

To Be-hold Love ¹

*“When Love is revealed,
we shall be like him,
for we shall see Him
as He really is.”* ²

To see Love

Is to desire Love ;

To meet Love’s gaze

Is to fulfil that desire :

To be drawn into Love ,

To become one with Love ;

For, to see Love,

Is to BE-HOLD Love !

... To HOLD THE ESSENCE of love

Within !

1 Poem 781, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2006.

2 1Jn 3:2

Seven Names : One Fellowship ¹

God, 'The One Who Calls' ... is the Fellowship

CALLING us to intimacy, to communion

IN Christ.

God, 'The Almighty' ... is the Fellowship

EMPOWERING us to be one people,

IN Christ.

God, 'Immanuel' ... is the Fellowship

MAKING A HOME with us,

IN Christ.

God, 'The One Who Saves' ... is the Fellowship

DRAWING US from death into Life,

IN Christ.

God, 'The Most High' ... is the Fellowship

RAISING US to Divine Dignity,

IN Christ.

God, 'The All Holy' ... is the Fellowship

INTEGRATING all our experiences of love,

IN Christ.

God, 'I Am Who Am' ... is the Fellowship

ETERNALLY GIFTING US with communing with Itself,

IN Christ.

Alive Now, in Eternity ¹

Eternal Life centers our ordinary life :
The ordinary life ISSUING ETERNALLY from it !
Eternal Life gives meaning to our being alive NOW :
To be fully human NOW, is to be born of Eternity.
Eternal Life generates our PURPOSE for human living
– Becoming human TOGETHER, IN Christ.
Moreover, the age-old quest for fellowship
Comes from an experience, mysteriously , of Eternal Fellowship.

Indeed, our endless quest of the Spirit that centers us,
Is our homeing instinct for The Eternal ...
Our destiny is to be Eternal ;
Our reality is that we already live out that destiny
... But in a mostly HIDDEN way, obvious only to the deeply graced.

So, do not look FORWARD IN TIME, for Eternal Life :
Eternal Life animates time continuously,
Filling each moment of time with its presence.
TIMELESS, it gives substance and purpose to time ;
SPACELESS, it situates humanity's worth IN OUR SPIRITS
Itself, that Vivifying Power that en-spirits each person 'naturally'.

*To be fully human
Is to enjoy Eternal Life NOW
As a Gift,
And, thus vitalized, “to give as we have been given”.²
We also need, to bring to mind ...
That Eternal Life is ONLY given
To be received and celebrated
TOGETHER
... For “we belong to one another”.³*

1 Poem 783, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2006.

2 Cf Mt 10:8.

3 Rom 12:5.

Mystery's Fellowship ¹

To be enveloped within the Mystery of God
... *Is to be swept up into the Mystery of a wondrous Fellowship !*
... *Is to be moved to marvel at this encompassing Communion !*
... *Is to experience the limitless, loving wonder of the Divine Family !*

As Father, Son and Spirit live out Their life of love within us
—*As the Source and Summit of all fellowship*—

This Boundless Love

Which is Their Gift to each other,

ANIMATES

All relationships on earth and in heaven .

Out of this utterly generative and empowering Fellowship

All that TENDS TO UNION, is ultimately enabled

—*BE IT*

... *Sub-atomic particles SHARING energy,*
... *Ecosystems, with members MUTUALLY ADVANTAGING each other,*
... *Or humankind, living out the enabling modelling given us*
—*Of Divine parenting, and of Divine brothering,*
And what it means to be ONE with the Divine family.
Indeed, from Their fount of Fellowship, all OUR fellow-feelings flow !

In the same way,
All creativity, all visioning, all wisdom,
Have their home in this Divine Cycle
Of mutual giving and receiving.

Moreover, Their Fellowship eternally gives ALL LIFE –

Its birth, its meaning, and its glory ...

For, to be fully ALIVE, is to be IN Their Fellowship .

Yet, incomparably beyond this central enabling role,

And transcending all the above,

The Divine Fellowship's ultimate gift, to us specifically,

Is that of ACCOMPANIMENT,

For They CHOOSE to make THEIR HOME in us !

What an infinite outpouring of generosity !

What wondrous Divine Surrender !

... "My Father and I will come to you

And make our home with you" ²

... And I will give you the Spirit

"Whom I shall send to you from the Father." ³

To be good like God,

Is to relate, as the Father, Son and Spirit RELATE :

Absolute dependence is Their chosen Gift to each Other .

Through Their special gift to us

–The unfolding of the Paschal Mystery within us –

Our reality is ENABLED by Theirs.

We precisely become ourselves, AS THEY DO

–Through gifting ourselves to others

And receiving the gift of others to us.

We are ICONS of Their Fellowship

Within the centering ICON, Christ !

ALL BEAUTY, too, radiates from the Divine Fellowship ...

Indeed, from the mutual attraction

Alive in the heart of the Three who are One,

All creative harmonies radiate with clarity,

All, imaging the Face of the Beloved,

Allowing us to experience, IN Christ, the Beauty of the Divine.

And above, beyond, and through all ...

The womb of ALL LOVE

Is Divine Fellowship.

None loves but They,

All love as They love,

In Them, all love.

Together, They ARE Love

... Mystery's Fellowship .

1 Poem 784, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2006.

2 Jn 14:23.

3 Jn 15:26.

“Let the Others’ Light Shine” ¹

*Each loving Divine Person,
... In an Eternal act of total giving ...
Glorifies the Other absolutely.
This bestowal of Glory
Is, at once, totally personal and wholly communal :
Not only does Each glorify the Other perfectly,
But Each IS glorified
Through the Other,
In the Other,
With the Other.*

*In this Communion of Glory,
In this Fellowship of Affirmation,
Each PERSONALLY IS –
Unfathomably, beautifully and boundlessly esteemed,
Luminous with the goodness of being utterly lovable, loved, and loving,
And radiant with limitless thankfulness
In the Triune Eucharist of Praise !*

*Each Person’s focus is only the Other Eternally ;
Each one’s purpose is to enhance the Other.*

O Communion of Glory !
O Fellowship of Love !
O Trinity of Love, worthy of all praise !
Yours is a God burst of thanks
As ... Heart, within Heart within Heart ...
You choose to love Each Other, TOGETHER !

To this depthless Love, WE are summoned
– To move, and live, and grow,
To glorify each other
In You ...
Our one Fellowship of Communing and Peace.

Eucharistic Ministry ¹

*Our Eucharistic ministry, a wholly graced one,
Is to gather the pain of relationships,
The pain of families, the pain of whole peoples,
And to carry it with Jesus, daily,
To Calvary upon the Altar.
There, in Him,
– Sharing sacramentally in His actual Paschal Mystery –
We keep-on-loving through the pain.*

*It is here, that we experience Abba’s compassionate Love
Transforming the whole
... Inviting all hearts to CHANGE,
... Wishing good even upon the pain-causers,
... And welcoming all to experience being RE-VIVIFIED, IN Christ
– All those of open heart, as they are UPLIFTED in His Risen Person.*

*To do this, is to be graced with a spiritual childhood
... To be as open, and as simple as Abba’s Child,
... To openly trust, like Abba’s Child.*

*Thus, we become a child with the Childlikeness of Christ
– Guilelessly, accepting, HOLDING TOGETHER in simplicity
All SEEMING opposites ...
In ourselves, in our Church, in our world.*

*This is the specific grace of our Eucharistic ministry
... Drawing all seemingly contending realities and people
Into UNITY, IN Christ.*

Faith, Firing our Consciousness ¹

Dearest Abba, ²
Faith is gazing on You
With the deepest trust and confidence.
Faith in You lights up or understanding
And fires our consciousness ...
Letting us see with the mind of Christ
– Risen within all
Who live out the truth of His life,
Animated by Your Spirit of Love,
Because love is the ULTIMATE TRUTH.

¹ Poem 787, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, November 2006.

² This poem is used by the author as a Eucharistic prayer.

Author : This, it seems, is my penultimate poem in a series on what constitutes faith.

“I Love You, Abba” ¹

*I love You, Abba,
I Love You, IN, and AS Jesus Ascended.
I love You with His risen heart,
Filled with Your Spirit !*

*I love You, Abba,
WITH and FOR all
Who are gathered in Your Beloved.
I love You from the Cross
– Of our lives –
As You raise us tenderly, IN Christ, to Your heart,
Drawing us into Your Sublime Fellowship.*

¹ Poem 788, Year 8 Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, November 2006.

Note : This poem is used by the author as a Eucharistic prayer.

Enfleshed with Christ's Own Risen Flesh ¹

*WHILE, in this AGE OF GRACE,
We are hiddenly, yet truly enfleshed IN Christ ...
Then, in the time of the Parousia, through His Resurrection,
Jesus Ascended will OPENLY, EXTERIORLY, enflesh us
With His own Risen flesh !
Visibly IN-CORPORATED in Him, we will CONTINUE to live
As "members, one of another", ²
In Him, who "is our Resurrection and our Life" ³
—Physically, tangibly alive IN that Risen Person
Who, alone of humanity, is uplifted to the Father's Embrace. ⁴*

¹ Poem 789, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, November 2006.

² Eph 4:25.

³ Cf Jn 11:25.

⁴ Cf Jn 1:18 & Jn 14:6.

When God Is Present ¹

*For God to “become” present to us,
Is, for us – through graced awareness
... To keep on being drawn into,
... To continue to be gifted with,
God’s Presence.*

Every time God “APPEARS” in our lives ...

*Forgiveness follows,
And healing happens.*

With God’s Presence indwelling us ...

*Peace permeates our pain,
Grace gathers us together,
Fellowship fires our faith,
Love lavishes our lives,
And discipleship deepens !*

God

Allows us

To already experience

That Glorious Communion

Wherein ...

Distinction of Persons

Is also

Oneness in Fellowship !

