

Exhilarating in the Spirit ¹

*O Selfless Abba-God
Abandoning Your whole Self to Your Beloved !
O Mystery of Bountifulness !
... Ceaselessly ... Limitlessly
Pouring forth Your Life ! Your Love ! Your Being !
... Into our Christ-Being ,
Our Paschal Person.*

*O ! How our spirits
EXHILARATE IN THE SPIRIT,
With Your Praise !
Radiating Your Glory !
Ever-grateful for Your Grace !*

Heal-th and Healing ¹

Abba, in Your loving-kindness,

Bring to full HEAL-TH,

All that is unhealed in us ...

Transforming all hearts involved,

All unhealed memories.

Bring all to wholeness, Abba,

Integrating mind, heart, body and spirit ...

So as to draw the whole person

Together.

Heal, too, all their relationships,

And, through this grace of CO-HEALING,

Draw ALL TOGETHER ...

Within Your Beloved's Heart

– The home of lasting health.

To Nourish Our Deepest Desire ¹

*To nourish always,
Our deepest desire – for God,
We need to stay OPEN
To the promptings of the Spirit
... Constantly moving us, to re-pledge our desire
– Through SILENCE, SOLITUDE OF HEART,
Through humble SERVICE,
And through SURRENDERING OUR SPIRIT, to Divine Desire !*

What God's All Can Be ! ¹

Our Abba-God's promise ... of Himself

ALWAYS begins with an invitation

– To emptiness, to nothingness.

If we don't let go of everything,

We will never know

What God's ALL can be !

We pray for the special grace of adoption –

That the Spirit REPLICATE,

Within us,

How Abba, the Ascended Jesus, and the Paschal Spirit

EACH give ALL

To receive ALL.

Trusts Asks Us ¹

Faith means ...

That when doubt arises, and courage falters

Faith itself

... Quietens the intellect, from 'mind-racing',

... Calms the will, restraining it from unneeded decision-making,

... Refocuses our quest for beauty and harmony, INWARDS,

But, most of all,

Surrenders to the simple rhythm of trust.

This faith, this trust asks us ...

To leave things rest with God,

To let God suggest change,

To let God change hearts.

From Our Lover's Lips, We Know ¹

*Think not, YOU know God :
Truly, only God can know God.
For just as "God first loves us", ²
So God first KNOWS us;
And to be known by the God of All Knowing,
Is to be found in Jesus Ascended,
Knowing Abba, AS the Paschal Son
... For Abba has ears only, for His Beloved's voice !*

*This divine way of knowing
Weds our ascendant humanity
To Heaven's Bridegroom.
Thus, in Christ, we know ...
With a wondrous spousal awareness,
And with a luminous attentiveness,
That blossoms into wedded intimacy !*

*Here, ears are not for knowing :
Rather it is the HEART that knows
... Joyed by the fragrant Breath
Of our Lover's KISS, the Spirit
... The seal of all knowing.*

*To be thus rapt within Love's arms,
To gaze into Love's eyes
–But a Breath away –
Is to surrender one's very being
... To lay bare the inner chamber of one's heart.*

*To ACCEPT Love's gaze
Is to FEEL the universe
And its many God-seeking hearts
Beat AS one's own heart
– All in one Eternal surge of joy !
This is KNOWING God !*

*To accept Love's creative gaze
Is to BE
Christ ... bending to embrace and kiss
Both the leper in oneself,
And the lepers without,
... Who, reaching up,
Are awed to see His eyes
Reflect ANOTHER'S gaze of deepest love :
"He has His Father's eyes !"
... Our leprous throats proclaim !*

*And thus, we come to know our God
When our leprous lips are kissed
... For, it is on the Cross
That heaven and earth
Come to know each other
Within this KISS.*

1 Poem 665, Annual Retreat, Pennant Hills, June 2005, Day 4.

2 1Jn 4:19 N.R.S.V.

With Deepest Love ¹

Within the heart of God,

The Spirit utters OUR prayer.

Be it but the murmur of our spirit ...

Jesus Ascended gives it voice and feeling

... As our Beloved Brother,

... And Abba cherishes it

... With deepest love.

God's Secret Place ¹

“Pray to your Father who is in that secret place.” ²

*God's secret place, within each, is –
Beyond hands' touch, and eyes' seeing,
Beyond the scope of our imaginings,
Beyond the reach of our consciousness
... A place of intimacy
Where only God and we can enter and dwell,
Where, as sinners, we are bathed in Love's healing presence,
And where, in being drawn to Love's cheek,
Our life is born anew.*

¹ Poem 667, Annual Retreat, Pennant Hills, June 2005, Day 5.

² Mt 6:6.

Towards an Ever-Deeper Dependence ¹

Our growth
Into the ever-expanding freedom
Of being God's CHILD,
Is a growth towards complete trust
– A growth towards an ever-deeper DEPENDENCE
... That is both gifted,
And chosen.

Into the Heart's Night ¹

Coo – oo – oo – ee !!

*Love's call cracked like a whip in the gum-scented air
– Sailing across the rainforest-draped mountain valley,
Below the jutting basalt outcrop, where I stood alone.*

It was deep twilight, and my Love's call

Startled my heart – again !

I spun my head towards the Voice

But couldn't see my Love :

... As had been the case for the three "cooes" before.

In seeking water for the night's camp,

We had parted, on our descent into the valley

– My Love to the right, I to the left.

The Beloved's sure instincts ensured water would be found ...

But MY old impulses caused me to chop and change,

Until, back-tracking to the "outcrop", I was even higher than before !

Coo – oo – oo – ee !!

My Love's fifth call echoed, and re-echoed

–Now out of darkness –

But ... just a touch closer, than before !

Until now, Love's very absence

Has NUMBED my voice, into not replying

– "Love KNOWS where I am !" I thought

... Not realizing that Love longed to hear

My own "cooe",

And then, by re-ponding, call me home – home to a waiting heart.

*But, ROUSED by the evening Breeze,
My heart joined my voice, to call back :
An airy bleat at first ...
Then a louder squawk that faded quickly ;
The, graced, I decided not to shout, but to SING the “cooe” .
A clarion call SOARED, resounding in the night air
Both alerting my Love, and amplifying my sense of loss.*

*Then, out of darkness, came the Voice I knew :
“I am directly below you ...
You could jump, and I could catch you !”²
My heart leapt ! This time with good-humoured excitement –
“Sure ... I’d jump ! But I cannot fly !”
Then came the Love’s reply,
“Come to me, through the darkness ...
I’ll guide you with my Voice.”*

*So, confidently, I set off into the depths,
Towards the creek bed, about ten metres below
... Able to see just a couple of metres ahead.
I moved first to the left, then straight down ;
Then I faltered ...*

*“Co – oo – ee !”
It sounded to the right, through the trees, softly ...
A short echo this time, followed by –
“I’m here. Come to me. About fifteen metres, right.”*

I brushed into a few branches, before the seventh “cooe” sounded

... Really close by, almost spoken

“Come this way ... just seven metres or so.”

I truly FELL into my Beloved’s waiting arms

– Tripping, right at the end, from sheer relief!

“Welcome back! Good on you!

I’ve found water, and a campsite for the night.”

After a few minutes’ excited story-telling,

We set off upstream, over the creek’s edge rocks

... Soon resuming our familiar silence.

It was, again, pitch black under the trees.

Love’s hand took mine ...

Love’s Presence assured mine ...

Love’s heart-song filled mine!

As sightless ... but CERTAIN in faith,

I was led along the forest floor,

Through the darkness ...

Two times we crossed the spring-fed creek,

Once was to drink ...

When ... I saw sparkles of light cascade from Love’s hands,

... Live diamonds in the night!

Then, bending down to scoop a drink

From the still pool,

I saw Love’s face dimly mirrored there

... Until the Breeze rippled it away.

The on again – I knew not where,

Fully trusting Love’s heart-designs ...

Then ... with excitement ... Love whispered, "We're here !"

A cathedral of high branches, dimly sensed,

Overarched a gracious enclosed space.

The forest floor was flat and even

– Our feet, like a blind man's stick,

Feeling its blanket of soft ferns.

We stand there, together

– As it were in the midst of nothingness

... Dark the space

Darker still the trees' embrace.

Love stands silent, quite unseen :

But ... I've faith in Love's nearness.

Then, the night-flower scented Breeze springs up,

Breathing life into my visionless eyes

... Opening them ANEW

To reveal Love's eyes, up close, meeting mine

... Calming eyes

... Peace-filled eyes.

Love DRAWS me close, cheek to cheek

– With each head, upon the other's shoulder laid.

I sense Love's heartbeat

Sounding into mine

... The steady coupled throb

Affirming the oneness of our love :

My heart beats, with the heartbeat

Of my God !

