

**Folio Forty-Two**

# Folio Forty-two

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*\*meant to be sung*

## Within Suffering <sup>1</sup>

*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**<sup>1</sup>

*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 !*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 821, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Eastertide, May 2007.

## Breathers of Your Spirit <sup>\* 1</sup>

*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 !*

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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 <sup>1</sup>

*“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’. <sup>2</sup>*

*A more prudent, tested spirituality would CAUTION*

*That the Gospel requires us*

*'To be IN the world, but not OF it'.<sup>3</sup>*

*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 ...<sup>4</sup>*

*Abba, may they be one IN US,*

*As You are in me, and I am in You !"<sup>5</sup>*

*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”<sup>6</sup>  
... KEEP those You have given me, true to Your name”.<sup>7</sup>  
To this, Jesus adds, in a deeply personal and solemn pledge  
“For their sake I consecrate myself!”<sup>8</sup>  
And, lest we falter, He reassures us ...  
“Be brave,  
I have conquered the world!”<sup>9</sup>  
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.*

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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 <sup>1</sup>

*‘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". <sup>2</sup>*

*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." <sup>3</sup>*

*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" <sup>4</sup>*

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

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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 <sup>1</sup>

*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 <sup>1</sup>

– *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” <sup>2</sup>*

*And the “CLOUD WITHDREW HIM” from their sight <sup>3</sup>*

*... 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”.<sup>4</sup>*

*They were a representative group :*

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

*They “ALL JOINED IN”<sup>5</sup>*

*... 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” :<sup>6</sup>*

*– 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”,<sup>7</sup>*

*– 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”;<sup>8</sup>*

*– 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”,<sup>9</sup>*

*Now fired their hearts !*

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

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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 <sup>1</sup>

*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** <sup>1</sup>

*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* <sup>2</sup>

*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,”* <sup>3</sup>

*He rejoices in, and embraces !*

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

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

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

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

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

*For LOVE OF ALL – “that God may be ALL in ALL !”* <sup>9</sup>

*Thus Abba SAVES US ...*

*FROM where Fellowship is absent !*

*THROUGH means of Fellowship !*

*FOR the purpose of Fellowship !*

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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 <sup>1</sup>

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 !*

*(ABBA:) 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 !*

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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 <sup>1</sup>

*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 <sup>1</sup>

*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** <sup>\* 1</sup>

*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 <sup>1</sup>

*Identified with Christ, we become ...*

*“One single New Person in Him” <sup>2</sup>*

*“... By dying with Him” <sup>3</sup>*

*– 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 !*

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

2 Eph 2:15

3 Cf Rom 6:8

## Communing with Abba <sup>1</sup>

*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** <sup>1</sup>

*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 <sup>1</sup>

*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 <sup>1</sup>

*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 <sup>1</sup>

*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** <sup>1</sup>

*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 !*

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<sup>1</sup> Poem 839, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, June 2007.

