

Folio Thirty-Two

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Poems 620-639

- 620 [The Eight Beatitudes](#)
- 621 [Jesus, the Person of the Beatitudes](#)
- 622 [Christ's Gift](#)
- 623 [The Love that Brings Us Home](#)
- 624 [Nestling in God's Heart](#)
- 625 [Yearning to Catch Our Eye](#)
- 626 [Your Lovesong, Artwork and Trust](#) *
- 627 [Breathe But One Word](#)
- 628 [Lighting Our Way](#)
- 629 [Joyful and God-Centred](#)
- 630 [To Share, to Enact, to Celebrate](#)
- 631 [The Word Creates What It Expresses](#)
- 632 [Enrapture Us!](#)
- 633 [The Shock of Our Un-Godliness](#)
- 634 [Our Only Prayer](#)
- 635 [All That Happens to Us](#)
- 636 ["You're My Beloved!"](#)
- 637 [Enrapture's Inner Pledge](#)
- 638 [Catching His Eye](#)
- 639 [A Double Surrender](#)

**meant to be sung*

The Eight Beatitudes ¹

Blest are you poor,

Who know your need of God :

Abba's kingdom of love is yours.

Blest are you who are gentle :

Abba's promises will be fulfilled in you.

Blest are you who mourn now :

God will be your consolation.

Blest are you who hunger and thirst

For what God desires :

You will be satisfied.

Blest are you with compassionate hearts :

You shall experience Abba's own tender compassion.

Blest are you with transparent hearts :

You will see God in everyone, and everything.

Blest are you who strive for peace :

Abba will call you, children of His heart.

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

Jesus, the Person of the Beatitudes ¹

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Christ's Gift ¹

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

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

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

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

The Love That Brings Us Home ¹

At the very core of all human anxiety,

At the heart of all our hope

Is our home-sickness for God.

It is God's love that brings us home,

Home to our hearts

... Where the Spirit reveals to us

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

¹ Poem 623, Retreat, Jamberoo Abbey, Kiama, mid Oct 2004, Day 3.

Nestling in God's Heart ¹

Human love is like a homing pigeon

... Its nest, the heart of God.

There it nestles ...

Finding peace,

Giving birth to new life.

1 Poem 624, Jamberoo Abbey, Kiama, mid October 2004, day 5

Yearning to Catch Our Eye ¹

*Abba is so gentle in approaching us ...
So tender in His longing for us ...
That He simply YEARNS
To catch our eye – the eye of our heart !*

*Yet He is so sensitive
– As it were, vulnerable –
To the ‘blocking’ presence of pride !
But, joy to our hearts –
He feels wonderfully, warmly AT HOME
In a heart that is also
Gentle, yearning, and vulnerable to pride.*

1 Poem 625, Retreat, Jamberoo Abbey, Kiama, Mid Oct 2004, Day 7.

Your Lovesong, Artwork and Trust ¹ *

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

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

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

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

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

1 Poem 626, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Nov 2004.

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

Breathe But One Word ¹

Nobody can truly IDENTIFY

With Jesus

And afterwards breathe anything but ...

“Abba”

... With their life !

Thus so, we give glory to You,

Most lovable, dearest Abba

For surrendering Your whole Loving Reality

To Jesus

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

Breathes forth but one Word

“Abba !”

¹ Poem 627, Year 6 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, Dec 2004.

Lighting Our Way ¹

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

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

1 Poem 628, Gold Coast holidays, Dec 2004.

Joyful and God-Centered ¹

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

¹ Poem 629, Gold Coast holidays, Jan 2005.

To Share, to Enact, to Celebrate ¹

Scripture's transforming power
Does its divine work as we listen :
The PROCLAIMING of the Word itself
CREATES the Presence of Christ among us
– Drawing us to share, to enact, to celebrate
What the Word proclaims !

¹ Poem 630, Gold Coast holidays, Jan 2005.

The Word Creates What It Expresses ¹

The WORD in Eucharist is SACRAMENTAL :

It creates what it expresses.

A particular WORD creates ...

Presence, or togetherness, or forgiveness.