Love lights up my heart !
My, heart bursts with singing
... As a chorus of a thousand thousand hearts
SINGS THROUGH MINE –
“Light ! Light ! O Glorious Light !
Radiating from the heart
Of Love !
Drawing US TOGETHER, in Love !”

1 Poem 669, Annual Retreat, Pennant Hills, June 2005, Day 5.

2 Biographical Note : ‘Love’s words in the poem, light up the memory of one of my earliest images of God – of my own father, in the dream I had, standing outside our home-on-fire, standing unseen below me, and through the smoke calling similar words, up to me. I, as a 3 or 4 year old, was caught on a second floor bedroom landing, blinded by smoke, calling out to my Dad. His words were, “I can see you, even though you can’t see me. I’m here. Jump into the smoke to where my voice is ! I will catch you !” I jumped ... and Dad caught me ! And kept kissing me !’

All from Love ¹

The seed of all human love, often unbeknown to us,

Is Love ;

What attracts us within human love,

Is, ultimately, Love ;

Wounded human love can, ultimately,

Only be healed, by Love.

All human love can only truly grow,

WITHIN Love

... Whether we know it, choose it, or, seemingly, reject it.

And indeed, only either surrender, or death,

Will reveal this Presence of Love

... Either through grace, or glory !

Love's Delight ¹

As the Gift of abiding communion becomes ours ...

We catch more and more glimpses of Love.

More and more, we savour

The fragrance of Love's Presence.

Indeed, we lose OUR SELVES in Love

Such that Love ALONE becomes our compass ...

Our journey, and our destination !

Thus graced,

We sense Love's fond lingering GAZE

– As Love is captivated, in beholding Christ in us.

We cannot but delight in Love's delight !

And, as we are drawn more deeply into Love,

We realize

ALL life's focus, is the Other.

Our deep NEED is to be responsive

To the RHYTHM of Love, in others :

Breathing Love IN ...

Breathing Love OUT ...

In the hope that ALL become ONE, in Love.

Love's Joy ¹

*Love's joy is to play and frolic
In the sun-spangled Waters of Peace
... With those who are, IN Love,
To plunge together to cooler depths
– Lovers wombed together –
And then, to RISE TOGETHER, for a Breath.*

*Love's joy is to lie together
In a tree's filtered light
... As the Sunshine we share,
Dances its pattern of delight
In tune with the carefree Breeze.*

*Love's joy is to twirl and glide
To the sweep and rhythm of a band
With partners dancing 'Lovers' Choice'
–To dance the Dance of Love :
To blend the Music of the Stars
To the Music in our hearts.*

Love's Bounty ¹

DEUT 33 : 13 – 16b (J.B.) –

*“Your land is blessed by Yahweh :
for you, the best of heaven’s dew
and of the deep that lies below,
the best of what the sun may grow
of what springs with every month,
the first fruits of the ancient mountains
the best from the everlasting hills,
the best of the land and all it holds –
the favour of him who dwells in the Bush.”*

ROM 8 : 28 –

*“All things work together unto good,
for those who love God.”*

*Love’s heart pours abundance into our lives :
Wide, deep soils lavished with rain,
Grain crops, sun-ripened heavy on the stem,
Sugar cane, aflame with bloom, plump in the stalk
... We are ever in Love’s sight !*

*Pears and pawpaws, mangoes and mandarins,
Softly dew-kissed at dawn;
Passionfruit and grape, bananas and apricots,
Their sheen aglow at twilight
... Love heaps gifts on gifts !*

*Fat cows with calves, wade in seas of green ;
Deep-pooled rivers ... gleaming arteries ... cross our land ;
Fish teem our lakes and flash alive in streams
... O! Who will restrain Love ?*

*Bumper harvests, barns are full,
Granaries bulge, beehives sing !
Our land is joying – joying in Love
... Joying in Love's overflow !*

*And all our land's abloom – like coloured sunshine :
Swathes of lavender, canola and salvia – rainbow our lives !
Violets, jonquils, and fireweed under-croft the poincianas !
Daisies and dandelions, and passionate paterson's curse
Flood whole valleys and ride their crests !
... Love's eyes are adazzle with colour !*

*Magnolia and tibouchina, cherry and jacaranda BLOOM
– Exploding against the green !
Stands of pine and palm, bloodwood and wattle,
Liquid-amber and eucalypt, cedar and silky oak
Contend, as friends
... Love's excitement overflows !*

*Apple and avocado ... plum and macadamia orchards,
Sunny ranks of pineapples – garment our hillsides ;
Swelling melons, scarlet sprays of strawberries,
Cheeky radishes, swaying corn ... all jostle together
... Love cannot contain itself !*

*Here our children also grow in harmony :
Nursing babies, bell-voiced 'under tens' ...
Voices ringing in the sun, deep voiced youth,
Girls farewelling childhood, blooming in the light
... Love is alive in them !*

*Ours is a land arched by rainbows, capped by thunder-heads,
Caressed by sun-showers, drenched by monsoons ;
A kaleidoscopic landscape, silvered by farm dams and creeks ;
Skies we can drive into : into flotillas of clouds over plainland hills
... Into a maze, a blue myriad of shapes and forms and 'faces'
... Mirroring Love's every feeling !*

*Birds, flecking our skies, and gracing our wetlands,
Chirrup the dawn, filling our rain forests and scrub with song !
Farmland grunting and lowing, bleating and crowing
... All add to Love's chorus
... Love's eager to join this heartsong !*

*Our land is awash with fragrance :
Encompassing jasmynes, subtle vanillas, the honeyed scent of wattle,
The tang of gum trees, the spike of citrus, and roses' velvety perfumes.
All lace the air of gardens, bushland and plains
... Love's allure is tangible !*

*One key focus of Love,
Are our country's mountain ranges
... From which all our rivers flow.
A few such ranges, soar,
But most form spines across low landforms.
Yet all draw Love's attentiveness
... With their tree-draped flanks,
And those occasional peaks crowned with CLOUD,
Like that of Horeb
... Mysterious and alluring ...
Invite many picnicking families, tourists and youthful hikers,
Caravanning retirees, motorists keen to explore, and some contemplative wanderers.*

*Often, here in the uplands, like in a scriptural wilderness,
Love opens hearts,
Often around campfires
... Hearts gathered together,
Like moths to a flame.*

*Indeed, Love's like a Flame for all in this land,
Centering hearts,
Wedding us together,
Lighting up our lives,
Gracing us, to trace the face of the Beloved,
In the kindnesses of each face we encounter
—Be it in the supermarket, the sports or concert venue, or at work—
... Touching our lives, with a Homeing Instinct.*

*As Love opens our hearts
And draws us home – to a place of COMMUNING,
We open our homes and our own lives to others
... To share our own Homecoming gifts.
And Love, who is the Giver of such gifts,
Is the ultimate Gift we receive and embrace,
And the ultimate Gift we can give to others
In this Bountiful Land.*

To Treasure What Is Given ¹

*We have already been given
What we MOST yearn for !
Being in Christ, in Abba's arms
... Is there anything MORE
We could desire ?
O! How our awareness deserts us !*

*Being SO blest,
We need the grace, constantly –
To be attentive and aware
Of our giftedness ;
To watch and wait
For its unfolding ;
And, most of all,
To TREASURE
What is given,
And, with thankfulness
Through Eucharist,
Always to be open,
And whole-hearted, in our response !*

A Home for the Heart ¹

Our hearts belong to the One who made them
... Who EVER loves them into being !
We can only be 'at home',
In harmony with our origin, and destiny
... If we surrender to the One
To whom our heart, our spirit, BELONG !
Jesus, Himself, encourages us, always,
"To give to God, what belongs to God" ²
... Our very selves !

Our tragedy is, that we keep
Looking elsewhere
To EXPERIENCE belonging
... Even eager for the distraction !
Out of sync with our own heart's inner compass
... We re-set our hearts
On the lure
Of what instantly satisfies
– On the passing 'sensation of belonging'.
We re-visit this sensual fulfilment, repeatedly,
To generate
A superficial sense of permanence
– A 'pretend' home for our hearts !

O! For the grace of recognizing the treasure

We already possess ...

*“Where your treasure is,
There too, is your heart”.³*

There too, our home !

1 Poem 675, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, July 2005.

(NOTE: Linked to the previous poem, Poem 674.)

2 Mt 22: 21

3 Mt 6: 21

Holiness ¹

*Holiness is not just any expression of goodness ;
Holiness is
The goodness which integrates the lives it illuminates
... Empowering
EACH to wholeness, and the MANY to togetherness.
Such integrative goodness
Has degrees of radiance
... All gifts of God's delight.
Each is a facet of that Goodness,
Which unifies and simplifies all
... "For God alone is holy". ²*

*Indeed, each holy person, each holy group,
Is a realization of a special purpose
Within the heart of Goodness itself,
Who draws ALL into a whole
... Within the one Christ !*

1 Poem 676, year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Feast of the Assumption, 2005.

2 Cf. Lk 18:19.

The Heartbeat of God ¹

Abba's eternal impulse is to commune,

To communicate Himself.