God's Inviting Presence ¹

God is Invitation ;

God's Presence forever invites our presence

... For God always seeks

To share the whole of Their Divine Reality with us.

Not to be present thus, to God,

Is to be absolutely impoverished in our deepest being.

With God Present, everything changes :

– Luminous Beauty deluges our universe,

And lights up the depths of our spirits !

–An open, responsive humanity allows itself

To be re-shaped, conformed, and transformed

By, and in ... the Divine Presence !

–God's Transformative Presence divinizes us ...

Communally as Church, and personally, deep within our spirits.

–These new personal and communal identities are wed together

In one human Person – Jesus, the Beloved of God !

God's Inviting Presence is a Self-Gifting Presence

Giving ALL, to all who are open to receive.

They who decline this Invitation, deny their own open-ended nature,

Jettisoning their true identity – of openness to Divine fulfilment

... Thereby refusing the EMPOWERMENT of lives, centred on Love.

Indeed, the Divine Relationship, ON OFFER at the very heart of humanity,

Uplifts all our relationships, precisely, by DIVINIZING them !

Thus, to turn aside this Invitation of Abba, Jesus, and Their Spirit

Is to eke our lives, in the shadowland of a godless unreality,

... Jadedly and compulsively chasing happiness,

–Instead of SURRENDERING to its

Enrapturing Fellowship !

While the pursuit of power, pleasure, and possessions,

Compulses our very bodies, and obsesses our personalities ...

Contrari-wise, loving others with an open heart,

Draws us into the COMPANY of Abba, Jesus, and Their Spirit,

And lets happiness blossom Eternally.

Thus, when we sacrifice ourselves for others,

–Even as the endless, driven pursuit of electronic relevance, and connectedness,

Rings hollow –

Our acquiescence to God's Invitational PASCHAL Presence

Generates a Divine inclusiveness WITHIN us,

... Enabling us to embrace an 'earth-full' of hearts

–IN our Beloved Ascended Brother, Jesus.

Be the Beloved, for Us ¹

Jesus,
Living in us,
As You live in Abba,
Ever ENABLE US –
To receive ourselves from You,
To give ourselves to You,
To identify ourselves AS You
... Welcoming Abba's Ascensional Embrace
Of our "New Humanity" in You ! ²

O sensitive heart of Jesus Ascended,
Be ever RECEPTIVE, for us –
To Abba's Breathing His Spirit,
To His Spirit's murmurings, within,
To Abba's gentle words of prompting,
To His Spirit's tender invitations
... Often offered through OUR emotions.

For ever welcome, for us, Love's Enrapture –
Thrilling to the warmth of Abba's Embrace,
Delighting in His caresses
Bedazzled in mind ... alight with His Presence !
Joying in His Spirit, fired by His Spirit !
AT HOME within the Fellowship of Peace.

*For ever express our love TO Abba –
Sighing our sighs ...
Drawing down His compassion upon us,
Glorifying, within us, the wonders of His Grace !
Be Eucharist FOR US – a sacrifice of praise to Him,
Releasing within us, His Spirit of Freedom
... That Spirit who searches the loving depths of God, ³
So we no longer hunger for,
But surrender now, in You, to Abba's Kiss of Peace.
Yes, for ever be Abba's Beloved, for us !*

1 Poem 792, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, December 2006.

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

3 Cf 1Cor 2:11.

Love Become Man ¹

*O Spirit,
We receive, with love,
What Love longs to give ;
We return, with love,
What Love longs to receive :
Love – become – man.*

*O Spirit,
Draw us, in His humanity,
Into Love's Embrace.*

One Single Existence ¹

Abba, receive our heartfelt gratitude ...

Abba, thank You for BODYING Your Love to us

Through Jesus, Your loving Son

... Our brother !

Thank You for drawing us,

In Jesus Ascended,

Into Your Divine Family

... Continually renewing us, with Your Love !

In thus EMBODYING our lives within the Ascended Jesus,

We pray that You REMOVE

All traces of our remnant SELVES

–Those limiting mindsets, sinful psychic excuses,

Negative cellular memories and impulses

... All those seedlings of old self-will

Still sprouting within our spirits –

All that be-devils our devotedness to You, Abba !

O Abba ! Absorb these remnant selves wholly,

Within the radiant EASTER SELF of Your Beloved

... Transforming each of us utterly

So that my “I” becomes His,

And there’s ONLY Christ’s Self, animating my choices ...

So that “I” becomes “We” IN, and WITH Him !

– So that we are completely joined in a single existence !

Thus, AS Him –

We gaze on Your loveliness WITH His mind,

Lovingly embracing You WITH His heart,

Communing with You WITH His spirit,

... Together, en-Spirited in Your peace .

(St Patrick's) Love for Enemies ¹

Abba,

As with St. Patrick, grace us –

With a change-of-heart-that-transforms,

With a change of heart that forgives one's oppressors,

With a change of heart that ultimately embraces one's tormentors,

With a change of heart that seeks to reconcile conflicting personalities

... By offering to share one's own Christ-centred identity .

Following his enslavement, in Ireland, as a sixteen year old

– Disoriented, depressed, but slowly being opened to GRACE –

Patrick escaped to his home in a recently de-Romanized Britain,

As a relieved, wiser, and decidedly more compassionate twenty two year old

... And, with a heart, readied by GRACE, to forgive.

Patrick's voluntary ultimate return to a tribalized Ireland,

–As a bishop-missionary, some twenty years later –

Was, by any measure, extraordinary, and very courageous.

His FAITH, forged originally by the six years of his slave-shepherd's solitude

– By an outcast's deep trust in prayer –

Was deepened by twenty years of priestly dedication in Gaul and Britain

... With its pastoral self-sacrifice ad self-surrender.

Yet, PATRICK'S FAITH, grounded in humility and Christlike, open-heartedness,

Was to be utterly transformed in an Irish crucible

Of a further thirty years of missionary toil, rejection and suffering .

*As was to become subsequently OBVIOUS ... as the decades and centuries rolled by,
Patrick's faith was transformed into a luminous zeal,
Into a radical consciousness of Christ's Presence,
And into a faith-that-saves !
Indeed, their servant-leader, Patrick was laid to rest in the midst
Of his DIVINELY-ADOPTED people
... Knowing that the reality of Jesus' key Good News command
– "To love your enemy" –
Can truly have a cascading, vitalizing effect
On the faith-life of many thousands of others.*

Becoming Eucharist ¹

*Eucharist is
The Divine Fellowship's feast of self-sacrificial friendship
Co-experienced by us ...
As the Paschal journey – the loving union
Of the hearts of humanity with the heart of God.*

*In readying us for Eucharist,
Abba wants us to focus on
The ASCENSIONAL EMBRACE of His Beloved's humanity
Within the heart of God !*

*This loving communion of the Divine with the human
This unfolding ...
Of Abba's yearnings to gather us to Himself,
And of our own deep homecoming longings,
Is the template
For all that is at the heart of Eucharist.*

*In a word, Eucharist celebrates that Paschal Reunion of God with humanity
– That Ascension of Humanity to the loving arms of God !*

Thus as Eucharist BEGINS ...

Our sense of Abba's Face being unveiled for us

– Reflected on the suffering Face of His Beautiful Son –

Shocks us with its wondrous intimacy !

At the same time, His Presence ALERTS us –

To our own stark sinfulness,

To our utter inadequacy,

And to our isolating individualism.

Yet, as our heads and eyes lower in humble response,

We feel our face being cupped and raised

Within Your tender hands, Abba,

As You whisper ...

“Come as you are, THAT'S how I love you.” ²

Thus trust floods our Paschaed hearts,

As Your loving forgiveness, Abba,

Opens us to Your Fellowship's revealed wisdom

... Readyng us for the entry of Your Word

Into our lives.

Though not sensed in any specific way ...

Your Word illuminates our spirit, rousing our consciousness,

Such that, Christ's own consciousness

Suffuses ours,

Embedding Your own loving Fatherly wisdom

Deep within ours.

*Enticed by this proclaiming of Your Dream for us,
Drawn by Your Son's inspired example,
And enabled by Your Spirit, to respond to this Word of Life,
We are challenged by this Spirit of Transformation,
To be prepared to be transformed !*

*Next, as our earthen gifts of bread and wine are prepared,
Jesus' Passover Spirit communes with ours,
To create the CAPACITY within our hearts
For us, to become Eucharist in Him !
Your Sanctifying Spirit eagerly readies us,
Preparing us AS AN OFFERING, within Jesus our brother !
Soon to be set aside as the bread of holocaust ... for us,
And poured out as the wine of sacrifice ... for us !*

*Then, led into Your Holy of Holies, in Him,
We are INCORPORATED by Your Spirit of Transcendence, Abba,
Within the very PERSON of our victim-brother,
Preparatory to being sacrificed-with-Him.
In this Sacrifice ... in this Consecration,
Our common humanity is consummated
As the fragrant sacrifice of God, to God
... Offered thus, on the ALTAR of our own woundedness,
... All, on the ALTAR of Christ's own wounded BODY.*

This Offering is a wedding Abba
... Of Your All-inclusive, Divine Desire for union
... With humanity's chosen surrender in Jesus.
Abba, through Your eager, loving, Easter ACCEPTANCE of our-offering-in-Jesus
This ACCEPTANCE radiates through the cosmos –
Glorifying the FREEDOM of Your Love !
Glorifying our surrender to You !
Wondrously witnessing also to the freeing ACCEPTANCE of Your Beloved
AS OUR sacrifice !

In this Eucharistic sacrifice, of all that we ARE,
We receive all that we ARE TO BE, in Christ Risen !
We are not simply 'sprinkled'
With the Eucharistic blood of the Pierced One
– As it were, on our lips –
Bonding us together
As a covenanted people, a sacrificial people
... A people of God's very own Blood !

