

Folio Forty-Eight

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**written to be sung.*

Our Humanity's Vitalizing Moment ¹

*“The old creation is gone,
And now the new one is here !”* 2Cor 5:17

This NEW CREATION is Jesus GLORIFIED :
 –*The Person of the Ascended Jesus !*
 –*The Person of our Eucharistic Lord !*
The Church, ever-assembling IN Christ Jesus !
He is the SINGULAR EXPRESSION of our New Humanity
... A humanity we experience and express, ONLY IN CHRIST.

Wondrously,
In His Church, Jesus' en-Spirited Body,
We, its CHURCHED members, in time,
... “Members, one of another” ... ²
Are embodied in the Eternal Moment
Of the Divine Circle of Love !

*In this Wondrous Moment,
All phases of time, and space, are transcended for us,
Uniting both our present life, to the Life to come,
And uniting both our past and our future
To Christ's ever-present Paschal Moment :
... To Christ's Moment of Self-Sacrifice,
... To Christ's Moment of Easter Regeneration,
... To Christ's Moment of Ascensional Embrace,
... To Christ's Moment of Receiving the Spirit FOR US,
... To Christ's Moment of Giving the Spirit FOR US.*

In this surpassingly vitalizing PASCHAL MOMENT

– At the crossroads of ETERNITY AND TIME –

We are ceaselessly united

Both to all God-seeking hearts of the PAST,

And to all God-seeking hearts of the FUTURE.

As we LIVE OUT this Paschal Moment

– Our lives, pulsing with the love it offers –

Abba, Jesus, and Loyce³

Rejoice to live out THEIR LIFE within us !

Truly ...

“All things come together unto good

For those who love God !”⁴

1 Poem 940, Year 11 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, March 2009.

2 Eph 4:25

3 My familiar name for the Spirit – from Love, Joy and Peace ... (Loycee).

4 Rom 8:29

Where Wills Co-incide ¹

To resolve

To live as Jesus,

Is to love the OTHER.

The more we do so ...

The more Abba's will and ours

Co-incide :

While Abba affirms the depth of His friendship for us, personally,

Abba's friends become ours,

And so, together, we become Abba's beloved, IN-HIS-BELOVED.

At a deeper level, we continually ask Abba to ENABLE

–Those needs within us, that Jesus most yearns to fill,

–Those needy people that Jesus most desires to heal,

And so, WE become the HEALERS Jesus needs us to be.

At the deepest level still, we continually ask Abba to nurture

–Those parts of us we dislike, or that fail to nourish,

–Those people we dislike or whom we fail to nourish,

And so, WE BECOME JESUS to both these ...

And even to those parts of us, which fail to nourish us.

*At the deepest level ... to do THIS – as Jesus does – FROM THE CROSS,
We extend to them the hand of love they long for,
And we welcome their look of love – or less – they offer in response,
And so we welcome them with HIS EYES ... inviting them
Into the heart of our one, loving Father.*

HERE ...

*Where “God’s Spirit speaks to our spirit”,²
All learn to love, THROUGH LOVING;
All learn to love, because we are loved;
Yet, the FIRST to love – LOVE – is not alone
But fills our lives with Fellowship !*

1 Poem 941, Year 11 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, March 2009.

2 Rom 4:18

Sensing God ¹

*Loving others, allows us to RECOGNIZE God ;
Closing our eyes to others, BLINDS us to God ;
Deeply focussing on others, allows us to GAZE
Into the very eyes of God !*

*Loving others, allows us to HEAR God's inviting voice ;
Closing our ears to others, MUFFLES the voice of God
Deeply tuning-in to others, allows us to BE ALERT ...
Even to the WHISPERS of the Spirit.*

*Loving others, allows us to TOUCH the heart of God ;
Being 'touchy' and insensitive to others, keeps God AT ARMS LENGTH ;
When we're deeply in touch, empathetic, with others,
We feel God's CARESS !*

*Loving others, gives us a real TASTE for the Bread of Life ;
When caring for others becomes distasteful ...
We LOSE OUR TASTE for the things of God ;
To taste deeply the love of others, WHETS OUR APPETITE
For God's delightful limitless love !*

Loving others, allows us to sense the FRAGRANT PRESENCE

Of the Beloved ;

When rancour within a group poisons the atmosphere,

The subtle sense of the Beloved's Presence ELUDES us ;

When deep love blossoms between us,

The PERFUMED BREATH OF THE SPIRIT

Truly suffuses the Body of Christ !

Enabling Our Faith, Hope, and Love ¹

To ACCEPT at depth,
GOD'S belief in us
Is also to accept Abba's enabling GIFT
Of OUR belief in God
—Together generating that feeling of deepest TRUST
... Which anchors our relationship to God.

To EXPRESS, at depth,
This FAITH in God
Presupposes, again, Abba's enabling graciousness :
—That deep feeling of CONFIDENCE He gifts us with
... Confidence that God's Fellowship of Love
ENVELOPS every moment of our living !

