
*Feels the accepting touch of Jesus’ fingers ;*  
–*When Lazarus’ UNBOUND hands*  
*Hold Jesus’ face,*  
*In a tender kiss of thanks ;*  
–*When Emmaus eyes behold the broken bread*  
*And see in the “stranger’s” gaze*  
*A glorious Sunrise,*  
*A Peace Divine ...*

*This Peace of the Paschal Jesus*  
*CASCADES*  
*From heart to heart,*  
*Down the centuries,*  
*As full hearts OVERFLOW to others*  
–*As hearts, newly fired ...*  
*As spirits, aglow with peace ...*  
*Set a whole people a light !*

*Human hearts, of themselves, cannot create peace :*

*We are children of a fractured inheritance.*

*Yet broken hearts give grace entry.*

*When these do STRIVE for peace,*

*It is God's Peace they receive –*

*“My peace I leave with you,*

*My peace I give to you ;*

*Not as the world gives,*

*Do I give to you.”<sup>3</sup>*

*More wondrous still ...*

*God's peace is a peace*

*Whose clear focus is COMMUNION :*

*“These things I have spoken, so that*

*IN ME*

*You may have peace.”<sup>4</sup>*

*Our fractured inheritance is thus remade – WHOLE :*

*To be united in peace*

*IN CHRIST*

*Is to be*

*The sons or daughters*

*Of the Father of Peace*

*... Truly, children after his own heart*

*... Just like His Beloved !*

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BEATITUDE 7.

1 Poem 614, 8 Day Retreat, Camden Sydney, early Oct 2004, Day 7

2 Bl. Mother Teresa.      3 Jn 14:27 N.R.S.V.    4 Jn 16:33 N.R.S.V.

**O Utter Goodness** \*\* 1

*Abba, Jesus, and Loyce*

*WITHIN Your luminous loveliness,*

*WITHIN Your communing in love,*

*WITHIN Your love's rapturous beauty*

*Is a boundless, transparent ocean of peace*

*–Incomparably CLEAR*

*... Where You, God Ever Beyond are God Most Near !*

*– Incomparably ENERGIZED*

*... Where You, Love's Still Centre are Life Alive In Us !*

*– Incomparably LOVING*

*... Where You, O Utter Goodness, fill, to over flowing,*

*The universe of our hearts !*

*These cherished hearts you fondly renew and re-shape*

*– Transforming them all*

*Into the very heart of Your Beloved*

*... Whose heart alone*

*Can summons the love and thanks*

*Sufficient to honour*

*Your Goodness !*

*Yet –*

*It is these hearts ... ALL of these hearts*

*– Hearts to be empowered and transformed by You –*

*That You have ENTRUSTED TO ME PERMANENTLY*

*... To be for them, A PRAYING HEART*

*... Especially for those who are 'mute'*

*– Who cannot pray, who will not pray.*

*Yet, I have no pray to offer You ...*

*O Wondrous Three-Personed Love,*

*Centering all our lives*

*... But Jesus, Your Word of Love,*

*Your Eucharist of Praise !*

---

\*\* For the key notes for the emergence of this poem, see my JOURNAL – SPIRITUAL, Vol 4 pp 13, 14, 15. See also Poem 618.

## A New Vision of What's Possible <sup>1</sup>

*Beauty, in all its forms,  
Whenever it DRAWS US,  
Brightens our lives  
With a new vision of what's possible  
– Of the promise of what lies within,  
Of Mystery glimpsed,  
Of something, someone  
... Reanimating hope !  
... Firing hearts !*

*Beauty, beautiful lives can transform those of us  
Stuck in an old 'reality', an old vision  
– Stimulating us  
... To re-engage life !  
... To brave new frontiers !  
... To deepen our relationships !  
... To commune with hearts unknown !*

## Home to Your Arms <sup>1</sup>

*O Loving Abba*

*Lead us*

*Into the depths of Your indwelling*

*That we might radiate*

*Your Saving Light*

*To others*

*– Radiating, through our relating,*

*The warmest invitation*

*To share in Your ever inclusive welcome*

*... To come home to Your arms.*



## Brimming Hearts <sup>1</sup>

PREAMBLE: *“On the evening of Day 7 of my 8 day retreat at Camden, 2004*

*having being moved by the Spirit – seemingly in a life-changing way –*

*IT BEGAN TO RAIN RAIN, AND DID SO STEADILY FOR 9 HOURS THAT NIGHT.*

*For this whole time I was AWAKE, reflecting and writing.” TO'D.*

*Moved by the Spirit,*

*As the rain continuously tap-danced on the tin roof above,*

*My heart brimmed over, with thanks to Abba*

*... For that faithful remnant*

*Of hundreds of thousands of other brimming hearts,*

*In parishes, in churches, in mosques in temples,*

*In groups all around the world,*

*... Hearts overflowing with love*

*–Imaged, for me, in the millions of raindrops !*

*The hearts of these people*

*Are ever-ready to flow*

*... With love,*

*A thousand times, a thousand thousand times ...*

*Brimming over with Your Ascended Love, O Jesus*

*–For the Father of Love !*

NOTE: This poem PRECEDES that of Poem 615, in time, and both ought to be read in the context of my notes on my whole experience in my Journal – Spiritual, Vol 4 Poems 13, 14, 15.