No ! Infinitely more than that –
We are en-peopled as ONE PERSON
We are en-personed with ONE IDENTITY
... People so seamlessly IN-CORPORATED AS ONE,
That the Paschal Covenant Blood of the Ascended Christ
Courses through each of our actual graced bodies
– Pulsing the Life of God
Through each of our spiritual arteries !

Abba,

Only thus, Eucharistically, are we enabled to be,

And accepted as, Your Easter Beloved !

... And we become so, FULLY, by being UPLIFTED

Within the ONE CIRCLE of Divine Fellowship !

Therein, we are graced to share in Christ's Ascension :

Being swept up into Your arms, Abba,

–Drawn into the very heart of God !

Thus, within Eucharist,

As we experience the Enrapture of Ascension :

The Promised Gift of union becomes ours !³

The Spirit of Union deluges our being !

So as we, within this Mystery of Eucharist,

Voice our "Great Amen" and "Our Father"

To all this ...

We CELEBRATE it as a COMMUNION OF HEARTS !

We rejoice, within Christ's fellowship with You, Abba and Spirit !

We rejoice with Christ's utter empathy with each of His brothers and sisters !

We LIVE Christ's Life, and He LIVES ours !

We become the Eucharist of God's Beloved,

And You, Abba, IN Him become "all in all"!⁴

Thus, ALL become Eucharist !

1 Poem 796, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Gold Coast holidays, January 2007.

2 Hymn Come As You Are, _D Browne.

3 Acts 2:33

4 Cf. Eph 4:6

Thirsting for Abba's Presence ¹ *

*O Spirit, in Mary ...
Following Calvary,
O Spirit of Easter Dawning,
Spirit who enlivens,
Move me – to thirst for, to long for ...
Abba's Presence,
Alive in the Risen Jesus
–FOR OTHERS!*

1 Poem 797, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin* Community, Brisbane, February 2007.

Note : Used by the author as a prayer at Eucharist.

*The old Woolloowin house that I had lived in, to December 2002, had been demolished, and a new community house built by 2006. I returned there, as originally intended, in January 2007.

Hand in Hand ¹

“Jesus took the blind man BY THE HAND

And LED HIM outside the village.”

Mk 8:23

Now, when You take our hand, Jesus

Fears and confusion melt away ;

Feelings of aloneness ...

Disappear with Your touch

–Especially, with Your Risen touch, through Eucharist.

Led by You

... Love’s own Paschal Child ...

Abba’s arms open eagerly to Your Presence

... Sweeping us up into Your Ascension’s Embrace !

Cradled close,

Cheek warming cheek,

Abba’s Breathing draws us gently

Into the rhythm of His Spirit of Peace ...

Abba’s eyes are alive with love for You Jesus

As – IN YOU, IN HIS EMBRACE – our heartbeats

Become one with His

... Joying in the Fellowship, that is His Spirit !

*Here, our eyes light up,
Alive with His Love !
Yes, in You, every heart is a pilgrim,
... Yearning, until our homcoming hearts
Are STILLED ... coming to REST,
Within Your Loving Father's Deep Embrace,
Within the Silence of the Fullness of Life .*

To Live Is to Love ¹

*While true love is always life-giving,
Life's only PURPOSE ... is to love.*

*This is not only the NATURE of love and life
But for You, Ascended Jesus,
Who ARE both Life and Love,
This Truth enshrines
Your Father's WILL-FOR-US ... in You.*

*Yet, one cannot deepen one's loving
Without suffering.
You showed us this, with Divine clarity
... Dying
For love of us !*

*O Calvary's Jesus,
In this, Your quest for our hearts,
It was Your Loving Father's will
... That You "OUT-LOVE" sin !
And "OUT-LIVE" death !*

*Jesus, while Abba's will is ALWAYS to love,
– Even as sin and suffering afflict our lives –
Our hearts' perfect 'AMEN' to His will for us,
Is Your SURRENDER OF YOUR LIFE to Him !*

*Calvary sees sin and suffering
LOSE THEIR POWER to cast shadows over our hearts,
Because THEY simply fade away in Your Luminous Presence
... A Presence fully, radiantly revealed,
In Your Ascended Person
... OUR TRUE HOME through grace !*

In the Faith of Peter ¹

Abba,

One person's faith

Cannot exist in isolation.

'My' faith is always something I express

As 'One-of-the many'.

Faith is always an experience

Of the faith of Your Church !

It is always given its Christian character

By the BODY of Christ

– "Members one of another", ²

And necessarily, shares its CORPORATE identity, in Christ.

When one's faith wavers,

It is the faith of Mother Church

That supports us – acting FOR us ;

When one's faith is strong,

It is but a fuller expression of the Church's faith,

Working through an open heart.

Indeed, "it shows how faith leads to faith" ³

... The faith of one, bolstering the faith

Of various, often unknown, others !

Yet, in the paradox that is the Reign of God,

The Body's own faith,

The faith of the Church itself, RESTS

On the faith of ONE person – PETER'S !

And Peter's faith ...?

"It was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you,

But my Father in heaven".⁴

Abba,

That You have BUILT Your Church

– GATHERING us together, as Your People –

On the rock of Peter's confession of faith,

IS A MYSTERY of Your Love

... For which we lavish You with the most heartfelt thanks !

Abba,

That the faith of Christ's Bride, the Church,

Is so utterly dependent on the faith it inherits from Peter

With all his frailties and limitations –

IS TRULY HUMBLING !

All this is a mirror of that Divine humility,

Wherein God's initial home among us,

Was but one human cell !

Abba, how wonderfully and deeply

You treasure our humanity !

And how mysteriously,

You INCARNATE Your Paschal love,

In the simplest processes of our history !

Ultimately, ours is the faith of a fisherman

... Given EXPRESSION

In the self-same faith of today's Pope.

Even Mary's faith

– The faith of the Icon of the Church itself –

Is given voice and words

THROUGH Peter's confession of faith

... A declaration now forever OURS :

“You are the Beloved the Chosen One

The Son of the Living God !” ⁵

Abba,

May our communion of faith

– Animated by Peter's faith –

“Strengthen” all of us, his brothers and sisters, in Fellowship ⁶

Unifying us in Your peace :

“One Body, one Spirit ... one Lord, one FAITH !” ⁷

1 Poem 800, Marian Valley Retreat, Day 2, February 2007. (February 22nd:The Chair of St Peter)

2 Rom 12:5 (N.R.S.V)

3 Rom 1:1

4 Mt 16:17

5 Cf. Mt 16:16

6 Lk 22:32

7 Eph 4:4, 5

To Imagine, in Christ, Is to Create ¹

*The way we see ourselves
Is the way we become ourselves :
Imagery sculpts our being !
But such human 'seeing' is often
Unfocused, unintegrated, or wilfully unbalanced ...
And so, our self-knowledge can be sketchy and unsatisfying.
Others can supply extra useful perspectives for us,
But still, our quest for a fuller self-knowledge remains elusive,
With our lives unfulfilled, or shallow, or lacking direction.
Simply, our 'SEEING' is essentially, inadequate.*

*Because many of us deeply yearn to become
Who we are, in GOD'S sight,
We also need to learn to see ourselves
As God sees us –
That is, WITHIN the Fellowship of the Divine.
This is a PURE GIFT that we can but await, with patience
... With trusting, faith-filled hope.*

*Thus, our graced destiny ... our deepest grace ...
Is to ALLOW God
To gaze into our heart's eyes.
Abba's love-filled contemplation of us,*

*His dotting Fatherly gaze,
Is life-bestowing, and, literally creative
—Creative of WHO WE'LL BE !*

*And who can we become
... But Jesus,
Abba's OWN Beloved ?
For Abba has eyes
ONLY for His favoured Son :
It is IN His Image
— A reflection of Abba's own —
That we are sculpted
... With the tender, affectionate Hands
Of our loving, indulgent Father.*

*We also need to RETURN Abba's lingering gaze,
But only WITH the Beloved's gaze
... With our spirit coming gently to rest
And at peace with, who we are, in Christ ...
Gazing on Your Face of Love, Abba.*

*Our earthly life
Needs always to be a living hologram
Of this MUTUAL GAZING
— The real and immediate source
Of our true identity, and transformed Paschal consciousness.*

Yet within the SUCCESSIVE reality of TIME,

*This identity and consciousness
Is always an interplay of influences
From our past, present and future.*

Indeed, to mature – to have our destiny realized in God's eyes – we NEED

... With the enabling grace of the Spirit ...

To RE-IMAGE from whom we CAME,

To IMAGE who we are NOW,

And to IMAGINE who we are TO BE.

Our enabling ICON for each, needs to be – JESUS ASCENDED'

... At home, in the arms of Abba !

For the PAST ...

To REMEMBER, is to call to mind the IMAGE

Of the Easter Beloved, who first

LIT UP OUR SPIRITS

... For our heavenly homecoming journey.

To remember is also to breathe thanks ...

And because, such "gratitude is the memory of the heart",²

Our hearts need to focus always, on Him

To whom we BELONG

... For home, is where the heart is !

For the PRESENT ...

Our Paschal identity and consciousness

Delight in communing

With our Easter Beloved ...

Present in everyone and in everything we meet.

Thus, we are being DRAWN into ever deeper union

–With those in whom we behold His Presence

–And with Abba, who fathers us all, IN His Beloved.

For the FUTURE ...

Our Paschal identity and consciousness

Allow us to IMAGINE

Who we are to be, IN Christ Ascended !

He is that enlivening and enabling Image, FOR ALL who live in Him

–The Eternal Template for all humanity !

To thus imagine ourselves in Christ,

Is to have our desires empowered.

It is to share in Christ's OWN CREATIVE IMPULSE

Especially in our RELATIONSHIPS.

Such 'enabling 'creativity, happens only IN the Beloved,

Never IMPERSONALLY.

Jesus Ascended is that TRANSFORMATIVE HUMAN BEING,

That wondrous Other, IN whom we come to EXPERIENCE

How we become our true selves

... THROUGH others, with others, and ultimately, IN others !