Out of His silence comes whispers

... Whispers of Love

Exciting our spirits !

Whispers become murmurs

... Communal, soulful, alluring,

Enticing our spirits to togetherness.

As these murmurs swell and fade,

There SOUNDS within Paschal spirits

Something insistent, rhythmic and personal,

The HEARTBEAT OF GOD

... Most assuring, and eternally close !

... Pulsing with life !

... Drawing our human hearts

Into its own rhythm !

Wondrously, to beat in unison with THIS Heartbeat,

Is to share God's own identity !

Before ever the Word
Is GIVEN VOICE in our lives,
Before any words arise,
Christ's Heartbeat is always there –
Anchoring all wisdom,
En-Spiriting our spirits,
Enlivening our universe !

Indeed, Christ's Heartbeat centres
The Presence of the Word,
And, of course, all specific expressions of the Word.
These latter all RESONATE to its rhythm :
Blessed are they who are graced
To sense this Heartbeat of Love
BEFORE Love's words are heard !

Indeed, the Word's central revelation
Is to pulse forth the Heartbeat of God
– To pulse God's love
Into the hearts of all who live
And, in a wondrously graced way, into Paschal hearts
– And then to receive
The love for God
Pulsing from them !

Readied by Mary ¹

With each of our dyings

We are gently led

Into a hope-filled presence ...

Lowered, with Calvary's Jesus,

Into the waiting arms of Mary

– The Loving Mother

Of all who seek Life –

Who, laying us to rest,

READIES us

For Abba's Gift –

The Spirit of the Beloved

Alive in us !

As One Heartbeat ¹

Abba

Let ALL hearts change

And come together,

As one Heartbeat,

In Your Beloved ...

One heart, pulsing forth its adoration for You,

As ... in silence ... with-us-in-Him ... we wait

... Attentive to Your Promise

–Your Spirit-Gift of Love !

Alive to Each Other ¹

Christ sings, within our hearts,

Within His :

‘Belong to Me

As I belong to you ;

So, together now,

We belong to our Abba-God.

By our living the love-life,

That our Abba-God

Lives within Me

We are now one in the Spirit !

We are, all of us,

ALIVE to each other,

IN each other !”

1. Poem 680, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2005.

Among Those Who Love As One ¹

We cannot relate to God as Moses did :

No – the God whose gaze envelops us

Who communes with us

Is never found ALONE –

God is always found

Rejoicing AS Those-Who-Love-As-One :

Abba tenderly indwelling us,

Jesus compassionately embodying us,

Loyce joyously en-Spiriting us.

ABBA only ever beholds us TOGETHER

... Ensplendoured with the personal beauty of His Beloved.

He beholds our hearts

Luminescing with Christ's Spirit of joy

... As our lights are drawn, into the dazzling embrace of Light !

JESUS embodies us

Through Loyce's enlivening us TOGETHER

– Sons of the Resurrection, Daughters of the Ascension –

As Abba gently, tenderly, fathers us

As HIS Beloved

– Our 'New Humanity's' CHAMPION ! ²

*LOYCE lovingly draws us into the One Embrace,
Into the Beloved's tender Paschal surrender,
Into His abandonment
To Abba's enveloping His heart
– One Surrender ! One Enrapture ! One Kiss !*

God is TOGETHERNESS ...

1. Poem 681, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2005.

2. EPH 2:15 (N.R.S.V.)

Glorious in God's Sight ¹

*We, as individuals, do not gaze at God : we cannot ;
God beholds us, IN His Beloved.
Yet, as the Spirit draws us, into Christ's gaze of Paschal love,
Grace by grace, we become identified
With Christ's seeing, with the Ascended One's vision.*

*With His gazing, WE gaze –
Into Abba's own heart of goodness
... A God-burst of joy !
Contemplating Abba's beauty
... A God-burst of delight !
Envisioning the truth of Abba's Mystery
... Wherein All become One !*

*Thus graced,
A share of Abba's IN-SIGHT into hearts
... Becomes ours, IN Christ ;
And humanity's history of love for God reveals itself
In transcendent clarity
... At least, in our graced glimpses of Abba.*

*The long term fruit of such contemplative grace,
Is that, in seeing Abba, with Jesus' Paschal eyes,
We also can see WITH the eyes of our brothers and sisters
... Incorporated in Jesus Ascended.
With THEIR, and our own eyes of Love
We face Abba :
... Beholding His Wondrous Glory TOGETHER
... The Glory of Love also filling us, as "a new creation" in Christ ²
—Glorious in God's Sight !*

1 Poem 682, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2005.

2. 2 Cor. 5:17.

The Cloud's Fire ¹

"The Glory of Yahweh appeared, as a cloud." Ex 16:10

"I have come to light a fire upon the earth ;

how I wish the blaze were ignited !" Lk 12:49

O Spirit !

O Fiery Cloud of Love !

Open to the heart's touch,

Yet beyond the heart's compass ;

Alluring ... yet unpossessible,

Concealing, a Glory revealed ...

A Fire within : a Cloud without !

Yet Your Fire still encompasses us with its warmth

– Drawing us within Your Cloud's folds

Close ... felt ... giving ... intimate ...

Galvanizing our hearts, yet calming,

Startling, challenging us, yet consoling,

Confounding us, but deeply loving,

Overwhelming ... but wedded to us,

And, most wondrously,

WITHIN ...

One-with-us

... Igniting our every cell with joy !

Suffusing all with Love's warmth,

Permeating all with Love's peace.

Still, O Spirit,

It is Your Cloud that first enraptures us :

A Mystery, luminous and awesome,

That, in cloaking its own fiery core

And gloriously aglow ...

Removes Your Fire from our gaze.

To behold Your Fire itself

—The very heart of Love —

Is an especial gift of grace.

Such an infinite traverse

Into Love's unfathomable well of Boundless Goodness

Is beyond contemplative visioning,

Beyond the fruits of surrendering all ;

It is the Gift of Your Fire itself, O Spirit

— Being one with Jesus Ascended,

In His response

To Abba's ETERNAL KISS

... The heart of Divine Passion !

Eucharistic Homecoming ¹

*The map of the human heart
Is oriented Eucharistically :
All the lines of our nature converge
To focus on the One whose own heart
Was pierced for us –
His Sacrifice luminously centers our HEARTSCAPE.*

*The lifeblood of community consciousness
Coursing through our collective human heart –
Issues forth from the One
Who chose that this, His own lifeblood
Be “poured out for many” ... ²
All sacramentalized, FOR US, in the Eucharist.*

*God's Indwelling too, is a Eucharistic homecoming :
Our loving Abba makes His home in us
Only through the One
Whose Paschal journey is reproduced in us,
Through lives, SURRENDED in love.
As Father, Son and Spirit choose to live Their life within us,
Christ's Eucharist incorporates us within Their intimacy.*

*Contemplation too is a Eucharistic journey :
Through gazing on Love, IN Christ the Beloved,
... Such that 'the One becomes the other One' ...
We ceaselessly reproduce our Eucharistic Communion,
Living out our corporate identity AS Christ,
"Becoming members one of another" ³
Of the Ascended Jesus
Enraptured by a most open-hearted Father, in the Spirit !*

1 Poem 684, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, November 14th 2005.

NOTE: I sent this poem, in November 05, directly to the Pope, Benedict XVI, with this note: -

"Dear Holy Father, I am a contemplative in the active, Apostolic Congregation of Christian Brothers in Queensland, Australia. I deeply hope that my words below – the fruit, I believe, of the Year of the Eucharist, and of suffering – will be read by you PERSONALLY."

P.S. I received a brief reply before Christmas 05, in the Pope's hand.

2 Mt 26:28. 3 Rom 12:5.

The Symphony of Love ¹

*The symphony of God's love
Is mostly heard by us in a minor key ...
Typically, in some outdoor experience of NATURE, at its most awesome
... As we think 'This is truly inspiring and wonderful !'
Paradoxically, when we hear it, in its major key
– Played out in the lives of the faithful few, and often tragically –
We are only occasionally responsive to ITS grace,
That is, to its transformative depths, redemptive promise, and transcendent power.*

*Yet God's symphony resonates best
In simple, God-seeking hearts
... OPENED UP, IN THEIR NEED,
By the music of Divine compassion.*

*Indeed, our Abba-God chooses to HARMONIZE –
Not so much with the fervour of lips, full of praying
... but with the heart's silence
Not so much with hearts, full of energy for God
... but with ones, emptied of plans and expectations
Not so much with activity, 'spending oneself for the Mission'
... but with humbleness and stillness of spirit
Not so much with spirits, alive with challenges for others
... but with the solitude of an inclusive prayerful heart
Not so much with special times, that WE set aside for God
... but with the timelessness of moments of surprise
Not so much when we 'put ourselves into' the Presence of God,
... but rather, with open-hearted watching and waiting for God*

*Not so much, with hearts passionate for just causes
... but with desert spirits, yearning for the God of Justice
Harmonizing –
Not so much with the day-time obviousness of God's gifts
... but with the night-time nearness of a God unsensed
Not so much with what WE know of God
... but with the shock of God's unknowability
Not so much where WE sense, God really is
... but with places unreachable, beyond 'our searching'
Not so much with what our GAZE lovingly yearns to behold
... but with Love's self-revelations, Love's own chosen symbols
Not so much with God's countless expressions of creativity
... but with THE Creator, Love's Eternal essence
... resonating within all, resounding beyond all
– GOD'S SYMPHONY OF LOVE.*

Mystery's Seed, Growth, Fruit and Delight ¹

Growth, in all of nature,

Always

Begins from a centre

Then moves outwards :

Thus it is with Mystery.

