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Holocaust ¹

Abba,

Draw me deeply in Jesus's sacrifice of love to You ;

Pour Jesus' Spirit of Sacrifice into my heart

... quickening it, into heartfelt surrender ;

Ready this heart, to keep on loving, through death,

... becoming a HOLOCAUST to Your Love ;

Make me an ever more explicit sign, and servant,

... of Your Beloved's Eucharistic Sacrifice .

¹ Poem 780, Year 8 of Prayer Ministry, Clayfield Community, Brisbane, October 2006.

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

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.*

¹ Poem 793, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Gold Coast holidays, January 2007.

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

... Readying 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 !*