*This REMEMBERING, IMAGING, and IMAGINING
Does not come in one mutual gazing, one communing !
While of its nature, wholistic,
This grace of 'contemplation' wondrously, is a PROCESS
—Of simplifying, of being led ever more deeply,
—Of being drawn, open-endedly into an ever-arising Sunrise.
Our images of the God of Love arrive, through GRACE,
Successively, accumulatively ...
Yet still ... breath-takingly, overwhelmingly ...
And always ... always as sheer GIFTS
—To the delight of Christ's Ever-Creative Spirit !*

This delighting Spirit

Creatively weds human images,

With every word

That comes from God !

We cannot come alive

Within God's Love,

Without Divine words

And earth-born images.

Both come together ...

In Jesus Ascended,

The Son of earth and heaven !

WE come together, in Him,

In His "new humanity" ... ³

As “an altogether new creature”,⁴

For, “in Him is a new creation”,⁵

In whom “all has become new !”⁶

This divinely-human word-imagery of the Spirit

Gently, slowly, suffuses our consciousness :

... Re-configuring our minds,

“Renewing us by a spiritual revolution”,⁷

... En-Spiriting our consciousness,

As Christ’s own,

... Until, resting in peaceful wonder,

Within Abba’s gaze of Love,

We behold ALL , IN Christ !

Thus we become, ever more one, with whom-we-see

... Delighting in sharing Abba’s REFLECTION, in Christ.

All the while, we are being drawn into the eyes of Goodness, Luminous with Love !

1 Poem 801, Marian Valley Retreat, Day 3, February 2007.

2 St Mary of the Cross McKillop 3 Eph 2:15 (N.R.S.V.) 4 Gal 6:15

5 2Cor 5:17a (N.R.S.V.) 6 2Cor 5:17b (N.R.S.V.) 7 Eph 4:23

Love Keeps On Loving ¹

Love keeps on loving
... *For Love knows only to love !*

Love always loves
... *For Love is Eternity !*

Alive in Christ,
We're alive in TIME –
Yet glorying in ETERNITY
... *An ETERNITY OF LOVE !*

To Live Vowed Religious Life ¹

*To live vowed religious life ...
Is to be consecrated, in the Holy One,
Uplifted on the altar of the Cross,
To become one with the Crucified One,
Sacrificially available
... So others' lives
Can be regenerated with their own,
Through the Spirit of Jesus Risen ;
And then in the flowering and fruiting of this sacrifice,
To be again uplifted
—Incorporated within a whole community of spirits reborn —
Within the Arms of Divine Intimacy
... All in Jesus Ascended !*

Light Circulating through the Body ¹

*“Anything exposed by the LIGHT will be illuminated,
And anything illuminated, TURNS INTO LIGHT.” (Eph 5:13)*

We cannot choose what we do not know ...

So, how we ‘IMAGE OURSELVES’

Either limits, or liberates –

Our openness, and giftedness to others,

... Within the Kinship of God .

As “members, one of another”, ²

In the one Person of our Easter Beloved,

Nurtured by His self-same glorified Precious Blood,

We are AS A PURE PASCHAL LIGHT to each other

... The Beloved’s risen, ascended BLOOD becoming AS LIGHT for us :

The Blood that lights up our persons, being that of Christ !

This Precious Glorified Blood

Fires our consciousness,

Filling our hearts with LIGHT

– Hearts that themselves become FONTS OF LIGHT

Circulating LIGHT through the BODY

... That is BOTH Christ’s, and ours !

*This LIGHT nurtures, transforms each glittering cell of our being
... As we “become an altogether new creature”, IN Christ ! ³*

*This transcending brilliance of the Divine
Shines ALIVE also, through our imagination,
... Setting it pulse with an elevated creativity !*

Hidden from worldly spirits,

It suffuses our every emotion ...

Making our feelings TRANSLUCENT, like our Beloved’s.

Irradiating our very wills with the glory of humility,

It conforms us to Christ’s will, in the moment of His death.

We become, IN Christ, AS LIGHT to each other,

With varying degrees of radiance

... Luminescing through each other, IN Christ.

Communally ONE, we retain our personal distinctiveness,

Ever being love-lit, by that Transcendent Light

–THE SPIRIT, who lights up all God-seeking hearts !

This LIGHT is our GIFT to each other

–IN Him, who is “the Light of the world” ! ⁴

*En-Spirited with His Joyful LIGHT,
We become welcoming GOOD NEWS LIGHT
To “those who live in darkness”⁵
... Drawing them to Him, who is “the light of life”!⁶
This ultimately, allows them to share
That wondrous Paschal Light
... Coursing through the arteries of an uplifted humanity ...
Which so lights up the Face of our Loving Father !*

1 Poem 804, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Lent, March 2007.

2 Eph 4:25 (N.A.B.)

3 Gal 6:1

4 Jn 8:12

5 Lk 2:79

6 Jn 8:12

Destiny Realized ... Yet Beckoning ¹

Abba's Reign of Love ...

*ALREADY fully enraptures our lives,
But is NOT YET fully realized ins us ;*

Abba's Kinship of Love ...

*Is, AT ONCE, Holy and Pure,
But is ALWAYS IN NEED of reformation ;*

Abba's People, IN Christ,

*Through grace GAZE FULLY into the heart of Love,
But STILL SEE PARTIALLY "as through a glass, darkly." ²*

At all times, through the light of grace ... THE LIGHT OF GLORY concealed ...

We are ONE in God's Fellowship

And THREE in our RELATIONSHIPS

To God who is Lover !

To God who is Beloved !

To God who is Love !

Joy Blossoming into Peace ¹

As Love enfolds us ...
Tenderly drawing us to Their heart,
Their delight in us
Births JOY within our hearts
... As the Spirit "overshadows" us. ²

And as summer follows spring,
And as fruit follows blossom,
PEACE suffuses our whole being,
And settles gently, in our spirit's depths.

Yet, being Love's COMMUNION GIFT,
Peace sends forth JOY, again, as its herald
... Opening further hearts, to welcome Love.

Yet, we do not give this peace AWAY
... Because, it is not only undiminished,

But ENHANCED

Within us,

As it passes into other hearts
—Because, we possess it TOGETHER !

¹ Poem 806, Gold Coast – Monthly Retreat, Lent, March 2007, Day 1.

² Lk 1:35 (N.R.S.V.)

Thirsting for Abba ¹

To me, it was given ²

That my life, henceforth,

Would be one of suffering,

Of Gospel suffering ;

In particular,

The suffering of LONGING ...

Of thirsting for Abba

– In OTHERS,

And the song I'm TO LIVE

Is this ...

“Our hearts are bursting

Our spirits, thirsting

To share Your Love ! ³

All that WE ARE ...

Thirst for You, Abba

... To gaze on You, Christ Jesus,

In Your SANCTUARY

– There, to behold Your Glory !”

1 Poem 807, Gold Coast – Monthly Retreat, Lent, March 2007, Day 2.

2 “Given”, at Eucharist, Feast of St Joseph.

3 A quote from my own poem – song, Days of Sunshine, Nights of Love, Poem 354.

What Absolute Abandon ¹

*Abba loves us with utter passion,
With absolute abandon ...
Outpouring ALL His Divine Goodness,
Every conceivable delight
Of His Divine Imagination –
On US who are gathered together in His Beloved !
Every fibre of our being,
Every spiritual chord,
Vibrates to Abba's vivifying touch !
And every yearning cell of ours
Resonates, and keeps on resonating in hope ...
To receive Love's Word !*

*Abba wants to possess us,
And to be possessed by us, IN Christ,
And is ecstatic with joy
As His Spirit suffuses ours !
Abba is so enraptured with us,
That He transcends His Divine Self,
Abandoning all He IS
... In total trust,
In utter bliss ...
To us,
THE BELOVED OF HIS HEART !*

O Dearest Abba ! O Passionate God !

Most delightful of lovers !

Why ever do we look elsewhere ?

Why ever focus our eyes on another ?

– You, are Love ENTIRE !

Fore-give ¹

TAKE from others

... And the mainstay of your life

Will be taken from you.

KEEP God's gifts to yourself

... And God will keep His Face

From you.

"GIVE, and a full measure will be given to you :

Shaken together, pressed down and overflowing." ²

"FORE-GIVE, and you will be fore-given",

For God gives to those who hate Him,

Loving love into their hearts.

Do likewise : give FIRST !

¹ Poem 809, Gold Coast – Monthly Retreat, Lent, March 2007, Day 3.

² Lk 6:38

³ Cf Mt 6:14

Contemplative ¹

*All contemplatives need to nurture
A Holy Saturday spirit
– Watching, waiting, wishing,
In silence, in stillness, and in solitude –
For Easter’s revivifying Fellowship
To rise in our hearts.*

*While bearing the imprints of Calvary’s Cross,
Our Paschal hearts yearningly await
The enfolding of Abba’s Embrace
... The fragrance of Divine Intimacy.*

*Faith watches in silence ...
Hope waits in stillness ...
Love wishes in solitude ...
– To be enveloped*

By the Ascended Jesus’ Gift, of the Spirit.

*We long for this Paschal Spirit to draw us –
Into the cosmic mind of Christ,
Into His ever inclusive heart,
And into His missionary spirit
... “Go, make disciples of all peoples !” ²*

1 Poem 810, Gold Coast – Monthly Retreat, Lent, March 2007, Day 3.

2 Mt 28:19

The Christening of Our Self-Imagery ¹

Unlike words ... IMAGERY, for us
Occupies that space
Midway between mind and body
... Owing something to each.
Thus our human images,
Even while registering the imprint of our minds
They equally respond to, or are transformed, enhanced, modulated by,
An exotic mix of cerebral CHEMICALS !
This brain cocktail
Of adrenaline, dopamine, serotonin, and oxytocin,
Can directly change our behaviour, and sculpt our destinies,
And importantly DO so, by co-impacting on our self-imagery
... Chemically !
Furthermore, our image metamorphoses and responds
To the IMPRESS of our FAITH and thereby
... To God's Presence within ...
—Thus CHRISTENING them !