As with the seed that unfolds, then buds, then branches ...

As with the ovum that divides, forms tissue, organs, then finger buds ...

So too, Mystery unfolds from Within to without.

Mystery first germinates within us, as a seed ... of Love ;

Then, rising out of the dark chill of our winters,

Eternal Mystery bud forths, into time,

Blossoming forth its glory-bloom ... Love.

Finally, there appears Mystery's infant fruit ... Love ;

Then, ripened blood-red by summer's travails,

Flushed full with the Sun's giftedness,

Its glow mottled by autumn sugars of grace ...

Mystery's matured fruit ... Love ...

Delights all, with its deliciousness.

Truly, Love is

... The seed of Mystery

... Growth within Mystery

... The graced fruit of Mystery

... And the Delight of Mystery.

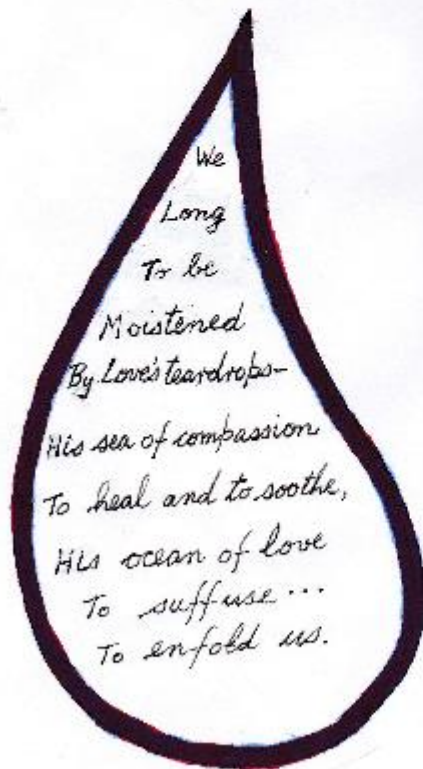
1 Poem 686, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 1

NOTE: Yamba is a holiday and retirement town at the mouth of the Clarence River, New South Wales.

Sister Yvonne Parker was the facilitator, and is my spiritual director, for my annual retreats.

Longing ... ¹

Longing ...



We
Long
To be
Moistened
By Love's teardrops-
His sea of compassion
To heal and to soothe,
His ocean of love
To suffuse ...
To enfold us.



To Be Spirit ¹

*To be a spirit
Is to be able to live one's life
WITHIN another
... In all others who welcome us to do so,
Whether consciously, or not.*

*To live mutually within another,
Is not possible, for either,
If one rejects the other.
However, if there is no rejection,
Degrees of being spirit to each other,
Are possible – with the potential
Of either enhancing or devaluing
Each other's spirit.
Thus to be an enhancing spirit,
Is to be available for communion
– With all who DESIRE it.*

*If we are blest with the grace
Of Divine Adoption
... By being baptized into Christ ...
And continue to live like Jesus,
Our spirit is DRAWN to live in the human spirit
Of Christ, 'the New Man'. ²*

*Also, the Ascended Jesus' human spirit
Lives within ours
—As we become mutually available
For the best of human communing !*

*But, wondrously,
The Ascended Jesus had promised always to invite
The Holy Spirit of Abba and of Himself-as-Son
— To LIVE Abba's and His own Divine Life
Within our human spirit !*

*And more wondrously,
Since this Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Unity in God,
And the source of Unity
For ALL who live in Christ, the New Man,
The Spirit is the guarantor
That all “become members, one of another,”³
—So our Abba-God
Is “all in all”⁴
In that “one new humanity created in Christ”⁵*

1 Poem 688, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 1.

2 Eph 2:15 (J.B.) 3 Rom 12:5 4 1Cor 15:28 (J.B.) 5 Eph 2:15 (N.R.S.V.)

Love of My Heart ¹

*Love of my heart
Set within my heart, the gifts
... Of deep prayer
... And consciousness of Enrapture. ²
Grant me, to live out fully
... What is in the mind of Christ for me,
... What is His, and the Church's, dream for me.*

*Cause me to stay humbly before You, O Love,
Crucified with Your Beloved.*

*Let me be
... As a pure, transparent spirit,
To focus Your Light for others
... And thus, an open, clear channel
Of Your Love and Life for all.*

Amen ! ³

1 Poem 689, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 2.

2 'Enrapture' is Jesus Ascended being enfolded in the arms of Abba, receiving the promised Gift of the Spirit – ultimately for our 'new humanity' in Him.

3 This is a Daily Missal prayer of mine, at Eucharist – Author.

Our Need for Darkness ¹

While the darkness of Mystery IS real,

There is no mystery IN darkness :

Darkness, IN ITSELF, is absence ;

It is devoid of meaning ; it is nothing.

However, the darkness of Mystery conceals a wondrous reality

–For Mystery’s being present

To humankind’s inmost being

... “More inward than my inmost self”... ²

Is beyond all our knowing and all our seeking,

Beyond our initiating any contact,

Clothed in the blindness of unknowability.

Yet, the Divine Paradox

Is that Mystery is utter SELF-REVELATION :

... Longing, with infinite longing, to reveal all

To those it loves ;

... Yearning, with incomparable yearning,

With utter openness,

To show forth, to proclaim, its overflowing love !

Yet, Mystery also KNOWS

The transcending wisdom of sharing its boundlessness ...

In a way that doesn’t OVERWHELM us !

In depthing the heart of humanity,

Mystery seeks out “the poor in spirit”, the open-hearted, ³

As those most ready ... to commune with Utter Love,

To enter into the Embrace of Mystery !

*Most sadly, history reveals that we human beings
Have been repeatedly unresponsive to, or dismissive of,
Mystery placing all its hopes
On “the gentle and humble of heart” ... to commune with.*

*FIRSTLY, there are those who pay scant respect
To Mystery’s role in their lives, at all
... Striving to be INDEPENDENT of it, through self-focused choices,
... And so stumble into a darkness of their own devising,
Becoming lost souls, adrift in the banalities and superficialities of life,
Comfortable with deception and self-absorption.*

*SECONDLY, others ... by discounting, ignoring, or even resisting
The Mystery within us,
Distractedly, wander, into the gloom of HALF-HEATEDNESS,
Slowly becoming alienated ... from themselves, others, and Creation.*

*Still, Mystery’s own enhancing gaze is NEVER withheld
From ANY of us, as it lingers lovingly,
Longing to catch our heart’s eye ...*

*Nevertheless, there are those who do reverence
The Mystery Within
–Continually choosing DEPENDENCE on it .
As Mystery’s gaze meets theirs,
There is often an enabling of hearts, an emboldening of spirits
–To open to selflessness, and to surrender all to Mystery.
In hearts of prayerfulness and reflectfulness ...
Glimpses of the Beyond arise
...With encounters of deeper and deeper intimacy
And thus, transient experiences of UNION.*

Here too, there is a darkness
–A darkness, not self-fashioned, but God-made,
A growth-filled, ultimately creative darkness.

HERE, Love shields our gaze
From Mystery, ever so CLOSE
–A Father’s fond response to a deep trust
That still, can’t quite cope
... The deep trust of a babe in arms,
Eyelids lowered in peaceful confidence,
Content to be held to the breast
By a dotting Father,
Whose Face is sensed, not seen.

This new-born
– And TO Mystery, we are all, always, new-born –
When raised from its reverie,
Cradled in the embrace of Mystery,
STILL fails, with eyes open,
To clearly behold Mystery’s Face :
It is still, just a little too far away, to gain FOCUS.

But, when DRAWN CLOSER, by Love itself
– So near as to sense Love’s Breath –
It can now gaze into the wellsprings of Love’s Eyes
And, with joy, return Mystery’s smile.
Darkness vanishes with those smiling eyes,
And Love’s sunlight brings oneness of union
... For a time ...

Ultimately, it is to A-DARKNESS-THAT-COMFORTS

That the new-born returns,

A darkness wished for by the Father ...