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1 Poem 618, 8 Day Retreat, Camden Sydney, early Oct 2004, Day 7.

Peace and the Cross – Beatitude 8 <sup>1</sup>

*“Blest are you  
When you’re targeted for giving witness :  
You’ll experience Abba’s love.  
Quietly celebrate  
When you’re mistreated, excluded, or slandered  
... For being ‘my followers’  
–Because, TO KEEP ON LOVING such tormentors,  
Heaven IS YOURS ALREADY!  
Tormentors like these  
Who kill those who stand up to witness  
To the Father of Love,  
Obviously need our love.” (Mt 5:10-12)*

*Jesus’ Peace  
Makes a home in all you  
Who embrace His Cross  
–Who are mistreated or excluded,  
Slandered or targeted,  
For genuinely witnessing  
To the One who was sent  
To embody the Father’s love.*

*Contrarivise, Jesus' Peace*

*Deserts all you*

*Who rationalize, or reject the Cross*

*Either ... by divisively challenging,*

*Or, by slyly devaluing*

*Christian witness.*

*The Spirit's gift of COURAGE*

*Is really needed by all Christians,*

*When direct attacks, or undermining,*

*Come from –*

*Church-attending Christians,*

*From your close friends or relatives,*

*Or hardest of all, from your family.*

*Jesus urges you to carefully discern*

*The Father's specific, personal call to you, in this situation,*

*And to stay true*

*To your original 'in-Spiration' in following Jesus.*

*You will almost certainly FEEL the nails bite home*

*... 'Bite', as in 'missing out', as 'being isolated',*

*Or as directly experiencing the spite of others.*

*Above all, Jesus urges you*

*To be deeply respectful,*

*And as perseveringly loving*

*– As He would be –*

*To those undermining, or persecuting you.*

## The Eight Beatitudes <sup>1</sup>

*Blest are you poor,  
Who know your need of God :  
Abba's kingdom of love is yours.*

*Blest are you who are gentle :  
Abba's promises will be fulfilled in you.*

*Blest are you who mourn now :  
God will be your consolation.*

*Blest are you who hunger and thirst  
For what God desires :  
You will be satisfied.*

*Blest are you with compassionate hearts :  
You shall experience Abba's own tender compassion.*

*Blest are you with transparent hearts :  
You will see God in everyone, and everything.*

*Blest are you who strive for peace :  
Abba will call you, children of His heart.*

*Blest are you who are targeted for giving witness :  
You'll experience Abba's love.  
Quietly celebrate when you're mistreated, excluded, or slandered  
... For being my followers  
– Because, to KEEP ON LOVING such tormentors,  
Heaven is yours already !  
Tormentors like these, who kill those who stand up  
To witness to the Father of Love,  
Especially need our love.*

## Jesus, the Person of the Beatitudes <sup>1</sup>

*Loving, dearest Abba,  
Keep us in the care –*

*Of Jesus, the poor man,  
Who, in knowing His need of You,  
Is filled with Your fullness.*

*Of Jesus, the gentle man,  
Who patiently  
Awaits Your Promise.*

*Of Jesus, who though broken-hearted  
By our lost trust in You, Abba,  
Brings Your comfort to us.*

*Of Jesus, who in thirsting  
For what You desire,  
Is fully satisfied.*

*Of Jesus, whose tender compassion for us,  
Enables us  
To experience Yours, Abba.*

*Of Jesus, with a heart so transparent,  
That He sees You  
In everyone, and everything.*

*Of Jesus, who in striving after peace,  
Shows Himself  
A child of Your heart.*

*Of Jesus, who in being targeted,  
Kept true to Your love, Abba,  
And indeed, really rejoiced in Your love  
... When He was mistreated, excluded and slandered.*

*Abba, keeps us in the care of Jesus, who shows  
That people, like His tormentors  
– Who even kill those who stand up  
To witness to You, Abba –  
Especially need our love.*

## Christ's Gift <sup>1</sup>

*Abba, I ask for Christ's Gift  
Of Your Spirit,  
Received by Him, in His homecoming Ascension  
– To re-create His own Humanity, as the COMMUAL HOME,  
For us, His Paschal sisters and brothers.*

*Abba, empower this Spirit  
To create for me, IN CHRIST: –  
A Body, affectionately and reverently focussed  
On Your loving Presence ;  
A deeply contemplative HEART, alive through COMMUNING with You ;  
An ever-open SPIRIT, surrendered in each daily Eucharist  
... As a fragrant sacrifice for others ;  
And, an IDENTITY that is ...  
One with the joy-filled communion of hearts,  
Who are AT HOME in Christ's NEW HUMANITY,  
Where they radiate Life, love, and wisdom  
To each other,  
To a universe of hearts,  
To a cosmos of all-that-lives !*

---

1 Poem 622, Retreat, JAMBEROO ABBEY, KIAMA, mid Oct 2004, Day 2

NOTE: "Immediately following my Camden Retreat, I spent 7 days of prayer and reflection, at this Benedictine Abbey for Nuns." Author.