Thus, our Christened imagery, unlike God's words to us :

---- Can be charged with adrenaline

ENTHUSIASING US with the wonder of our brother Jesus WITHIN !

---- Can be buoyed up with dopamine

DELIGHTING US with the pleasure of giving, of embracing,

And of being tenderly forgiven ;

---- Can be modulated with serotonin

COLLECTING, calming, and coordinating our emotions

Allowing them to HARMONIZE with the Spirit of Concord ;

---- Can be enhanced with oxytocin

SUSTAINING OUR BONDING AND NURTURING ... long term,

Affirming our communion with the God of Relationships.

Contrarily, human imagery can be co-opted to opposing purposes

... Whereby, we are –

Enticed by our lust,

Beguiled by our greed,

Dictated to, by our thirst for power and control,

And so, accumulatively BECOME :

De-energized by our laziness,

Depressed by our low self-esteem,

Debilitated by our irresponsibility,

Deluded by our deceptiveness,

And manipulated by our expansive egos !

Such an abuse of self-imagery
... Does not remain a SERVANT –
Of our transformation into Christ's perfect humanity,
Or of a humanity, ever more alive to the Divine
... But can quickly become a SLAVE –
Of self-seeking emotions, open to becoming addictive,
Of self-effort, feeding off a spurious independence of spirit
– Isolating us from reliance on God, and on others,
– Spurning the COMMUNION, arising from Christened self-imagery.

Yet ... resurrected by GRACE, uplifted by LOVE,

Our sin-sullied self-imagery

Can be transformed,

Graced sacrifice ... by graced sacrifice ...

Christlike choice ... by Christlike choice ...

Into the Living Self-Image of Abba, CHRIST,

Into a life lived IN our own Easter Beloved, WHO IS

... Abba's openness TO US

... And our openness TO Abba !

Your Creative Utterance ¹

In Hebrew, to SPEAK is to CREATE : ²

Your Word, Abba, is Your creative action !

Your speaking-to-us,

Your Word-to-us,

Creates a humanity in Your Image !

As Your Word become flesh,

Your creative action is embodied, amongst us !

And, for those who receive this Word, in faith,

Your creative Paschal action is embodied, WITHIN them

... And they embodied IN Him

– The Risen and Ascended EXPRESSION

Of who You are, Abba !

Indeed, Your Word having been thus uttered ETERNALLY

To us ...

“Shall not return to You empty,

But shall ACCOMPLISH

That which You purpose,

And SUCCEED in the thing

For which You sent it !” ³

O Abba ! How wondrous is Your Word

Among, and within us !

1 Poem 812, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woollowin Community, Holy Week, April 2007.

2 They are the same word, in Hebrew.

3 Is 55:11

NOTE: See also allied Poem 631.

O God of Desire ¹

*O God of Desire within us
– ‘The thirst and the quenching,
The hunger and the satisfaction’ – ²
Transform our famished yearning for You
Into Your Beloved’s-for-others.*

*Most Beautiful Love,
Open us, to thirst as You thirst.
Fill us ! Quench us ! Deluge us with Yourself !
... As we drink in Your words,
And feast on Your sweet will !*

*Beauty, Most Lovable,
Open us, to long with Your longing,
So we may belong as You belong
– Within Your luminous Fellowship
... Where all received, is given.*

*Love, Most Beautiful,
Open us, open our famished hearts,
To yearn, for Your Loveliness !
Fill us ! Delight us ! Lavish us with Your Presence !
... So we may become, to You
What You are, to us –
Lovably human !
Lovably divine !
And never more lovable, as on Your Cross !*

1 Poem 813, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Holy Week, April 2007.

2 This couplet, anonymous author.

NOTE: This poem as prayed by the author, at Eucharist.

Heart-Stricken ¹

*In the pain-filled steps of Love's own Son,
Those who sacrifice themselves for others
In their torturous journey up Calvary's hill,
ARE,
Like Jesus –
Tainted, by envy, gossip or spite
Scourged, by being devalued or deceived
Weighed down, by rejection, abuse, or bullying
Wounded, by inequality, injustice, or exploitation
Nailed, by violence, betrayal, or abandonment
Pierced, by despair, hopelessness or low self-worth
Crucified, by lack of love or hatred.*

*Only someone-NOT-God,
Would be unmoved !*

*Heart-stricken,
Abba waits
... Lovingly ...
For the dawn
Of their Easter morn*

The Openness of the Human Spirit ¹

A spirit is one OPEN to Mystery ... to Love ... to God.

A spirit's essence is to ABIDE WITHIN all other spirits

... Within God's Spirit.

What restricts a spirit's openness

Is NOT, 'being embodied',

But 'being enfleshed' by an insinuating worldliness.

Thus, it is the Easter Spirit of Holiness

Who, in re-vivifying Jesus with His body,

En-Spirits us, AS HIS BODY

... Freeing us to share in His victory over the world and sin.

Thus en-Spirited, and freed of the world's grip,

All spirits, IN Christ

– Who now “BELONG to each other” – ²

Are free to co-indwell each other,

To abide in love, within all other such spirits.

Thus, WITHIN the Spirit of God,

They present but one Face to Abba

... That of His Beloved Easter Jesus

– Sharing in HIS utter openness

To the Mystery of Love

Alive in Abba !

1 Poem 815, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Holy Week, April 2007.

2 Rom 12:5

On the Periphery of Ourselves ¹

Sin is self-marginalization :

Seduced, we increasingly live on the periphery of ourselves;

Constantly distracted, we lose focus of our 'centre'

And increasingly decline to journey INWARDS.

As we highlight to others – the pace, the novelty, the glamour

Of our external pursuits,

More and more we neglect

... The call of Silence, the voice of Stillness, within.

As we increasingly indulge the senses,

And eagerly move from one sensual experience to the next,

We disconnect from Creative Reason, governing all,

And through fickleness, fail to engage our own spirit.

As our values become more relative, more 'relevant',

– Shaped by trends, human respect and sheer impulse –

We become unanchored ...

Adrift from our integrating centre or 'presence' within

... Be that FAITH or other core beliefs.

Thus sin, like its parent, Satan, is full of illusion

– Breeding mistrust, even mocking what is true and good in us.

The sin-tainted shadowland we move through

Like actors in some meaningless parody –

Hollows out our human spirit ...

Persuading us that self-transcendence is nonsense.

*And if this is the 'fate' of one person – what of communal sin ?
Indeed, the 'ENTITLEMENT' effect – of communal greed, of a lust-permeated society,
Of the exploitive arrogance of the rich as a group,
Or of a racially dominant class ... can be terrifying !
What of communal sin's capacity to enmesh and entangle lives ?
Of societal and cultural half-truths that entice many
Into a world of prejudice and of unreality ?*

Jesus' response ? "I am the light of the world : the way the truth and the life." ²

*Following Him, imitating Him, letting Him live His Life in us
... Allows us to share His VICTORY over sin AND worldliness,
... Emboldens us to TRANSCEND ourselves :
To LIVE-FOR-OTHERS !*

*Calvary ENLIGHTENS us ...
Leading us to experience, with Jesus,
That suffering can ground us in reality,
And that His invitation to sacrificial love
... "Take up your cross daily,
And follow me" ³
Draws us to His Transforming Presence within,
And to the Fellowship of Love
–Alive in our hearts !
–Alive in all Easter communities !
–Alive in His Paschal Body, the Church !*

1 Poem 816, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Good Friday, April 2007.

2 Jn 8:12 and Jn 14:6

3 Lk 9:23

Co-Thirster ¹

(JESUS:)

O God-seeking heart !

Thirsting brother-sister of mine !

“My choice withdrew you from the world”: ²

You are not to be OF this world, ³

Nor BELONG to it ! ⁴

I “send you INTO the world

As Abba has sent me into it ...” ⁵

Your being-in-the-world

Will be like my being-in-the-world,

And that of My Spirit ...

Whom “the world CANNOT ACCEPT,

Nor even SEE,

Much less recognize !” ⁶

Like me, CO-THRISTER for Abba,

The world will REJECT you !

And CRUCIFY you ! ⁷

You are thus to be IN the world,

But not OF it !

Fire your courage !

For, "I have overcome the world" ⁸
... Within my heart,
And, thus also, for "WHOEVER remains IN me!" ⁹
You too can share this 'conquest' ¹⁰
Of the world and sin !

And thus IN me, your life, even now,
Is 'Eastered' like Mine
—For Abba's Embrace
By the Spirit of Glory !

1 Poem 817, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Easter Week, April 2007.

2 Jn 15:19 3 IBID 4 Jn 17:16 5 Cf Jn 17:18 6 Jn 14:17 7 Cf Jn 15:19-20

8 Jn 16:33 (N.A.B.) 9 Jn 15:5 10 Jn 16:33 (J.B.)

Transformative Tragedy ¹

*It has been said,
“We can feel a single life makes little difference ;
THAT is why, Christ gave us the CHURCH.” ²
The church can embrace ANY tragedy
Because it has the EUCHARIST
... Constantly re-enacting Christ’s wondrous Pasch.
In taking any tragedy to its heart,
The Church centers it within the Paschal Mystery
Thereby transforming it,
And being itself, IN ITS MEMBERS, transformed
... Not only in outlook
But in their IDENTITY – with the Paschal Jesus.*

*More specifically, it is Christ Himself who embraces the tragedy,
And all who are affected.
He draws all, who SO DESIRE, into His sacrificial Calvary experience,
So as to uplift, regenerate and re-empower, from within –
The very lives of the participants of the tragedy.
Thus, for these, who are OPEN TO TRANSFORMATION,
It is an Easter opportunity
To be embraced with the encompassing arms of His Church
... Even, if some know nothing
Of being thus enfolded, Eucharistically.*

¹ Poem 818, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Eastertide, April 2007.