The Hebrew words for 'speaking' and 'creating'

Are the same WORD –

“God spoke : and they were made”, ²

And as Genesis affirms –

“Then God said, ‘Light : Be !’ and light was.” ³

In the same way,

God announces ‘CHANGE’, and transformation occurs !

God speaks ‘PRESENCE’, and Love appears !

God proclaims ‘Life’, and we are revitalized !

Our part is to be open, to be receptive

–To LET the WORD, through His Spirit,

Create in us, what it expresses.

Wondrously, such creativity

Fashions us into His people :

“He made us : we BELONG to Him.” ⁴

1 Poem 631, Gold Coast holidays, Jan 2005.

2 Psalms 3 Gen 1:3

4 Ps 100:3

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

Enrapture Us ! ¹

Abba, ENRAPTURE us, in Your Beloved

As You and He KISS

– In the KISS

That is Your Spirit !

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

WITHIN this Kiss !

As lips meet ...

Worlds unite !

Divinity and humanity embrace !

And a cosmic Fellowship is born !

Herein, is the crossroads of earth and heaven :

Your wooing of humanity ...

Our wedding surrender to You !

Your marriage quest consummated ...

Our taste of Divine ecstasy just begun !

Here, Lover and Beloved become one !

In the Beloved, our lips open

To receive the Breath of God,

Your Breath, Abba !

Together, in the Beloved,

We breathe this Spiritus back to You

– Thrilling Your Father's heart.

¹ Poem 632, Gold Coast holiday, Jan 2005.

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

The Shock of Our Un-Godliness ¹

Abba,

Your ocean of love

OVERWHELMS US :

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

... Our nothingness !

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

Ours ... our radically obvious, and truly infinite

NEED OF YOU !

Yours ... the transforming embrace of Divine compassion !

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

... and our longing to be absorbed

into Your Beloved 'kenosis', on the cross !

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

en-Spiriting us in Your Communion !

¹ Poem 633, Gold Coast holidays, Jan 2005.

Our Only Prayer ¹

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

Suddenly resolved :

*I was given a crystal clear glimpse
Into God's yearning for intimacy*

With us.

With new-born delight,

The eyes of my heart were galvanized

By the words of that wondrous promise,

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

I suddenly felt liberated !

God's purpose for me,

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

Now seemed so clear :

That Abba's infinite yearning to infill us

Had a singular purpose

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

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

In all aspects of OUR HUMANITY

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

But AS CHIRST, the only Child !

Why? Because Abba has eyes

ONLY for His sole-begotten

–His Beloved !

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

To live and be IN CHRIST,

But letting Christ do ALL MY LIVING

FOR me, and IN ME

–As Himself!

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

–Inviting me to simultaneously accompany

Every movement of His heart.

Indeed, Christ IS our prayer

–He, Himself, the only prayer we have !

Similarly, in the wordless Prayer of the Spirit

We are, IN CHRIST, being companioned by the Spirit

–Through the Paschal Jesus’ silences,

–Through His stillness and solitude,

–Through His watching and waiting,

–Through the expressiveness of His body language,

–And through the whole interplay of His emotions.

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

As it surges, with overwhelming human longing,

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

And we move, as the Spirit moves ...

As lovingly and as gently, as a Breath

Passing between Abba and His Beloved !

Such is the template of our prayer
... At all times
... In every movement of the heart to His Abba
... In every movement of the heart to others
... And in every Eucharist !
O for the grace of awareness !

1 Poem 634, Gold Coast holidays, Jan 2005.

2 Jn 14:21 (N.R.S.V.) 3 Jn 14:23 (N.R.S.V.)

All That Happens to Us ¹

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

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

¹ Poem 635, Gold Coast holidays, Jan 2005.

“You’re My Beloved !”¹

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

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

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

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

[Addressed by Abba to Jesus Ascended :]

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

[Both speaking :]

– “You’re My Beloved !”

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

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

Enrapture's Inner Pledge ¹

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

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

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

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

Catching His Eye ¹

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

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

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

¹ Poem 638, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community Brisbane, Feb 2005.

² Jn 14:23 (N.R.S.V.) ³ 1 Cor 6:19.

A Double Surrender ¹

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

¹ Poem 639, Year 7 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community Brisbane, Feb 2005.