## The Love That Brings Us Home <sup>1</sup>

*At the very core of all human anxiety,*

*At the heart of all our hope*

*Is our home-sickness for God.*

*It is God's love that brings us home,*

*Home to our hearts*

*... Where the Spirit reveals to us*

*... That God is but a heart's breath away !*

## Nestling in God's Heart <sup>1</sup>

*Human love is like a homing pigeon*

*... Its nest, the heart of God.*

*There it nestles ...*

*Finding peace,*

*Giving birth to new life.*

## Yearning to Catch Our Eye <sup>1</sup>

*Abba is so gentle in approaching us ...*

*So tender in His longing for us ...*

*That He simply YEARNS*

*To catch our eye – the eye of our heart !*

*Yet He is so sensitive*

*– As it were, vulnerable –*

*To the 'blocking' presence of pride !*

*But, joy to our hearts –*

*He feels wonderfully, warmly AT HOME*

*In a heart that is also*

*Gentle, yearning, and vulnerable to pride.*

## Your Lovesong, Artwork and Trust <sup>1</sup> \*

*O Loving Abba, focus of our hearts,  
Tenderly guiding, all who make a start ...  
Draw us all now – we who search and roam –  
Deep within Your Love, that is our home.*

*Christ, for a KINSHIP, centred in Your Being  
– Drawing all seekers to Your Dad ... unseen,  
You chose to breathe the very air we breathe  
... Our sins, to vanquish and Your sword, to sheathe.*

*Spirit, You hovered, o'er our world's bright dawn :  
More so, You thrill with joy, in hearts re-born !  
You are the Life-force, surging thru' all life :  
Love's source, Love's fire, Love's inner Life !*

*God, 'You have made us, spirit and stardust' <sup>2</sup>  
We are Your lovesong, artwork and Your trust !  
You 'etched Your image on our every cell' <sup>3</sup>  
– Now co-creators, we ... Your love to tell !*

---

\*Meant to be sung – to the tune, “Draw Nigh and Take”.

<sup>1</sup> Poem 626, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Nov 2004.

<sup>2</sup> & <sup>3</sup> Compare lines in “Creator and Poet” – hymn by S.Sears.

## But One Word <sup>1</sup>

*Nobody can truly IDENTIFY*

*With Jesus*

*And afterwards breathe anything but ...*

*“Abba”*

*... With their life !*

*Thus so, we give glory to You,*

*Most lovable, dearest Abba*

*For surrendering Your whole Loving Reality*

*To Jesus*

*... Who, in His Ascension’s Spirit of Surrender,*

*Breathes forth but one Word*

*“Abba !”*

## Lighting Our Way <sup>1</sup>

*Jesus' Risen Life LIGHTS OUR WAY*  
*To ever deeper intimacy with Abba.*  
*What specifically ENABLES our communing with Abba,*  
*Is Abba's Embrace of the Ascended Jesus.*  
*Because of this Divine-human encounter, we are gifted*  
*With IN-SPARATION and IN-SIGHT*  
*Into our regenerated humanity*  
*—As we come alive, IN Christ, IN Jesus' NEW HUMANITY.*

*As we glorify Abba for these wonders,*  
*Our lives LIGHT UP*  
*Even as we experience our NEW HUMANITY, in Christ !*

## Joyful and God-Centered <sup>1</sup>

*True silence is joyful and God-centred.  
While it demands of us continuing self-denial,  
– Discipleship, and thus discipline –  
It leads us into the depths  
Where intimacy and oneness with the Lord  
Become a wondrous reality.*

To Share, to Enact, to Celebrate <sup>1</sup>

*Scripture's transforming power*

*Does its divine work as we listen :*

*The PROCLAIMING of the Word itself*

*CREATES the Presence of Christ among us*

*– Drawing us to share, to enact, to celebrate*

*What the Word proclaims !*



## The Word Creates What It Expresses <sup>1</sup>

*The WORD in Eucharist is SACRAMENTAL :*

*It creates what it expresses.*

*A particular WORD creates ...*

*Presence, or togetherness, or forgiveness.*

*The Hebrew words for 'speaking' and 'creating'*

*Are the same WORD –*

*“God spoke : and they were made”, <sup>2</sup>*

*And as Genesis affirms –*

*“Then God said, ‘Light : Be !’ and light was.” <sup>3</sup>*

*In the same way,*

*God announces ‘CHANGE’, and transformation occurs !*

*God speaks ‘PRESENCE’, and Love appears !*

*God proclaims ‘Life’, and we are revitalized !*

*Our part is to be open, to be receptive*

*–To LET the WORD, through His Spirit,*

*Create in us, what it expresses.*

*Wondrously, such creativity*

*Fashions us into His people :*

*“He made us : we BELONG to Him.” <sup>4</sup>*

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1 Poem 631, Gold Coast holidays, Jan 2005.

2 Psalms 3 Gen 1:3

4 Ps 100:3

NOTE: The author uses this poem, as a reflection in preparing for Eucharist.