² Unknown author, from LIVING FAITH booklet.

Embracing the New, in Christ ¹

To open to, and to embrace

The new

We need the faith of the CHURCH

... Visioning the new, with the mind of Christ ;

It is this FAITH

That , in transcending what has been,

INCORPORATES the new

Into the radical reality at the heart of the church ...

Namely, the transformative Ascended PERSON of Christ

... With His “Behold ! I make all things NEW !” ²

¹ Poem 819, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Eastertide, April 2007.

² Rev 21:5

Within Suffering ¹

Seek neither to tolerate, nor over-examine,

Or move beyond ... your suffering ;

Invite Jesus INTO your suffering

– Not from outside of it,

But from WITHIN its very centre :

Because the Pierced One

Dwells HERE

Eternally

... For, in the depths of His death,

The God of Compassion FILLED our deepest suffering

With His Presence !

Divine Dreaming – Now ¹

*While God's dream for us is beautied forth
In the splendours of Creation,
And in the wondrous unseen glories of Jesus, the New Creation,
It is the more tangible transformations
Witnessed within the Eucharistic life of the faithful
That, most luminously,
Reveals the passion of Divine Dreaming
For us !*

Breathers of Your Spirit ^{* 1}

We are daughters of You, Abba

We are sisters to Our Lord

We are breathers of Your Spirit

We are truly Yours, O Love !

Yes, we're sons of You, O Abba

We are brothers to Our Lord

We are breathers of Your Spirit

We are truly Yours, O Love !

Yes, we're children of You, Abba

We are family to Our Lord

We are breathers of Your Spirit

We are truly Yours, O Love !

1 Poem 822, Annual Retreat, Lawson, Blue Mountains, May 2007, Day 1

*Meant to be sung – to the tune, O King of Might and Splendour.

Composed on the way to my yearly retreat.

Being Saved For ¹

*“You do not BELONG to the world
Because my choice WITHDREW you from the world.” (Jn 15:19)*

*Christ’s ‘withdrawing’ us
Is to SAVE US FROM ... the world.
This choice of Christ
– Very personalized as it is –
Gives us, gives me, the POWER TO BE FREE –
Of the world’s allurements of greed, of lust, and of power
... Of the tightening coils of its fickle, random destructive energies
... Of being HELD FAST by its seductions and addictions.
Enmeshed THUS, we are UNFREE
Effectively, unable to exercise more truly humanizing choices
... Like those Jesus made.*

*This sense of being SAVED FROM ... the world,
Seems to run counter to that Christian perspective
That seeks to ENGAGE the world :
That is eager, to respond to its challenges,
That strains to be fully involved in others’ life situations
... For the sake of the Gospel’. ²*

A more prudent, tested spirituality would CAUTION

That the Gospel requires us

'To be IN the world, but not OF it'.³

Jesus insists that it is the world

That He is SAVING US FROM

... With the sense also,

That we are BEING SAVED FOR a surpassingly better reality :

'I want those You have given me, TO BE WHERE I AM ...⁴

Abba, may they be one IN US,

As You are in me, and I am in You !"⁵

Thus Jesus' heart's desire is that ...

We enter into that WONDROUS RELATIONSHIP

He shares with Abba !

Jesus is simply guarded, about engaging the world.

Innocent Lamb that He is, but knowing human hearts,

He is never blasé about the world.

While lovingly attentive to humanity's deep neediness,

He is mindfully sensitive to its enticements,

To its empty promises, its half-truths, and its intolerance of innocence.

*Thus, before sending HIS DISCIPLES into the world,
He asks that the Father
“Sanctify them”⁶
... KEEP those You have given me, true to Your name”.⁷
To this, Jesus adds, in a deeply personal and solemn pledge
“For their sake I consecrate myself!”⁸
And, lest we falter, He reassures us ...
“Be brave,
I have conquered the world!”⁹
Thus, if we are ever open to God’s grace,
In facing the world ...
God’s grace WILL win the day
... Hidden though that may be, at times.*

1 Poem 823, Annual Retreat, Lawson, Blue Mountains, May 2007, Day 2.

2 St. Paul

3 Ancient Church axiom 4 Jn 17:24

5 Jn 17:21

6 Jn 17:17 (N.R.S.V.)

7 Jn 17:11

8 Jn 17:19

9 Jn 16:13

Jesus' Choice ¹

‘It was not you who chose me,

But I who chose you’

(Jn 15:16)

Jesus' choice runs counter to our 21st Century first world perspective.

Self-choice is of CENTRAL importance to this world ;

We tend to jealously guard our freedoms –

Of speech, of association, of life style choices.

Moreover, Jesus' choice also runs counter

Ironically,

To our current evangelical ‘group-speak’;

Here, we insist, that to be an authentic witness,

We need –

To be self-directed,

To be open to all peoples,

To be true to our life-choices.

Yet,

In the most important matter of all,

How to witness to others, about how we relate to God,

Jesus tell us, quite unambiguously,

That OUR choice

Is not the initiating or primary choice !

*His idea that someone else
Can GIVE US our DESTINY
Amounts to heresy in our modern understanding of personhood,
Such that, a personal destiny that is not self-initiated,
Clearly diminishes one's authenticity,
And has others questioning our personal integrity !*

*Jesus insists
That HE
Is the template
... Of who we are
... Of our IDENTITY :*

"Love one another, AS I HAVE LOVED YOU".²

Jesus claims that He is also the template of what we will do with our lives,

That is ... of our DESTINY :

*"Those who love me, will be true to my word,
And Abba will love them, and we will come to them,
And make OUR DWELLING PLACE with them."³*

Both our identity and destiny, are HIS choices, not OURS !

*This is not only counter-intuitive,
But, in our modern consciousness, counter-commonsense :
We are abrogating responsibility for ourselves
To another !*

Thus Jesus presents us, often with a stark choice :

Choose Him,

Or ourselves !

And ... if both choices coalesce into a unity,

How pleasantly Blessed we shall be !

Thus, with every aspect of our lives

That draws forth the prospect of a choice from us,

We can confidently IDENTIFY WITH Jesus Ascended,

... Saying "Not my will, but Yours be done" ⁴

In our surrender to Abba, our true HOME, and DESTINY.

1 Poem 824, Annual Retreat, Lawson, Blue Mountains, May 2007. Day 2.

2 Jn 15:12 3 Jn 14:23 (I.B.) 4 Lk 22:43

The Submissive One ¹

In calling me to suffer with Jesus

–That is, in my THIRSTING for God's Presence, FOR OTHERS –

Abba is asking me to SACRIFICE

Any sense of my own IDENTITY.

Abba calls me to be :

the unsatisfied one

the restless one

the yearning one

the incomplete one

the unfulfilled one

the open-hearted one

And, above all

the submissive one.

In this last, I am to submit all MY needs

To the deeply longed-for singular NEED

Of ALL who indwell my spirit in Christ

– To their DESIRE

For Fellowship with Abba, Jesus, and the Spirit !

This GRACE OF SUBMISSION, means –

Submitting to Calvary

Submitting to Resurrection

Submitting to Ascension

Submitting to the Gift of the Spirit

... So as to share Christ's wondrous unifying experience

Of sharing this Spirit with All !

Hearts, Enlivened Together ¹

– *A reflection on Acts 1:12-14*

“Then they returned ... as well as His brothers” –

The wonder was still in their voices,

As together,

They moved through the olive trees

Down into the Kedron Valley.

The wonder was overflowing their hearts,

As, in hushed tones, they related

How they stood, still staring into the sky,

As they witnessed Jesus “BEING LIFTED UP” ²

And the “CLOUD WITHDREW HIM” from their sight ³

... Into the Divine dimension of Mystery !

They were NOT a collection of people –

Refusing to leave the site of the Ascension, as if in denial ;

Giving way to a sense of helplessness, because of their loss ;

Distracting themselves in a flurry of activities ;

Returning aimlessly to their old lives, each going their own way ;

Or trying to outdo each other psychologically, to prove their anguish ...

No !

The Spirit of Jesus

Was with them ...

Stirring them, prompting them, inviting them into faith TOGETHER !

*They left the place of the Ascension, neither reluctantly or aimlessly ;
They walked together to the city, firm in purpose, specific as to their goal ;*

And they went to the Upper Room, where Jesus had directed

“Do this in my memory”.⁴

They were a representative group :

His chosen eleven, His Mother Mary, some male relatives, some women disciples.

They “ALL JOINED IN”⁵

*... Encouraging each other with their shared trust in Jesus,
... Gently re-including any with impulses towards individualism,
... And especially, drawing each other into fellowship.*

Furthermore, all joined in “continuous prayer” :⁶

– Theirs being a faith response to the “Abba-God”

Of Jesus’ own life of prayer and preaching

... To Him, of whom Jesus said, “Abba and I are one”,⁷

– Theirs was an ongoing prayer, a PROCESS of prayer

... Both copying Jesus’ own habitual pattern of praying

... And responding to His direction to “Pray always”;⁸

– Theirs was a love-filled response of DEVOTED FRIENDS

... Who were obviously experiencing, a NEW sense of His Presence

ALIVE WITHIN THEIR GROUP

Especially, as they prayed TOGETHER.

It was no wonder their prayer was continuous

... Because His Vitalizing Presence began –

To seep into their lives as a group,

To give a pattern to their feelings,

To give a pattern to their daily choices,

And, critically to the very way they related.

Thus, slowly, this palpable Presence of His

Even began to pattern

Both their sense of group IDENTITY : who they were TOGETHER

And their sense of group DESTINY : what their future was TOGETHER.

This sensed new Presence of Jesus SEEMED ...

To GATHER them as one, in His spirit,

To ENVISION them with a new direction,

And to EMPOWER them mysteriously with His very Life !

Jesus, the Teacher they loved so much, seemed ...

To be living THROUGH THEM !