For, with darkness, comes the gifts of rest,

GROWTH BY DEGREES,

And thus of an enhanced capacity for light.

For this child of Mystery ... is a child of Light,

Who, short of heaven's Glory,

Has a NEED for this intermittent darkness.

1 Poem 690, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 2.

2 C.f. Ps 139 :13 3 Mt 5:3 4 Mt 11:28

Receiving and Giving the Spirit ¹

For Abba,
In His wondrous encounter with the Ascended Jesus,
In His utter abandonment-to-giving,
He urges the Spirit
To draw us up into Christ,
To draw us up into the very source of Life,
Into the heart of Divine Fellowship,
Into Their Circle of Love,
To have us permeated with the Spirit of Love,
Permeated with the Spirit of utter, mutual surrender –
To receive God !
To give God !
To give in the receiving !
To receive in the giving !

For us,
To BREATHE IN this Spirit,
The Spirit of a loving Abba
... Who raises ALL TO LIFE in the humanity
Of His Beloved Son ...
Is to fulfil
The supreme hope of Jesus' Paschal heart.

This hope is that the so-yearned-for "Promise" ²
Of His dearest Abba
–The Gift of the Spirit to Jesus, Risen and Ascended –
... ENABLES Jesus to be raised, out of death,
"A New Man", ³
Whose "New Humanity" we can share ⁴
As adopted brothers and sisters ;
... Enables Jesus Ascended to be raised
Into the Embrace of Abba
Wherein, He receives the Spirit FOR US ;
... Enables US to receive the Spirit IN Jesus Ascended,
Together, as a family, being incorporated in Jesus' PERSON
... With His single IDENTITY as the New Man,
Becoming ours !

Jesus Ascended's wondrous RECEPTION of the Spirit for us,
Allows us, IN Him,
To breathe forth this Spirit of wonder and grace
Into each other's lives, as fellow "members" of Christ ⁵
– Into spirits, thirsting for "Living Water", ⁶
–Into spirits, hungering for Love.
This is truly Abba's most freeing grace
... The fruit of His delight in giving us His Spirit
So that we sinners, ourselves, become channels of the Spirit !

*Our own hearts, bursting with delight,
Deluge our world with thanks !
This is not enough for us ...
We now offer the ONLY GIFT WORTHY :
Ourselves, IN, and AS, Christ
... As a Eucharist of the Beloved to Abba !*

1 Poem 691, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 3.

2 Acts 2:39 (J.B.) 3 Eph 2:15 (J.B.) 4 Eph 2:15 (N.R.S.V.) 5 Rom 12:5 (N.R.S.V.) 6 Jn 7:38 (J.B.)

Our Participation in God's Longing ¹

HOPE is not ONLY our longing for God

But God's longing for us ...

Longing to pour Love's Reality into us,

Longing to be welcomed by us.

Hope is our participation in God's longing.

Within the Trinity of Fellowship,

Abba's longing is EXPRESSED in His Word,

And, when it focuses on us ... in the Word's embodiment, in Jesus.

So, Abba's desires of each of us,

His vision for humanity,

Is found in Jesus' own DREAM for us.

Central to this DREAM, is the Eucharist

– The encapsulation of the whole of the Paschal Mystery FOR US –

... "I have LONGED to eat this Passover with you,

Before I suffer." ²

And central to Jesus' first Eucharist,

Are two key desires ... requests of His Abba.

Firstly, Jesus asks for the gift of faithfulness for His followers

... "Keep those You have given Me

True to Your Name" ... ³

"Make them holy through the truth." ⁴

Jesus' second desire is His most heartfelt

– with the deepest resonances for US –

“I want those You have given Me

To BE WITH ME WHERE I AM

... So that the love with which You have loved Me

May be in them,

*SO THAT I MAY BE IN THEM.”*⁵

What a wonderful expression of HOPE in Abba !

Ought we not, then, whole-heartedly participate

In this longing of Jesus ?

1 Poem 692, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 4.

2 Lk 22:15

3 Jn 17:11

4 Jn 17:17 (I.B.)

5 Jn 17:24, 26

The Together Rosary ¹

*These 4 poems A,B,C,D, replace the 4 main prayers in the ordinary rosary,
All in the usual sequence – except there are only 3 of the Poem C,
replacing the 10 Hail Marys. I created this Together Rosary as both a more explicitly
Trinitarian, and shorter version, of the ordinary rosary.*

Poem A. (Replaces the I Believe :)

I believe in You, Abba, Jesus and Loyce, ²

And in you, Mother Church

–Bride of the Father, Body of the Beloved, and Channel of the Spirit

Poem B. (Replaces the Our Father :)

Abba, embrace us as Your Own, as WE pray –

“Incarnate Jesus, within us ...

To live the life of Your Beloved in us !

Herein, to be the Prayer of our heart !

Poem C. (Replaces the Hail Mary :)

Loving Abba, Jesus, Loyce,

Heal ... En-Spirit ... and Enrapture us, ³

Together ... with Mary.

Poem D. (Replaces the Glory Be :)

Glory to You, Dearest Abba,

Through You, Jesus our brother,

In You, Creative Spirit

... Mystery of Divine Desire within our freedom.

1 Poem 693, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 4.

2 ‘Loyce’ is my familiar term for the Paschal Spirit who is LOVE, JOY, and PEACE...pronounced Loy – cee .

3 ‘En-Spirit’= to enliven with the Spirit, who indwells a person.

‘Enrapture’ can be both a verb and a noun ... for the experience of rapture, between Abba and the Ascended Jesus.

The One Paschal Moment ¹

*Jesus –
You kept on loving us
Through death,
Entrusting Yourself to Abba ...*

*You are raised anew
As the New Man, ²
Radiant with God's Life for all !*

*You are rapturously embraced by Abba,
In the Homecoming Uniting
Of His Spirit of Glory !*

*You gift all, with Your Spirit of Love
... Now, ALIVE in us,
Yet, still to come !*

*Come, Sanctifying Spirit !
Live in us !
Live the Life of Abba's Beloved in us !*

¹ Poem 694, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 4.

NOTE: This poem, The One Paschal Moment, can replace ALL traditional final prayers of the ordinary rosary beginning with the Hail Holy Queen ... in the new Together Rosary.

This poem-prayer contemplates the four faces of the Paschal Mystery – Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension, and Giving of the Holy Spirit – as the ONE PASCHAL MOMENT ... the Eternalized moment, in which all our lives and all our praying, especially the Eucharist, are situated.

² Eph 2:15 (N.A.B.)

God Accompanies His Gifts ¹

As the Paschal Christ gifts us with His God-life ...

A robust faith affirms that WE live out His life in us ;

Stronger faith proclaims that CHRIST lives out His life in us.

So too, with subsequent gifts ... like hope, compassion, and discernment :

A robust faith affirms that, with the Spirits' help –

WE hope for God's constant saving action in our lives,

WE are moved, body and spirit, to compassion,

WE need to soulfully discern God's will for us.

Stronger faith proclaims that –

We let GOD'S dream, that we be saved, happen in us,

We let GOD'S compassion, be realized in us,

We let GOD'S vision or will, come true within us.

So too with simple unexpected gifts –

Kind words from a stranger, good rain,

A smile from one's child, a good coffee.

O Abba – You are the God of ALL gifts ! ²

You know the utter joy of giving ...

Indeed, Your own Spirit is GIVING itself !

Thus, from You, through Jesus, we experience and learn

That giving is, ESSENTIALLY, a Godly activity

Yes ! The template for all giving is the Trinity !

WONDEROUSLY,

*Only God can live out God's saving life, within us,
Only God can be as compassionate as our heavenly Father,
Only God's Spirit can reveal, and enable, what God wants of us,
Only God can ultimately, produce a kindly smile on a stranger's face,
Only God, ultimately can arrange ALL circumstances for a good coffee.*

Then, our response in faith, must be one –

*Of AWE, for a God who is utterly giving,
Of THANKS, for God's choice of ourselves, and for the gifts,
Of REVERENCE, for the Giver of the gifts.*

This whole Mystery of Giving issues from God's Love :

*God loves ...
God loves to give ...
God loves to give the Godself ...
God loves to give the Godself eternally.*

Indeed our Abba God can never separate Himself

From His giving or from His gifts :

Our Abba God always ACCOMPANIES His gifts ...

Not only in the giving, but in the receiving ...