## Enrapture Us ! <sup>1</sup>

*Abba, ENRAPTURE us, in Your Beloved*

*As You and He KISS*

*– In the KISS*

*That is Your Spirit !*

*Abba, all glory emanating from our humanity, IN Christ, is Yours*

*WITHIN this Kiss !*

*As lips meet ...*

*Worlds unite !*

*Divinity and humanity embrace !*

*And a cosmic Fellowship is born !*

*Herein, is the crossroads of earth and heaven :*

*Your wooing of humanity ...*

*Our wedding surrender to You !*

*Your marriage quest consummated ...*

*Our taste of Divine ecstasy just begun !*

*Here, Lover and Beloved become one !*

*In the Beloved, our lips open*

*To receive the Breath of God,*

*Your Breath, Abba !*

*Together, in the Beloved,*

*We breathe this Spiritus back to You*

*– Thrilling Your Father's heart.*

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1 Poem 632, Gold Coast holiday, Jan 2005.

NOTE: For more on "Enrapture" see notes on Poem 499.

## The Shock of Our Un-Godliness <sup>1</sup>

*Abba,*

*Your ocean of love*

OVERWHELMS US :

*Ours ... the deepening shock of our UN-GODLINESS, realised*

*... Our nothingness !*

*Yours ... the wondrous GIFT of our tremulous faith !*

*Ours ... our radically obvious, and truly infinite*

NEED OF YOU !

*Yours ... the transforming embrace of Divine compassion !*

*Ours ... the continuing desire to adore and thank You,*

*... and our longing to be absorbed*

*into Your Beloved 'kenosis', on the cross !*

*Yours ... raising us tenderly into Your Ascensional Intimacy,*

*en-Spiriting us in Your Communion !*

## Our Only Prayer <sup>1</sup>

*As I lay on my daytime bed, reflecting  
... My deep questions of several decades*

*Suddenly resolved :*

*I was given a crystal clear glimpse*

*Into God's yearning for intimacy*

*With us.*

*With new-born delight,*

*The eyes of my heart were galvanized*

*By the words of that wondrous promise,*

*"Those who love me, will be loved by my Father,  
And I will love them, and reveal myself to them". <sup>2</sup>*

*I suddenly felt liberated !*

*God's purpose for me,*

*And for all who take up Jesus' invitation to "keep my word",*

*Now seemed so clear :*

*That Abba's infinite yearning to infill us*

*Had a singular purpose*

*– That each of us BE and ACT as a Divine Person*

*... As a true son-daughter of God ...*

*In all aspects of OUR HUMANITY*

*... Yet NOT, as a son-daughter amongst other sons or daughters,*

*But AS CHIRST, the only Child !*

*Why? Because Abba has eyes*

*ONLY for His sole-begotten*

*–His Beloved !*

*Thus, it will no longer be, I putting in MY EFFORTS*

*To live and be IN CHRIST,*

*But letting Christ do ALL MY LIVING*

*FOR me, and IN ME*

*—As Himself!*

*Thus ‘my’ praying is ... Christ doing ALL ‘my’ praying within me*

*—Inviting me to simultaneously accompany*

*Every movement of His heart.*

*Indeed, Christ IS our prayer*

*—He, Himself, the only prayer we have !*

*Similarly, in the wordless Prayer of the Spirit*

*We are, IN CHRIST, being companioned by the Spirit*

*—Through the Paschal Jesus’ silences,*

*—Through His stillness and solitude,*

*—Through His watching and waiting,*

*—Through the expressiveness of His body language,*

*—And through the whole interplay of His emotions.*

*In the Spirit, we accompany Christ’s soaring Resurrection spirit*

*As it surges, with overwhelming human longing,*

*To the open arms, and yearning heart, of His Abba ;*

*And we move, as the Spirit moves ...*

*As lovingly and as gently, as a Breath*

*Passing between Abba and His Beloved !*

*Such is the template of our prayer*

*... At all times*

*... In every movement of the heart to His Abba*

*... In every movement of the heart to others*

*... And in every Eucharist !*

*O for the grace of awareness !*

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1 Poem 634, Gold Coast holidays, Jan 2005.

2 Jn 14:21 (N.R.S.V.)

3 Jn 14:23 (N.R.S.V.)

## All That Happens to Us <sup>1</sup>

*All that happens to us through grace  
Happens in Jesus,  
And comes to a glorious fruition  
In Christ, our Ascended brother  
– Our Divine Amen, for the 'Now' of our lives !*

*It is He, the Praying One, the Embraced One, the Ascended One,  
Who OPENS every facet of our lives  
To Abba  
And to Abba's enabling love !  
In response,  
Abba's instinct,  
– Through and in His Spirit –  
Is always to urge us, to move us,  
To be, TOGETHER –  
A source of Life to each other  
... As we deepen  
Our belonging-to-each-other, IN Christ !*

**“You’re My Beloved !”<sup>1</sup>**

*[As if addressed by the reader (me) to any other person ‘within me,’ in Jesus Ascended :]*

*“Your love, is my love  
... My love, is your love  
It’s Christ’s – our brother’s !”*

*[Addressed by us – in Jesus Ascended – to Abba :]*

*“Our love, is Christ’s love,  
His love, is Your love  
–It’s Your Beloved’s !”*

*[Addressed by Abba to Jesus Ascended :]*

*Their love is Your love  
Our Love is their love.”*

*[Both speaking :]*                    – “You’re My Beloved !”