Wonder and gratitude cascaded out of their hearts, into their speech !

Jesus' words, before the CLOUD had enveloped Him,

“Wait here, for what the Father has promised”,⁹

Now fired their hearts !

And so, they waited in prayer, with eager, expectant hearts.

1 Poem 826, Annual Retreat, Lawson, Blue Mountains, May 2007, Day 3.

2 Acts 1:9 3 IBID 4 Lk 22:19 5 Acts 1:14 6 IBID 7 Jn 10:30 8 Lk 18:1 9 Cf Lk 24:49

Entombed ... and Divinized ¹

To be entombed – ALIVE–
Within the Paschal Jesus' contemplative heart
– Deep within a waiting Church's heart –
Is not to be weighed down by earth's confines,
Or by a Holy Saturday's supposed gloomy consciousness,
But anchored by a bed-rock FAITH,
To eagerly sense
The tenderness of Abba's IMPENDING, FREEING, EMBRACE !

With minds and hearts dying ... then hopefully dead
... To the world
– Thirsting, yearning, in our death-state, for Abba's invigorating Life –
Our spirits are gently, wondrously, RESURRECTED
By His vitalizing BREATH !

As Abba bends reverently over the corpse
Of our worldly 'closed-in' self,
He gently fills our lungs and spirits
With His most treasured resource
– The Easter Life Force of His Spirit !

Joy lights up our eyes
... As our limbs, our tissue, our very heart
Warm and surge, with the Beloved's life-blood ;
... And, wondrously, Jesus' new radiantly vital SELF
Fires OUR inspired minds and exhilarating spirits,
With the luminous, sublime Beauty and Dignity
Of HUMANITY'S Divine Son !

This is the experience of being saved,
Of being DRAWN FORTH from an ever-limiting world
INTO CHRIST !

Our new 'home' is not one located
Within another 'closed-in' self ...

No !

We are sublimely – INFINITELY – opened, in Christ,

And UPLIFTED TOGETHER

Into Fellowship with Abba, in the Spirit of Liberty !

The very fountain of our new being

Pours forth from Their Communing !

And our DESTINY, whole and oceanic, is the Eternal Fellowship itself !

*To be thus saved,
To be thus deluged with Love,
Is to choose Abba's way –
To let one's SELF be crucified to Jesus' cross,
To laugh at death, spurning its empty 'P.R. talk' and menaces,
And to be swept up into the Fellowship of Love Eternal !*

Abba Saves Us ¹

Abba SAVES US ...

From SIN – our preferring the creature to the creator

From ENSLAVEMENT TO SATAN – to his lies, illusions and deceits

From DEATH'S POWER – as we dismiss it, obsess about it, compensate for it

From SELF – self-indulgence, self-acquisitiveness, and self-promotion

From ADDICTION – to pleasure, to possessions, to power

From THE WORLD – of superficiality, of display, of privileged power

From HATRED – of self, of others, of God.

Abba SAVES US ...

Through the FAITH of Peter, of the Church ... the Body of His Beloved Jesus

Through the HOPE of Mary, icon of the Church ... the Body of her Son

Through the LOVE of Jesus, crucified for the Church ... gathered as His Body

Through BEING “MEMBERS, ONE OF ANOTHER” ... as Christ's Body, loving each other ²

Through TABLE FELLOWSHIP, of Christ's Eucharistic BODY

Through BEING EN-SPIRITED IN CHRIST ... in the Body

Of His Word, of His Sacrament, and of His Church.

Abba SAVES US ...

For THE LOVE OF CREATION, which, IN Christ “the new creation,” ³

He rejoices in, and embraces !

For LOVE OF US – “so that the love with which You loved me, MAY BE IN THEM”. ⁴

*For LOVE OF THE SPIRIT OF GLORY – “so that they may always
see the Glory, You have given me.”* ⁵

*For LOVE OF HIS BELOVED – “Now Abba, it is time for You to glorify me
with the glory I had with You.”* ⁶

*For LOVE OF ABBA HIMSELF – “Abba, glorify Your Son,
so that Your Son may glorify You !”* ⁷

*For LOVE OF FELLOWSHIP – “My Abba will love you, and we will come to you,
and make our home with you !”* ⁸

For LOVE OF ALL – “that God may be ALL in ALL !” ⁹

Thus Abba SAVES US ...

FROM where Fellowship is absent !

THROUGH means of Fellowship !

FOR the purpose of Fellowship !

1 Poem 828, Annual Retreat, Lawson, Blue Mountains, May 2007, Day 5.

2 Eph 4:25 (N.R.S.V.)

3 2Cor 5:17

4 Jn 17:26

5 Jn 17:24

6 Jn 17:5

7 Jn 17:1

8 Jn 14:23

9 1Cor 15:28

The Ascension's Spirit-Kiss ¹

SETTING : On the Mount of Olives, with the Temple below ... just before Jesus' Ascension

... Abba in Heaven, exults as He addresses His Son :

(Written with numerous resonances, unlisted, to the Song of Songs ...)

*(ABBA:) Hurry ! Spirit of sunshine,
Bring on the hour
Of my Beloved's homecoming !
O ! How I yearn for Him
Whom my heart loves !*

*Hurry ! Spirit of the north wind,
Sweep Southwards from Mt Hermon ...
Breathe through my garden of love,
To spread its Divine fragrance abroad
... To lead my Beloved home, to our paradise of joy !
O Come now, my Love, my lovely one, come !*

*Look ! The sun beams full
On the gold of the temple dome,
To signal the noontide of His Ascent !
— And of humanity's ascent !
Hurry ! Spirit of Homecoming,
ALERT my Son ! It's time for His return !*

O ! How I yearn for Him

For whom my heart overflows with love !

O See ! How the Beloved stands ready – the glory of His race !

Thronged by loved ones, by heartfelt disciples,

On the heights of the Olive Mount

... Bidding His friends, the fondest of farewells.

O Come now, my Love, my lovely one, come !

The winter of your pain is past,

Your sacrifice for humankind, complete ;

Your spring of joy now colours the heights of Sion

... The fragrance of your RE-BIRTH, ready for release !

(ABB.A:) I long, I thirst to draw You to myself –

To uplift Your HUMANITY to my Divine Embrace !

O ! How I yearn for Your Presence !

And that of all Your brothers and sisters WITHIN !

O ! Show me Your Face !

O ! Let me hear the voice of Your humanity,

And that of all Your kin ...

Speaking with Your voice !

Their voice is so beautiful ;

And their gaze, sparkling with the love of Your eyes,

Melts my heart !

Now ! The time is ripe ! All is fulfilled !

The sun has reached its zenith ...

Your heart ... My heart ... OUR hearts ...

Are full to overflowing as they unite,

And, AS spirits, INDWELL each other !

O Spirit of Union !

Draw His humanity

Into our Communion of Love :

O Shekinah !

O Glory Cloud !

A Spirit Cloud !

Enfold Him now !

Envelop Him with tenderness !

O ! I tremble to the core of my Father's Being,

As I embrace this Most Beautiful Son of mine

... And all His brothers and sisters WITHIN !

O ! What a wondrous Encounter !

– The same Wondrous Enrapture at the heart of every Eucharist !

– The self-same Enrapture of every SURRENDER OF EACH HUMAN HEART !

Welcome ! Glory ! Blessings ! To You, My Son !

O Eyes ! Luminous with human trust !

O Face, radiant with Heaven's Promise !

O Homecoming Prince !

(ABBA:) *The Realization of my Dream of Love !*
Most faithful One !
Dearest Son !
O Blessed Child of Earth !
Darling of the Universe !
Son of Joy !
Prince of Peace !

(ABBA:) *O ! My Father's pride swells to BURSTING,*
And my heart is overwhelmed with tenderness,
To have You home
... Home within my heart !
It's a home to quell the Longing of the Cosmos
... The Yearning of All Ages !
It's the heavenly harbour for all human hearts !
The love-focus too, of All Angels !

O ! How beautiful You are, my Beloved !
None more delightful !
Be enveloped within my Arms of Love,
And I, within Your human embrace !
Kiss me with the kiss of Your mouth,
And I will kiss You with this kiss of mine !

Come NOW, Spirit-Kiss ... draw us together !

Spirit of Desire wed us !

Radiate forth ...

Your God-burst of delight !

O Divine Ecstasy !

O Divine Enrapture !

Beloved Son, My Being's in Yours , and Yours is in Mine ...

OURS TOGETHER in the Spirit !

All Three ...

Together One !

One Together !

O Fellowship of Love !

Glorious Fellowship !

Fellowship Eternal !

*(ABBA:) Humanity's ascension finds a home with us,
Within this Fellowship of Ours !
Humanity's heart beats now with Heaven's Glory !
O Wondrous, loving, Ascended Son
Your Divinely-human heartbeat
Is the true Song of the Universe !
O Cosmic Harmony ! O Incarnate Melody !
This True Echo of human love,
Is the sweetest music to a Father's ears !*

Indeed, My Enfleshed Word, at last, has come home ...

Resonating with a billion human heartsongs !

Resonating with One Voice ...

Once, a Child's murmur,

Now, a mature Son's greeting

"ABBA !"

O Divine Beloved !

Fragrant with earth's breath, is Your Kiss !

Perfumed with humanity's love ...

It is the Divine Scent of earth !

Dearest Son !

How I glory in Your Closeness !

... Delight in Your human affection !

... Thrill to Your caresses !

O Most Beautiful One !

Your lips are redolent with the tastes of earth !

How wonderful is creation that nourished You, My Son !

... That so fulsomely nurtured You, My Divine Child !

I can taste, on Your lips, the trace of earth's sweet water

That slaked Your thirst on the Cross :

Now, have Your thirst, quenched by Our Love !

Your hunger, satisfied by Our Fellowship !

O taste and see Your Father's goodness !