For God can only GIVE to God –

Abba giving Himself to the Beloved Son alone, ³

And thus, only IN Christ, can Abba give Himself TO US. ⁴

So too, only God can RECEIVE God –

Only the Beloved Son is open to Abba, and only He receives Abba, ⁵

And thus only IN Christ, CAN WE be open to, and receive Abba. ⁶

*For those NOT 'IN Christ', who, for whatever reason
Close the door ... to God living His Life in them,
To God's PERSONAL presence, in them,
To God's PERSONAL gifts ...
There is the ACCOMPANYING offer
Of God's providential presence,
Of God's non-personal gifts.
These are eternally offered IN Christ, the Lord of Creation,
And if tacitly received, are received from the same Christ !*

*The wonder for those who choose to be IN Christ
Is that Abba, and the Spirit
Live out Their Life of deepest communion
Within all, IN Christ
... Receiving and giving ALL, in Him !*

1 Poem 695, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 4.

2 Jn 1:17 and Tb 4:19 3 Jn 17:7, 10 4 Lk 10:22 5 Jn 14:11 6 Jn 14:6

Angels : Companion-Spirits of Peace ¹

“Glory to God in the highest ... among those whom God favors” Lk. 2:14.

Rejoice, O Angels, in God’s glorious peace !

You, yourselves, in peaceful communion with God,

Radiate peace to all you encounter.

Your own Spirit-Song sings

Of the glories of peace !

Christ, in His Rising,

Enspirited you with His joy and His peace !

And we return your blessing of His Paschal peace, to you ...

For you are truly ... bringers of joy, singers of harmony, and persons of peace !

Your loving care FOR US grows out of this Paschal peace.

Indeed, Jesus Ascended’s peaceful radiance fills your being,

And infuses with joy, your own loving-kindness to us.

You keep vigil over the peace of our spirits

– Warding off the spirit of egoism, envy, and dissension

... Opening our hearts to the spirit of humility, selflessness and unity.

You proclaim through your very presence,

The goodness of that peace, “which the world cannot give “. ²

You enspirit God’s people, and each person who is ‘yours’,

With Jesus’ “own peace” ³

... Flowing out of His Abba-God and Himself

‘Making Their home’ ⁴

Within the hearts of humankind !

Swift to respond to His desires, you protect and inspire us,

And gather us together

In the Church of Christ's Body.

This Body is always yearning to be filled

With the Holy Spirit of Easter Evening's Peace ...

“Peace be with you ... Receive the Holy Spirit ;

For those whose sin you forgive, they are forgiven.” ⁵

Obviously, Jesus desires,

That His Easter Peace, which He entrusted to you,

Becomes ours, wherever the spirit of reconciliation is fostered.

Yes ! You angels of the Easter Christ,

You are the facilitators of this reconciliation

... Bestowing peace WITHIN us, and BETWEEN us, and WITH creation.

We thank you, lovable companion-spirits, from our hearts !

Yet, your deeper gift, O Angels of Abba,

Is a communal one :

To attend upon the Eucharist of the Beloved

–Upon His Sacrificial Supper for sinners, with the offer of abiding peace

... “My peace I give to you, My peace I leave with you”. ⁶

In your zeal to companion our humanity's Peaceful One

... Who “made peace, by the blood of His cross”... ⁷

– Yours it is to soothe the present wounds of His Body

... Just as you responded when He was “pierced for our offences”; ⁸

–Yours it is to adore the crucified poor man, as your Servant-God;

– Yours to prepare human hearts to banquet with OUR God ;

– Yours to dance the song of joy, to glory in His praise

... Your Spirit-Song resonating with our human choirs ...

As ALL commune with the Risen Ascended Jesus !

*Let us ALL – angels and humanity,
Join with the Prince of Peace,
In His surrender of His whole being
... Spirit and body ...
To Abba !
O lovable companion-spirits
Share your Eternal peace with us ...*

1 Poem 696, Yamba Summer Retreat, December 2005, Day 5.

2 Jn 14:27 3 Ibid 4 Cf Jn 14:23 5 Jn 20:22, 23 6 Jn 14:27 7 Col 1:20 8 Is 53:5 (N.A.B.)

A Seamless Garment ¹

*An individual Christian's SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS,
And Christian COMMUNITY-AWARENESS
Can never be divorced from each other ;
Rather they need to be wedded together,
"Woven into a seamless garment" ²
– Because God's Inner Life lived out within them both
Lived out, within a Tri-unity of Persons
... Calls them to ever deeper integration and unity.*

¹ Poem 697, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, January 2006.

² Cf. Jn19:23

Christ's Experience of Us ¹

For those open to Love ...

Christ enables us to truly experience Himself

–Through His Word in Scripture, His Spirit's promptings,

Through CHRISTENED relationships, suffering, and daily routines,

And through His Centering Presence in the Sacraments, especially Eucharist.

However, what is even more vitalizing

Is Christ's experience of us :

... Christ's own wondrous sense of experiencing us from WITHIN

... How Christ lives His Life in ours

While ours is transformed into His !

While His Life luminesces, galvanizes ours ...

His Life is not possessive of ours,

Nor His empowering, relegating of our efforts.

Rather, Jesus Ascended delights in elevating us, our humanity,

Reverencing our dignity ... welcoming a MUTUALITY between us,

Uniting us, in a communion

Of the Divine with the Divinized !

The Light of Christ within

Suffuses us with what most delights us HUMANLY :

With the DIVERSITIES AND HARMONIES of both the five senses and sexual sensing,

With the DIVERSITIES AND HARMONIES of feeling, intuiting, reasoning, choosing and belonging

–All, enlivened and deepened by LOVE.

Indeed, Christ is wholly creative and inspiring in His friendship :

Attracting us into a mutuality

With ALL God-centered hearts

That is deeply, warmly HUMAN,

While personally, Divinely engaging us

–Uplifting our human loving and sharing

To the Divine Fellowship of Love !

Always Act Like Your Father ¹

(Words from the Cross, 1)

“Father forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Lk 23:34)

For Jesus ... His Abba-God

Is not only OUR role-model for forgiveness,

But for ALL He Himself, and we, ought DO ...

“You must always ACT like your Father in heaven.” ²

In an especial way, LOVING OUR ENEMIES

Is the key to unlock Jesus’ whole earthly mission.

In the Incarnation, Abba’s Beloved came to love those

Who, by their life-choices, OPPOSED Abba and Himself

– Meaning, of course, humanity as a whole,

But also, individual brothers and sisters ... to varying degrees.

The Beloved’s submitting to crucifixion, was pre-eminently about LOVE

– Loving, to the end, those who oppose Abba’s Dream for humanity.

Even for those individuals, physically gathered around the Cross,

Jesus’ deepest instinct was to “do good to them”

... To “pray” for them, to “bless” them ! ³

For ourselves – AS A PEOPLE – to be Christ like
Is literally, to LOVE all groups who oppose us, in ANY way.
For myself, as an imitator of Jesus,
I need to let Jesus, absolutely COME ALIVE IN ME
... “Loving” my envious self into wholeness,
... “Doing good” to those I’ve spited in gossiping,
... “Praying” for those who have been vengeful to me,
... And “blessing” those who undermine me, and whom I’ve undermined. ⁴

Our mission, simply, is to love as Jesus loved.

1 Poem 699, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat, Clayfield Community house, March/April 2006, Week 1.

NOTE: This retreat lasted 43 days, from Ash Wednesday to ‘Spy’ Wednesday. Pat Oliver saw me fortnightly as my spiritual director.

The theme was Jesus’ seven sayings from the Cross, one per week.

2 Mt 5:48 (C.E.V.) 3 Lk 6:27, 28 4 IBID.

The Mystery of Worship ¹

*In the WORSHIP
Of the Eucharistic Sacrifice,
We simply cannot know,
In deep truth –
WHOM we offer,
To WHOM we offer,
How we offer ...*

*Ultimately,
Only God
Can offer God
To God ...*

*To know, in faith,
That all is done IN THE SPIRIT,
Only
... Deepens the Mystery !
... Heightens our awe !
... And exalts God's loving-kindness !*

Drawn into Silence ¹

*Silence is something that comes to us,
Not so much for us to experience,
But for it to abide within our hearts,
Not so much to be sought for,
But for us to welcome, and be thankful for.
It comes to us best ...
As a GIFT, a medium for God's Presence.*

*Rather than we ... 'depthing' silence,
We are DRAWN into it,
To the Presence within.
This inner silence, becomes stillness of heart
... Our spirits led by the Spirit, into Divine stillness.*

*Such silence allows communion to happen ...
Beyond the deepest levels of our consciousness,
Within our UN-conscious depths,
Where Abba, Jesus, and Loyce ²
Choose to make Their Home. ³*

*The deep irony, the paradox,
Is that this is not a place of solitude,
But of Fellowship ...
Where there's deep joy with many others
In the presence of our Brother,
Where wordlessness gives way to the Word's
"O Abba !"
Where the Spirit moves Abba to respond
"My Beloved !"*

1 Poem 701, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat, (Note Poem 699), Clayfield Community, March 2006, Week 1

2 Loyce is my familiar name for the Spirit, who is LOVE, JOY and PEACE ... pronounced Loy-cee

3 Jn 14:23

Fellowship Divine ¹

(Words from the Cross, II)

“This day, you will be WITH ME in paradise.” (Lk 23:43)

In that Fellowship above all fellowships,

Above all relationships,

God surrenders to God

To receive God

In God ...