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1 Poem 636, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community Brisbane, late Jan 2005.

NOTE : This poem flows directly out of Poems 634 and Poem 635.



## Enrapture's Inner Pledge <sup>1</sup>

*Within the Kiss Eternal*  
*Father and Son wordlessly pledge :*  
*“The Gift of Your Reality*  
*Is My Gift to You”...*  
*Their Enrapture abides*  
*In loving stillness and silence.*  
*Their Pledge, however, is SOUNDED*  
*In Their choice to proclaim it lovingly,*  
*Within space-time,*  
*Within Creation*  
*–Within Jesus !*

*The Pledge, outgoing to Creation and us, is ...*  
*“Jesus !”*  
*Creation's and our returning Pledge is ...*  
*“Abba !”*  
*Enrapture's one only, inner, silent Pledge is ...*  
*“Beloved !”*  
*Breathed forth in the Spirit.*

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1 Poem 637, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community Brisbane, Feb 2005.

NOTE: Read in the light of Poem 499 and Poem 632.

## Catching His Eye <sup>1</sup>

*In His dotting love,  
Abba raises our head  
To catch His eye.  
And, in His Gaze,  
We become His Children ... ever more deeply,  
Ever attentive to His every desire.*

*Abba not only gazes upon  
What He finds beautiful in us,  
But is creative of this beauty :  
His gazing on us, makes us beautiful.  
Oh ! To choose to return His gaze !*

*Indeed, Love wants to make us like Itself :  
Forming us, lovingly, into the Beloved !  
When we love God,  
We do not make a home for God within;  
Love makes a home for Themselves within :  
– “And we will come to them  
And make our home with them”, <sup>2</sup>  
For we, “are not our own”, <sup>3</sup>  
But God’s !*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 638, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community Brisbane, Feb 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Jn 14:23 (N.R.S.V.)

<sup>3</sup> I Cor 6:19.

## A Double Surrender <sup>1</sup>

*Abba calls me to the Cross within  
– The entrance to Enrapture –  
To be a channel of surrender :  
... Surrender of life on the Cross  
... Surrender to the Life of Enrapture.*

## A Spiritual Call to Arms <sup>1</sup>

*Prophets typically transform their personal experience,  
Religious or otherwise,  
Into a communal, spiritual call to arms.  
Their call to confront society's evils  
Is often played out through their own life's dramas.  
Simple civil reform is not their aim :  
Theirs is always a rallying cry  
To, often radical, covenant faithfulness !  
In targeting the underminers, or perpetrators,  
Of covenant infidelity  
They often become targets themselves  
... Suffering servants of the truth.*

## As a Child <sup>1</sup>

*At times,*

*The PASSION of some contends with VISION of others :*

*To focus this passion ... to deliver this vision,*

*Both need the humility of a CHILD.*

*The HARMONY some strive for, is matched by others' quest for ACHIEVEMENT ;*

*To resolve both ... as one,*

*Needs the trust of a CHILD.*

*Through CONTEMPLATION, some seek to find*

*... The MANY IN THE ONE ;*

*Through RELATIONSHIPS others seek to find*

*... The ONE IN THE MANY ;*

*Both need the simple wisdom*

*Born of the love of a CHILD.*

*Thus, for all of these, a common destiny beckons :*

*To love God in others*

*As Christ, His CHILD*

## Reveal Yourself <sup>1</sup>

*O Wondrous Mystery ! Dearest God !*

*Reveal Yourself in this Eucharist*

*That our hearts may SENSE :*

*– You, our Eternal,*

*Transcending every moment of our giving,*

*And of our receiving.*

*– You our All Holy,*

*Triune Fellowship communing with us*

*... Within the Eucharist's everyday words and gestures.*

*– You, O Limitless Love,*

*O Luminous Loveliness !*

*Hidden within simple SIGNS of intimacy*

*... The Divine WITHIN the human !*

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1 Poem 642, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Easter 2005.

NOTE: For the author, a daily mass prayer.

## Prayer Ministry <sup>1</sup>

*Abba, grant that I pray as Your Beloved Son*

*... With Jesus' praying heart !*

*In being a praying heart for others*

*– Especially for those who can't pray,*

*And for those who won't pray –*

*May THIS prayer, be at the heart of my prayer ministry :*

*“Let ALL hearts change”*

*... For every situation, and for every group.*

## In Awe of God <sup>1</sup>

*O Spirit of Awe,  
In every movement of our hearts  
To God,  
Your grace of awe INITIATES the movement.  
For, to be in awe of  
... You Abba ... You Jesus ... You O Spirit,  
... You Yahweh,  
... You Eternal Mystery,  
... You, O Limitless Love  
– Is to be DRAWN into Your Wisdom,  
Your Self-Knowing !*