(*ABBA:*) *O Spirit-Kiss of the Ascension,*
Breathing forth Our Mutual Love
–The Enrapture of Humanity within the Divine –
PREPARE YOURSELF
To be breathed into the very hearts of humanity,
Into the Beloved’s new sisters and brothers.
READY YOURSELF
To indulge their lives
With Jesus Ascended’s
Life ! Light ! and Love !

The flash of this Love
Will be like a flash of fire,
Inflaming all in turn,
Heart, lighting up heart ...
Lighting up their very lives !
... So with love-lit hearts,
Basking in Paschal Light,
They too, will call me “Abba !”
And I will call them, “Beloved !”
Drawing them to my heart, in Him,
Bestowing on each other,
YOU, O SPIRIT-KISS !

1 Poem 829, Annual Retreat, Lawson, Blue Mountains, May 2007, Day 6.

NOTE: Numerous resonances with the Song of Songs. All unlisted.

Choose the Torrent ¹

When we're really OPEN-HEARTED WITH ABBA,

The Spirit rushes like a torrent

Into the dry creek-beds of our lives :

Cascading joy WITHIN

... Transforming, vitalizing, our spirits,

Creating enthusiasm for the Kingdom,

Lighting up any dimming dreams

– With an enabling vision

Of Who-we-are, and Who-we-are-with !

Then as the flow and surges of the Spirit-Torrent

Carries us, wondrously onwards

... Nurturing and deepening our growing together ...

Each occasion of grace GIFTS THE NEXT in turn !

At times, the Spirit seems to REST WITHIN its flow

While smoothly empowering the stream of grace forward

... Just as a deep mature river

Surges powerfully, but SILENTLY, downstream .

At other times, the Spirit-Flow, while strongly buoying us along,

CAN

—As when a wide deep stream, quickly narrows —

Suddenly become a TORRENT !

Yet, it is not a disruptive one, because the Flow of Grace

Is not a turbulence of churning water,

But a torrent of DANCING, SCINTILLATING LIGHT WITHIN —

Delighting !

Vitalizing !

Deifying !

Urging us ... Reassuring us ...

Centering us !

“Offer no resistance to the Spirit-Torrent

Surrender to its freeing power :

CHOOSE THE TORRENT !

Let its Love UPLIFT you !

Let it simply FLOW THROUGH YOU into others' lives !

Let the Spirit-Torrent choose its own path :

... Now, as a sparkling stream of encouragement !

... Now, as a selfless surge of energy !

... Now, like a mist's soft caress.

“As the Spirit-Torrent COMPANIONS you :

Chart no course of your own

... But, be buoyed homewards

On its descent to the Sea of Love

– Seeking Fellowship, as it returns to the Torrent’s Source.

(The Trinity:)

“Join us !

As We continuously Dance

Within this Deluge of Life !

... Wherein, Three Loves become One

And One Love pours forth as Three,

Enveloping all whose hearts

Are OPENED to Abba ! ”

With Clear-eyed Certainty ¹

Faith real-izes heaven here on earth ;
It anticipates the paradise we hope for
– The Vision of Glory
– KNOWING GOD'S HERE
... Contemplating
Not what the eyes see,
But seeing with the eyes of A HEART IN LOVE !
It is KNOWING that the Face of Love awaits,
Knowing the heart of Jesus Ascending ;
Finally, receiving the gaze of Love,
With THE OPEN-HEARTEDNESS of the Ascending Jesus !

Still, for us, NOW,
Faith's "seeing" is hidden,
But also wondrously CERTAIN
– Since its very anchor, is Abba-God Himself !
Yes ! Abba's GIFT to Jesus' and our pilgrim humanity,
Is to behold Love's Face, IN FAITH,
On the very way to the Cross
With a wondrous certainty
– Because He, and we, KNOW with Christ's loving heart .

Some have claimed that Faith is but 'BLIND trust':

But, for we who share in Jesus's faith, –

We see with the CLEAR-EYED CERTAINTY of Jesus,

The loved Son of a loving Dad !

Still, what we see, is mostly hidden

... With just passing glimpses of Eternal Love,

Given, as gifts, on our pilgrim way .

Why hidden ?

Because God will NOT COMPEL our love, our adoration, and our fidelity !

Abba will not force our allegiance by 'conquering' our minds and hearts,

OVERWHELMING US

With the naked brilliance of Divine Truth !

With the unshielded Wonder of His Goodness !

With the unveiled Glory of His Beauty !

No, God is freedom !

And Abba has set us free

TO CHOOSE to love Him, in freedom !

Faith then is free –

Free to be persuaded,

Free to be enticed,

Free to be fascinated,

But also, AS UNFAITH,

Free to negate its own purpose,

*Free NOT to exercise faith,
Free instead, to focus its loving gaze on the creature ...
Not the Creator,
– Refusing even to ‘look’ at God, one knows is there !*

*Yet to gaze, WITH faith,
Is to be set free in an ocean of freedom !
To be as free, AS Christ –
Free to ascend into the arms of Love !
Free to BREATHE IN the Spirit,
Free to be GUEST to millions of hearts, IN Oneself !
Free to BREATHE the Spirit FORTH
... Upon all open-hearted brothers and sisters !
Free, finally, in our Home-coming,
To gaze directly
WITH God, ON God, IN God !*

Really Listen : Heart to Heart ^{* 1}

*Let us listen to each other,
Really listen : heart to heart,
Breathe the Spirit, all together
– So to nurture ‘Love’s now start’ !*

*Listen to each other’s SPIRIT ...
Mur’rings of the Spirit there :
We are all guests, of each other ...
Familed, IN Christ, our Kin !*

Identified with Christ ¹

Identified with Christ, we become ...

“One single New Person in Him” ²

“... By dying with Him” ³

– Suffering with His suffering,

Loving with His Love,

Sacrificing ourselves for others .

Being raised, out of sin, with Him

... We live His Life IN HIM,

... He lives His Life IN US !

Ascending, through grace, with Him

Our very humanity is UPLIFTED with His :

Dignified IN His !

Glorified IN His !

Deified IN His !

1 Poem 833, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, June 2007.

2 Eph 2:15

3 Cf Rom 6:8

Communing with Abba ¹

*The most profound and personal way
Of communing with our Abba-God,
Is to LIVE OUR LIFE, IN CHRIST
—The enfleshed WORK OF ABBA.
He is Word both TO us, and FROM us
And in so being, LIVES HIS LIFE in us
—A REALITY experienced, surpassingly,
IN EUCHARIST!*

*To live this Life of the Eucharistic Word,
Is to be encountered by the One
Who is THE FULLEST EXPRESSION
... Of who-Abba-is
As Lover, Beloved, and Love,
And As Father to us ;
... And of who-we-are
As children to Abba, in Christ .*

*In Eucharist,
Abba's enfleshed Word
Encounters us IN the Spirit,
And enables us, IN the Spirit, to encounter Abba.
This we enact, sacramentally,*

... Through the personalized proclamation of Abba's Word,
... Through the GIFT of all we are, and yearn to express, TO Abba,
... And through Communion, enabling our communing as Children of Abba .

A Simple Meal ¹

Abba,

From all the Eucharistic, MEMORIALS possible,

–Within Your Divine Imagination –

You have selected

But one,

A simple meal

... TO ENABLE us

To CO-EXPERIENCE

Your Beloved's Saving Paschal Mystery .

Readying Us for Abba's Spirit ¹

Jesus is the Beloved One

*... In whose brotherly care, we become
The homecoming ones, the cherished ones !*

*... Who leads us to ourselves,
Making our divided hearts whole !*

*... Who leads us to each other's arms,
Just as Abba enfolds Him in Love's Arms !*

*... Whose love gathers us together, within Himself,
Readying us for Abba's Spirit.*

We are All, Works of the Spirit ¹

*O Spirit of Paschal Love,
Give our spirits continued growth WITHIN THE ASCENDED JESUS
... Suffusing our spirits with His,
... Radiating our minds with His consciousness,
... Allowing us to co-experience His Embrace by Abba.*

*O ! To be poor in spirit, like Jesus
... To have His empathy, His instinctive compassion,
Flow from OUR hearts, IN the Spirit !
O Paschal Spirit, further transform us
So that, in seeing our Abba-God in everyone,
As Jesus did,
We will continue to BEAR our suffering-for-these-others,
By co-sacrificing WITH CALVARY'S JESUS.*

*And to IMITATE Him, most deeply, we pray
That the Spirit of the Easter Jesus,
Create a NEW HUMANITY within us
... An ever-inclusive humanity
... And, especially, a self-sacrificing humanity,
Just like His own !*

Ultra-Reality ¹

*Faith plunges us into an ultra-reality ...
Inside, yet beyond the reality we know.
It surpasses 'our' reality, yet sustains it,
Blooming before, yet destined to flourish after it !*

*As 'our' reality's source, and its summit,
It is entrusted to us, as a PURE GIFT !
It is a mystery beyond our experience,
Yet we can encounter it at anytime !
It is available to all, yet is accessible only
Through openness to ONE PERSON, Christ !
While only experienced through our identifying
With THIS ONE PERSON, Jesus Ascended,
It is essentially an experience of communing,
Of a gathering-together in THIS ONE PERSON,
Who is the fullest and ultimate expression
Of this ultra-reality !*

This ultra-reality is thus a wondrous reality WITHIN CHRIST

– The reality of Divine Fellowship !

Faith enables it,

For us !

Happy ! Happy ! Happy ! the person gifted with faith !

May they hold onto this GIFT

... With a child's tenacity !

And simplicity !

With Words that Galvanize ¹

Spirit of Inspiration !

Stir us ... as You unveil, and we discover ...

Our creativity and imagination, IN YOU :

– So we can inspire pilgrim hearts,

With words that galvanize

... Remembering that, in our dependency,

Every heart is a pilgrim ;

–So we can express Your Love,

With a vision that encompasses and embraces

Ever more hearts – thus giving our pilgrim hearts

Both a home, and a people !

¹ Poem 839, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, June 2007.