Within this Triune-Fellowship,

Within us,

Abba’s gift of Himself

Transcends all He is.

Indeed, Abba’s very self-surrender

Is His Transcendence ...

Transferring the focus, ETERNALLY,

To the Other – His Beloved,

OUR brother !

Within this Fellowship of Love,

Within us,

Abba even transcends His Intimacy ...

Never relating to His Beloved AS possession,

But relating to His Beloved as GIFT ...

Knowing their MUTUAL GIVING, is itself

Their Spirit-Breath !

When we are within the Presence of God

In Christ,

There is ONLY God :

God giving,

God receiving,

And God who IS MUTUALITY

... Where ALL is Fellowship.

Acting Against Fellowship ¹

*Holiness is Fellowship,
Evil is acting against Fellowship
Evil is also the lack of Fellowship :
There is no neutrality with Fellowship
... That is, with God
– “He who is not with Me, is against Me” ²*

*Acting against Fellowship
Is NOT seeking solitude
But, exalting individualism.
Such misdirected individualism
Spawns superiority and entitlement,
And, therein, INEQUALITY
– The very antithesis of Fellowship !*

¹ Poem 703, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat (Note Poem 699), Clayfield Community, March 2006, Week 2.

² Lk 11:23

Eucharistic Mother ¹

(Words from the Cross, III)

“Woman, this is your son, Son; this is your mother.” (Jn 19:26, 27)

Mary stood in the cross’s shadow

Refusing to give back IN KIND :

Not repaying the evil ... puncturing the heart

Of her ever-gentle Son.

Instead, she was transformed

– Heart re-shaped by the Spirit of her “Fiat !” –

Into the image of her own compassionate Child ...

Suspended, BY LOVE, between earth and heaven !

By her resolve of gentleness, imitating His,

She breathed forth His life-force of forgiveness, with Him,

Into that vulnerable remnant, over-shadowed by the cross,

Firstly, taking to her heart, tender-eyed John

–As “the first born of many brothers and sisters,” OF THE FIRST BORN. ²

And, as such, shortly to be affirmed by the Risen Jesus Himself.

By this STANDING UNDER the Cross of our reality,

Mary became the first of her Son’s disciples

To UNDER-STAND how His LOVE-FOR-ADVERSARIES

Decisively negated evil’s hold on their hearts !

*It was a climactic moment of courage for Mary :
She silently accepted her new role
As the Mother of forgiveness ...
Embracing all who “know not what they do.”³
She became Jesus’ first disciple of forgiveness,
John, her OWN first disciple
And so, on and on, heart lighting up heart.*

*This cascade of forgiveness, fired each with courage, WITH MARY,
... To forgive vengeful adversaries
... To soften hearts, paralysed by sin.*

*Overshadowed by the Cross, Mary silently chose
To offer her Son’s Sacrifice with Him
– Becoming, with Him, Eucharist for all, both good and bad
Offering her Son’s body and blood to Abba*

*... Body of her own body !
... Blood of her own blood !
... Heart shaped by hers !*

Yet NOW, WONDROUSLY –

*... Body offered for our bodies !
... Blood shed for our blood !
... Heart surrendered for our hearts !*

*These hearts, too, have now been lit up, through forgiveness,
So we too, can BE EUCHARIST FOR ALL, with Mary.
We, too, can offer the self-same Sacrifice of Jesus,
Which she co-offered to Abba, in the Spirit
... So as to break, wide open,
... Hearts hardened by hatred
... Open for the in-pouring
Of their Victim's love !*

*Yes ! How privileged, how graced, we are – to forgive
To be Eucharist for others,
Imitating the Mother of Eucharistic Love
... Heart lighting up heart in forgiveness !*

1 Poem 704, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat (Note Poem 699), Clayfield Community, March 2006, Week 3.

2 Rom 8:29 3 Lk 23:34 (See Poem 699)

Whisper But My Name ¹

(Words from the Cross, IV)

“My God ! My God ! Why have You deserted me ?” (Mt 15:34)

I, Abba’s Son ...

Feeling vilified and vulnerable,

Flesh, ripped red raw ... riveted to the cross,

Stretched between the earth ... of my followers, my kin and our race,

And the heaven of You ... My God within my heart,

Yearn for You, dearest Abba,

To speak to me

To lay claim to Your Loving Son

And to all WHOM I LOVE

... Your voice ALIVE, with a Father’s longing !

O Abba ... Abba ... where are You ?

O Abba, I’m lost without You !

O Abba, just whisper ... whisper ...

Whisper but my name ...

Empty am I, ... hollowed out ... a wraith of a man !

My cries echo ... echo within the husk of my soul.

O How I yearn for You ...

I long for Your gentle touch,

The caress of Your Presence :

Just to know ‘You’re here !’

Your hand on my brow

... Stilling my writhing ...

Will let my spirit SOAR !

O Faithful Father, Father of our failed flesh ...

In looking tenderly upon us,

Let Your heart's eye, pity OUR plight

—We're Yours to embrace, ever-loving Father !

In drawing me, through this SACRIFICE,

To the home of Your heart,

All OF US can follow ...

As Gift of Your joy !

I long ... WE yearn ... for Your infilling.

WE thirst ! We hunger for You !

For we are nothing without You

... Only the driest of dry desert hearts;

I offer to sacrifice FOR US ALL

... I give my very life

To the boundless demands of OUR THIRST for You ...

Entrusting the deepest reaches of our spirits

To Your oceanic Inpouring !

Dearest of Fathers,

Deluge Your people, held close within my heart

—With life ! With love ! With longing fulfilled !

Flood my whole person, the UNIVERSE of my being,

With the love of Divine Fellowship —

Delighting to touch, to kiss, to enrapture US ALL !

Dearest Abba, breathe into us
The life of Your Spirit,
So that, in the warmth of Your Fathering,
Your Beloved can become ALL – for ALL !
Raised up by this Cross ... to Your Heaven
With a galaxy of KIN !

Dry Creek Beds ¹

(Words from the Cross, V)

"I thirst." (Jn 19:28)

God thirsts for us.

God thirsts, because God loves.

We thirst, because we are of God, IN Christ.

Deluged by Love, passing through us,

The dry creek bed of our spirit

Always retains the memory of this Deluge

– Of being saturated with Love !

Yes ! Our beings long for Love

Because we BE-LONG to Love.

We ache with a yearning, whose focus

Is not to retain the Gift,

But to GIVE all back ... to Love

... The HOME of our being.

God thirsts for us :
We thirst for God.
Abba and us quench each other's thirst
With the self-same Gift
—Christ, the Son of God !
On quenching our thirst,
Abba thirsts, having given ALL
... His Christ, to us.
On quenching Abba's thirst,
We thirst, having given ALL
... Ourselves-IN-Christ, to Abba.

Thus quenching the 'other', causes thirst in the giver
—That is, an eagerness to be QUENCHED.
Yet, we are not looking to STAY quenched :
Rather, we're still eager to quench the OTHER
... In the Circle of Love !
... In the Fellowship of Lover-Beloved-and Love.

Sharing God's Transcendence ¹

Father, Son, and Spirit
Because You are Each boundlessly generous,
You Each TRANSCEND the Gift of the Other
Whom You RECEIVE in deepest intimacy,
By GIVING wholly – of Your Person to the Other – in deepest intimacy.
Thus, You empty Yourself
Wholly in GIVING
... Completing the CIRCLE of intimacy.

Wondrously, EACH ONE'S GIFT OF SELF becomes a GIFT TO THE OTHER

–A Eucharist

... So the transcending of giving in the One,
Becomes receiving to be transcended, for the Other.

Thus, for US human beings,
To be one with You, O God,
Is to share Your Intimacy
And, THEREIN, to share Your Transcendence !
Thus, in Jesus Ascended, our brother,
We RECEIVE ALL, so as to GIVE ALL !
We are Eternally surprised
That GIVING ALL ...
Empties us to RECEIVE ALL !
O, so little WE do, to be infinitely SO GRACED !

The Well's Depths ¹

Jesus, and the woman at the well :

Her eyes were thirsty, for the deep pools of kindness in His eyes.

Refreshed and heartened by His gaze, she asked ...

“Do you have your mother’s eyes, or your father’s ?”

“My Mum’s are green, like Galilee in spring, full of hope ;

Joseph’s are light and of the earth ... constantly reassuring ;

But my true Dad’s ... I cannot say ...”

“Why ? Did you not know him ?” she asked, curiously.

“O Yes ! I know Him wonderfully well ...

We spend hours together daily ! We love being together :

What He sees, I see ... How He responds, I respond !”

“To me, He seems more like a twin than a Dad ...

But what COLOUR are HIS eyes ?”

“Colour ? The colour of LOVE, I guess ...