*O Spirit of Awe,  
Bolster my resolve  
To bow my head, or to Cross myself,  
Every time a Divine Name is read or mentioned :  
Enwrap me in the hidden glory  
Of This Name !*



## O Spirit of Sacrifice ... Move Us <sup>1</sup>

*O Spirit of Sacrifice,  
MOVE US in company with Mary,  
To let Jesus' suffering happen in us.  
O let Jesus' whole Regeneration,  
The Enrapture of Jesus' Ascension,  
Happen in us !  
O Spirit of this Enrapture,  
O Love of Abba and Jesus,  
Pour Yourself through us,  
Into others  
—Luminously enlivening their spirits !  
O Paschal Spirit  
Let Jesus' humility, Jesus' espousal of silence,  
Jesus' prudence and wisdom,  
Happen in us !*

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1 Poem 645, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, May 2005.

NOTE: For the author, a daily mass prayer.

## Earth's Divine Son <sup>1</sup>

*O Spirit of Pentecost,  
Enkindle our longing,  
Warm our compassion,  
And set our hearts afire !*

*So that ...*

*All that is human in us  
Becomes luminous with Christ's Divinity,*

*Because ...*

*Earth's Divine Son's compassionate humanity,  
Can't but attract  
Abba's eager embrace,  
And thrilling heart !*

**For Those Bled of Life** <sup>1</sup>

*Abba, grant me that consciousness, during Mass,  
not only of Jesus offering Himself FOR US,  
but of being, myself,  
in Jesus Crucified,  
– entrusting all  
to You ...*

*Pouring out my life, especially for those  
without a voice,  
without even an inner prayer,  
without hope in their hearts,  
– FOR THOSE BLED OF LIFE, LIKE JESUS,  
so that divinely moved,  
You may take them to your heart,  
AS YOUR BELOVED CHILD  
... from His Cross !*

**More & More ... Less & Less** <sup>1</sup>

*The world, our own flesh, and Satan,  
All urge us –  
To acquire more & more & more  
–More and more pleasure, possession, and power  
... In an ever enmeshing matrix  
Of sin, waste, and disconnection.*

*Jesus Crucified invites us  
To become less & less & less  
– Less of SELF in every way,  
Becoming empty 'God-spaces',  
Freed, of "the lure of riches, of all passions,  
And the worries of this world" <sup>2</sup>  
– OPEN channels  
Of God's life and love and light !*

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1 Poem 648, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, May 2005.

2 Mk 4:19

## The World of Sidelined People <sup>1</sup>

*Living in the world of the sidelined ...*

*It seems ...*

*I am of no critical importance to anyone.*

*Yet, I find importance*

*In smaller and lesser things, in understated things,*

*In neglected, even shunned things ... and people.*

*These are the chosen entry points, it seems, Abba,*

*Of Your often hidden, unobvious Presence !*

*Thus, the margins of life,*

*And the world of sidelined people,*

*Seem to be Your loved places for prayer*

*... For Your communing with us.*

## O God, All Intimate, All Holy <sup>1</sup>

*O God, All Intimate and All Holy,  
Your Spirit's call  
... To ever venerate every revelatory glimpse  
Of Your Mystery,  
... To be in awe, of EVERY expression of Love  
In this paradoxical world of ours,  
... To continually reverence Your incomparably faithful  
Communing with us  
—Draws us, ever deeper,  
Into the Cloud of Your all-encompassing Presence.*

*It fills my threadbare spirit  
With a 'God-burst' of heartfelt praise  
... Leaving me awash with love.  
  
So suffused am I with Your Love  
... Your Triune Ecstasy ...  
I know not its beginning, middle, or end!  
Your Love seems to lack direction :  
... Now rejoicing in the Enrapture of Inwardness !  
... Now sweeping us into a Mission of Outwardness !  
Utterly inclusive,  
It both breathes in Love,  
And breathes forth Love.  
O how wondrous is our All Intimate, All Holy God !*

## Suffering for All As One Person <sup>1</sup>

*Your Spirit's CALL, Abba,  
Came, to me, at a Eucharistic Consecration :  
– To BE the Crucified Jesus  
For all of us as-one-Person  
... Ready, like Mother Teresa,  
“To take my place on His Cross”, for all-as-one. <sup>2</sup>*

*My initial faint-hearted response –  
It seems like a drop in the ocean'  
Had given me pause,  
Until I was told, within,  
“All persons are the ONE PERSON, in Christ”.  
So clearly my mission, like that of so many others, similarly graced,  
Was to suffer for ALL-AS-ONE-PERSON  
... And not for this five, or that hundred, or those ten thousand individuals !*

*What beautiful simplicity  
There is, in the Cross :  
To suffer, IN Christ, FOR Christ,  
– For ALL who are His members  
... AS ONE PERSON !*

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1 Poem 651, On my way to my New South Wales Annual Retreat, June 2005.