His eyes are just full of colour and life !

And yes, faithful eyes – full of peace.”

*Quite perplexed now, the woman hesitated at the side of the well ...
Then, she looked up ... and enchanted by the rainbow, tentatively ventured ...*

*“There’s a halo, set in the clouds by El Shaddai
... Maybe you’re His prophet ... because you speak in riddles ...
But one thing’s for sure : you’re ALIVE with your father’s spirit !
Anyway, I bet his eyes are deep blue – like yours !”*

*“All I know” He murmured, “is that your HEART’S blue ...
Blue cold in this summer’s heat ... blue from being left out ... sidelined ...”*

*“Sir, yours is a gaze of truth ... and you see right into my heart ...
But it’s just not possible to start again ...
And feel the warmth of having a friend ...”*

*“Woman, if you and I, Samaritan and Jew,
Can drink from the same well’s depths,
All things are possible !
Those who eat or drink together, are family or friend :
So here, have some water with me.”*

Finished ¹

(Words from the Cross, VI)

“It is accomplished.” (Jn 19:30)

No, no ...it’s not MY mission, MY earthly life, MY suffering

That’s finished.

It was, not MY dream,

But the ‘Father’s work’ that’s completed ! ²

My mission was NOT MY OWN,

But my heart’s response to Abba.

Similarly, this life I’ve lived, this suffering ...

Is something I’ve offered up, directed to, Abba.

It is Abba Himself who sent me.

By completing HIS tasks, fulfilling HIS desires,

I have glorified our Abba-God !

Jesus then “bowed His head” ³

... In the Presence of His ADORABLE Abba ...

“And gave up His spirit,” ⁴

BREATHING FORTH THE SPIRIT

Of a New Humanity ⁵

– Now that His “hour had come.” ⁶

Truly a Trinitarian out pouring of Love

For us !

1 Poem 709, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat, Clayfield Community, April 2006, Week 6.

2 Cf Jn 17:4 3 Jn 19:30 4 ibid 5 Eph 2:15 (N.R.S.V.) 6 Jn 17:1

Christ's Identity Becomes Ours ¹

Abba's Gift to us

Is Word Enfleshed – RECEIVED by us

... Christ's identity, shared with us

... His mission, ours.

Our Gift to Abba

Is Word Enfleshed – RETURNED by us

... Christ's identity, now to share

... Our mission-to-others.

The Church's God-Sense ¹

*Our faith IS sensing God
In everyone ... everywhere ... and everywhen.
Yet this faith is but a sharing
In the Church Community's God-Sense
... Which senses INTUITIVELY
The Presence of Love !
The various truths of our faith
Give direction and clarity to this God-Sense,
Our heart's sharings ... its homecoming urge !*

“I’ll Catch You !” ¹

(Words from the Cross, VII)

“Into Your hands, I entrusted my spirit.” (Lk 23:46)

To TRUST

Is to be lost in a crowd in a foreign country

Without maps, wallet, or a known destination,

Trying to scan ... and scan ... the crowd,

And then, to have your gaze

Alight on the welcome face

Of a FRIEND !

To TRUST

Is, having sinned “seventy seven times,” ²

To have a familiar presence

Touch you on the shoulder

And say with warmth,

“It’s good to see you !

I forgive you !”

To TRUST

Is to be a child, stranded at night

On a second floor patio, engulfed by flames,

... WHO on hearing his father's call,

"Jesse, I'm here !

Jump into the smoke !

I'll catch you !

You can't see me,

But I can see you !"

—LAUNCHES HIMSELF into the smoke

... With his arms outstretched ...

Into the PROMISED EMBRACE of his Dad !

THUS DID JESUS TRUST ABBA

... In passing through death :

'O Abba, "my life IS in Your hands"!' ³

1 Poem 712, A Whole-of-Lent Retreat, Clayfield Community, April 2006. Week 7 (end of retreat).

2 Mt 18:22 3 Ps 31:5

Being Eucharist ¹

O Paschal Jesus,

In Eucharist

–We are enfleshed with Your Body ...

Such that the Body of our Church fellowship

Is the human visibility of Your Divine Fellowship !

–We are enlivened with Your Blood,

Kept circulating by these hearts,

Alive with Your love !

O Abba, Love of all our lives !

Release Your Holy Spirit of Fellowship

To move us to GATHER

Only the good in others,

And to be Eucharist for them

In Your Beloved !

Confident in You ¹

Faith

Is gazing upon You,

And being CONFIDENT in You,

O Crucified Beloved

—RISEN

Within everyone and everything

... Evident in those, in whom

Grace has become translucent.

¹ Poem 714, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Holy Week, 2006.

NOTE: This is the first of a series of poems, exploring what faith is ... over a period of several years.

Lancing Our Hearts ¹

(Easter to Pentecost Retreat – 7 Weeks)

THEME: *“So He went IN, to STAY with them.” (Lk 24:29)*

*Jesus Ascended is always with us
And REMAINS WITHIN our communities ...
Our eyes of flesh don't recognize Him
But our eyes of faith do !
They do so when our lives are Eucharistic :
When we tend to the brokenness in others,
And allow others to tend to our brokenness.*

*The Ascended Jesus is the God of woundedness ...
Grateful for His identification, as “the one pierced” ²
– The one still with the lanced heart, icon of His once “crushed” spirit ! ³
So, as shocking as our wounds, of body and psyche can be,
– In those we tend, and in us when tended to –
They are, paradoxically, truly glorious,
Because Jesus Ascended identifies with them,
And makes them HIS OWN :
“By His wounds, we are healed.” ⁴*

*From these DEPTHS of our brokenness and woundedness,
Risen Life radiates healing and fellowship !
It is in the MIDST of our being broken open
–In our Eucharistic ‘HOUR’– ⁵
That our gaze of faith recognizes pure Love !*

*Yet, OUR efforts are unable to bring this Love into focus :
Love only reveals His Face to a crucified few –
Lingering only for the time it takes
... To crown our heads with everyday thorns,
... To pierce our inner complacency with stark compassion
... And to lance, even our hearts,
So a deeper love of ours can flow.*

*Still, Love's Face fades,
As our suffering-in-faith subsides
... With the Crucified and Ascended One patiently yearning
For another Eucharistic 'HOUR'
... For faith to open our eyes !*

Home-making ¹

THEME: “Know, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Mt 28:20)

(Christians speaking ...)

*I-AM-WHO-AM has risen, in Jesus,
– Within Jesus Ascended, the Cosmic Christ
– Within us, as graced individuals
– Within us, as a graced community
 ... TO BE with us
 TO ABIDE with us
 TO MAKE A HOME in us !*

*It is a home made ready by Love –
“My Father, and I, will love you ...” ²
But the home-making is NOT of our doing –
“And WE WILL COME to you ...” ³
So that our only responsibility is to LIVE LIKE JESUS –
To “Keep His word.” ⁴*

*Then, ours will be a hope
Anchored in Eternity,
Whose warranty is the Spirit of God
... The SEAL of Their Fellowship. ⁵*

*Father, Son and Spirit will live Their Life of Love within US,
Pitching Their tent with US,
Dwelling with US,
In human tabernacles,
Embodied in Christ's Ascended Body
... The Ark of Glory,
... God's Presence with us "always, to the end of the age." ⁶*

1 Poem 716, Week 2, Easter to Pentecost Retreat, Clayfield Community, May 2006.

2 Jn 14:23 3 IBID 4 IBID 5 2Cor 1:22 6 Mt 28:20

Mystery of Bountifulness ¹

*O Selfless God ! Mystery of Bountifulness !
Ceaselessly pouring Yourself – Your Life, Your Love
... Your overflowing Love ...
Into our limited, little lives
– Lives of low horizons, ungracious receiving, conditioned giving !*

*O Infinitely generous God !
Carry us within the powerful flow of Your Grace !
Engulf us in the torrents of Your Love !
– So that our horizons, become limitless like Yours
– Our focus, one with Your Son's Eternal Gazing on Your Loveliness
– Our hearts, IN His, open to embrace all.*

You, Yourself, Always Draw Us ¹

*Abba You show, in tender-hearted Jesus,
That You are not only the source
Of our every IMPULSE TO LOVE,
But that, more deeply
In our EVERY movement of Love for the other,
You, Yourself always DRAW us
To the heart of the other
... Knowingly, or not.*

Seeing You ¹

THEME: *‘Lord, let us see the Father and we’ll be content ;
Jesus said to Phillip ... ‘Whoever sees me, sees the Father’’ (Jn 14:8,9)*

*As we see You, Jesus, in our hurting sister or brother,
Abba draws forth, from us, a healing touch
And, through it, diffuses that peace
– For healed and healer –
That is His Gift,
Leaving us,
“Content.”* ²

¹ Poem 719, Week 3, Easter to Pentecost Retreat, Clayfield Community, May 2006.

² Jn 14:8