2 Mother Teresa.

## Growth towards Complete Dependence <sup>1</sup>

*Grace me, Abba,  
With Your Divine vision of dependence :  
To live out, IN CHRIST, His revelation  
That our growth  
Into the total freedom of being Your Child,  
Is a growth  
Towards complete DEPENDENCE  
... And NOT the world's vaunted INDEPENDENCE !*



## Abba, Perfume My Spirit <sup>1</sup>

*O Gentle, dearest Abba,  
Through Your Embrace of my spirit,  
Bring a complete healing end  
To all my sinful past :  
Changing all hearts involved,  
Overwhelming me with a sensed IMMEDIACY  
Of Your Presence,  
And – as an especial grace, Abba –  
Re-focussing the eyes of my heart, so that ...  
I see You, O my God, in everyone, and in everything !*

*Through this gift,  
Bring to full blossom, Your deeper Gift  
... Of intimacy, communion, and Enrapture.  
May this, Your Eternal Kiss of Love,  
Perfume my spirit ...  
Diffusing my whole being,  
Sanctifying all my relating,  
So that, together, we become the sensed Presence of Your Beloved  
– To each other.*

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1 Poem 653, The day before my June 2005 Retreat.

– At Mt St Benedict, Pennant Hills.

–Spiritual Director, Sr Yvonne Parker.

–Theme, “The Spirituality of St John of the Cross”.

## Divine Possibility <sup>1</sup>

*Within the Mystery of humanity's heart,  
Is the hidden, depthless spring  
Of Divine Possibility,  
Flowing forth  
From the Paschal Jesus ...*

*For a cosmos  
Aching to be infused  
... With His enabling Life  
... And togethering Love,  
Their clearest, most wondrous source  
– Is the Eucharist  
... Divine Mystery in plain sight!  
... Mirroring our forever under-estimated love for each other  
–Inclusive Paschal hearts realizing what is Divinely Possible !*

## Shocked by Grace <sup>1</sup>

*We quite often come to experience God at depth  
–Abba’s Love lighting our spirits from within –*

*Intimately, yet paradoxically  
... Within a context of darkness or ‘night’,  
Within our self-same spirits !*

*Sometimes, the Scriptures assure us,  
This is Abba’s over-shadowing hand  
Lovingly seeking to screen us from harm  
... A Blessing, certainly !*

*But if darkness or ‘night’ PERSIST,  
They often VEIL our spirits  
... In anxiety-producing ways, and to varying intensities,  
In ways that MYSTIFY us :*

*Some of us,  
In imitation of Christ, while deciding to let go  
Of what we were, or of what we were attached to  
– In the spirit of Calvary’s self-sacrifice –  
Still focus on this as a loss,  
And on the sadness it engenders  
–WANTING to LINGER in the past  
In such a way  
As to OBSCURE our present,  
And to CLOUD our future !*

*Others of us, experience the darkness or 'night',  
As the non-acceptance of others,  
And, in thinking others might consider us-as-Christians  
To be "lukewarm", "lazy", or "uncommitted",  
We succumb to human respect.  
In a common reaction, we can pour forth  
Increasing self-effort into various causes,  
... Such that God's Dream for us becomes lost  
In a self-made maze of activity,  
Leaving us, 'still in the dark'!*

*However, others of us,  
SHOCKED BY GRACE  
... On having the ground of our securities swept from beneath us ...  
Choose NOT to continue to be absorbed by plans and projects  
... That seemed to GUARANTEE a new future ...  
But, tremulously, begin  
To walk by sheer faith  
– Sightlessly, uncomprehendingly, trustingly !*

*Yet again, others,  
Waiting longingly upon God  
In times of rapid change,  
And taking care, not to second-guess  
God's Dream for us,  
Resolve to patiently, sensitively REVERENCE  
The hidden ways of this God of Mystery,  
... Working with us, between us, connecting us.  
We sense that God works with us,  
Just as LIGHT does  
... When, in playing on the seemingly unresponsive, unseeing earth,  
It is still able to activate seeds at depth,  
And to DRAW FORTH LIFE from them !*

*Indeed, in what seems to be  
The gloomy, irrelevant, vulnerable corners of our lives,  
The Spirit of the Beloved, of the Ascended One, APPEARS !  
In this way, the Beloved Himself ACCOMPANIES us,  
And, if through the grace of waiting in darkness,  
His outstretched hand TOUCHES ours, in the gloom,  
We need to allow Him TO TAKE OUR HAND IN HIS.  
And though we have little sense of where we're going,  
We let Him lead us into the warming Light of Abba's Love,  
And into the welcoming smiles, the embraces,  
Of those GATHERED WITHIN His very Self,  
Vulnerable spirits ... every one !*

## Together in the Heart of the Beloved <sup>1</sup>

*(ABBA:)*

*Entrust your inner being,  
Your IDENTITY itself,  
To My Beloved's Limitless Love.  
Explore His Inner Fire ...  
Experience your heart within His !  
Let His Fire's Ageless Light ...  
Illuminate your truth,  
Highlight your beauty !*

*As you sense His Passion for Life,  
Dance for joy, with abandon, in His Company !  
Exhilarate in the love of those He loves –  
In that Communion of Love  
Fuelling the Fire  
Ablaze in the heart of the Beloved !*

*Let the Crucified-and-now-Ascended's Life-blood  
Revitalize, re-personalize you ...  
So, with awe aflame in your heart,  
With intimacy, lighting up your eyes,  
You gaze, with His eyes, upon My Face ...  
Knowing that I have eyes ONLY for My Beloved !  
Only in Him, My Paschal Son, Earth's Beloved,  
Do I create, through Our Spirit, that 'God-space'  
Where we abide in Peace Eternal !*

*We rejoice to make a home for you HERE ...*  
*Together with you*  
*In the PERSON of My Beloved.*  
*Find in Him, your own heart's unique beauty ...*  
*Let Me whisper to you*  
*... Through the Spirit ...*  
*My own Child's Name,*  
*And listen to its echo*  
*... As your own !*

**Three Together : Together One** <sup>1</sup>

*One God*

*One love.*

*One gift –*

*Three givings,*

*Three receivings.*

*Three, together,*

*Together One –*

*One God.*



## Centered on Love <sup>1</sup>

*For Abba, Jesus Ascended and the Spirit*

*– As Each within the Other lives –*

*Giving ... readies Each, for receiving,*

*Emptying ... for infilling,*

*Ebbing ... for flowing forth.*

*In this tidal world Eternal,*

*Divine Love pours forth, all of itself, WITHIN, and WITHOUT*

*... Transforming a universe of persons, a universe of things*

*Into wedding gifts for the Beloved,*

*Creating room for us, especially WITHIN,*

*That we, Love's joy may sing*

*–So, our loving others*

*Issues forth from that communing-in-love*

*Which Abba, Jesus Ascended, and the Spirit*

*LIVE WITHIN US !*

*Yet, within TIME'S womb of love,*

*Pain accompanies all birth :*

*This pain, of birthing love,*

*Is each lover straining and longing,*

*To be ONE WITH the Beloved.*

*Until this occurs*

*Our Beloved's wound is still agape*

*... His heart exposed*

*–As ours is NOW,*

*'Til love is born.*

*The Beloved's SURRENDER*

*... At His Conception,*

*... In Jordan's waters,*

*... On Tabor's top*

*... On Calvary's altar,*

*– Sacramentalized as bread's Flesh, and wine's Blood –*

*And culminating in His Ascension's Gift to Abba*

*–Is the divine TEMPLATE*

*For our surrendering to Love.*

*This surrendering is not simply a one-way flow*

*... But an ebb and flow within us :*

*The ebbing of self,*

*The inflowing of the Other ;*

*Receding independence,*

*Incoming tide of the Beloved's dependence*

*... On Abba's Love.*

## We Become Fire <sup>1</sup>

*Love gathers many together  
Around a home's centering hearth  
Or about a bush campfire, flaring in the darkness.  
Some come out for the warmth of others' hearts ;  
Some join Love's circle to nurture both spirit and body ;  
Others, because it is assurance against the night  
– A fiery sentinel keeping darker instincts at bay ;  
Still others, beguiled from a distance ...  
Come to its beauty, its mysterious promise ;  
Others arrive, just to belong !*

*Standing or sitting, around God's Fire,  
Our common instinct is to GAZE ...  
To gaze into its fiery rainbow depths  
... Its centre, Untouchable.  
Yet, it is our own lives, we behold :  
As new wood is laid upon its fiery heart,  
We know it is Love's Spirit  
Who sets our hearts afire :  
At first, scorching us of superficialities,  
Then immersing – baptizing – us in a fiery embrace  
'Til we BURST ALIGHT,  
Ablaze with the Light of the Lord !*

*Being new to Fire,  
And enticed by Love's radiant beauty,  
We allow ourselves to be caressed  
By its alluring flames,  
And so surrender  
To that intenser Love  
Within its white hot core  
... Where Love's Easter Self  
Both fuels our delight,  
And draws us, fascinated  
— Aglow with wonder —  
To the Paschal One's very heart :  
To a furnace of union  
Where one becomes  
The other one ...*

*Then, with zeal to share,  
Re-fired, with ardent yearning flaring,  
We withdraw our inner gaze  
... To gain perspective of the whole.  
So, with eyes aflame  
—Mirroring what we see —  
We sense we have become one  
With this entire shimmering fire-scape of spirits  
—The spirits INCORPORATED in the Easter Christ's Self.*

*Here, the spirit-outriders of Love's fire  
Become at times, goblets of flame, inviting all of us  
To quaff our thirst for companionship- with- Love,  
To burnish our spirits  
Within Love's glowing communion.*

*Here other blue-tinged gases  
–Spirits with energy unexpended –  
Swirl and eddy,  
Longing to be consumed ...  
Until, DRAWN by Love's hidden design,  
They plunge  
–Now, as torrents of fire –  
Cascading into fiery valleys,  
SEEKING THE CENTRE !  
Surrendering, abandoning themselves  
To Love's depths ...  
They are welcomed  
Into a fiery cavernous heart-space  
... Hollowed out by Love's all-consuming nuptials !*

*In this HOMECOMING,  
– One with the ever-emptying, ever-filling Centre,  
In an ALL-GIVING holocaust –  
WE BECOME FIRE  
... Divine Desire to give All,  
Luminous with the Glory of Love  
Holy ! Holy ! Holy !*