To ACCEPT, at depth,
God's DESIRES FOR US ... the focus of our HOPE
Is also to accept Abba's enabling gift
In making God's desires OUR OWN
—That feeling of deepest HUMILITY
... Allowing such hope to find a home within us !

To EXPRESS, at depth,
This hope ... of harmonizing our wishes WITH GOD'S,
Presupposes, again, Abba's enabling graciousness :
–That gift of deep PATIENCE
... So that our hope, when suffering is sustained,
Can GIVE BIRTH to Christ
–Alive in our lives !

To ACCEPT, at depth,
God's LIMITLESS LOVE FOR US,
Is also to accept Abba's enabling gift
Of deep RECEPTIVITY
... To those Paschal feelings of joy and peace
In being so loved by God !

To EXPRESS at depth,
OUR RESPONSE to Abba's Love,
Presupposes, again, Abba's enabling graciousness :
–That gift to deeply DESIRE TO SHARE HIS LOVE
... Wholeheartedly, letting it OVERFLOW to others.

Beyond all this ...

–ACCEPTING God's enabling gifts

Of confidence, humility, patience and receptivity,

Generates a deep sense of GRATEFULNESS within us.

So ... in an excess of love,

In a Godburst of goodness,

Abba gathers these feelings of deepest gratitude

And gives them FOCUS AND EXPRESSION

In Christ

–Beloved and Glorious in His Paschal Mystery –

THROUGH EUCHARIST

... God's gift of Heaven

To Earth

So Earth can truly become

Heaven !

The Veil ¹

Though the Reality of Fellowship

For us

Is Eternally WITHIN

– Abba, Jesus, and Loyce lovingly indwelling us, ²

Inviting us to live Their Life within ours –

Still, psychologically,

Some key symbols HELP US TO COPE

With our experience of Their UN-SENSED PRESENCE...

Thus our graced life this world is BOTH

Gazing lovingly, THROUGH A VEIL, upon the Trinity of Love,

While, on the other 'side',

In DEEPEST TRUTH,

We are simultaneously filled

With the enveloping Luminous Presence

Of Abba, Jesus, and Loyce

Lighting up our spirit-world

Eternally !

On the one side, there's the graced struggle of 'sensing' God, through faith ;

On the other side, the co-experience of the God's Reality, yet wholly HIDDEN !

*Still, through the V_{EIL},
The Voice of the Beloved
Travels effortlessly
... With Abba's Word of Love animating the Scriptures and life
For us, on one side,
While alternately RESONATING WITHIN, as His Spirit
Now ... whispers to downcast hearts,
Now ... quickens spirits for action,
Now ... summons us to Eucharist.*

*Yes ! It is His Spirit who connects BOTH SIDES of the Veil :
– Who, while being present to us through sacrament and sign, on one side,
Works wonders of Graced Intimacy, within, on the other ;
– Who, while en-Spiriting us as Christ's Body, outwardly,
Renders Jesus Ascended in Eucharist, as an INNER experience.
Thus Jesus' Paschal Spirit, in effect,
DRAWS ASIDE the Veil ...
Revealing GOD-TO-BE-RECEIVED, according to our readiness.*

*At other times,
–Seemingly rare times ... in times of special grace –
Abba HIMSELF momentarily draws the Veil aside,
And shows HIS FACE to us :
The self-same cruciform, yet glorified Face of His Son
... “The perfect reflection” of the Father's ... ³
A Face shown only to the Beloved,
And to those ALIVE with the Beloved's Life !*

*Within this intimacy, such chosen souls come to learn
That DEATH is not the VEIL we pass through,
To the fully revealed Presence of God.
No ! The Body of His Beautiful Son
Itself is the Veil
—Our EXODUS to Glory !*

*STILL, ALL who are, IN CHRIST, are taken up
Into Abba's yearning arms !
Ours truly, is an uplifted, and Enraptured humanity !
Our faith renders such an ENCOUNTER possible, NOW !
—For the Father's arms are always open !
Grace renders the invisible, REAL !*

And after the PAUSE of death, THE REAL IS REVEALED AS ETERNAL !

1 Poem 944, Year 11 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, April 2009.

2 My familiar name for the Spirit – from LOVE, JOY, PEACE ...(LOYCEE)

3 Heb 1:3

Discerning Union ¹

*In our discernment, of how Union with God
Might unfold,
The Father, Son and Spirit's own desires for us
Are communicated to us in diverse ways,
And ordinarily, move us to ever-deeper levels, towards UNION.*

*Because at the heart of the Trinity
Is the Word of Love
— Creative Reason —
The Church has DISCERNED over the centuries
An unfolding ORDERING of experiences
Wherein the GRACE OF UNION is gifted to us.*

*While no one stage, or the order of stages, is necessary,
And while Abba, Jesus and the Spirit may simply CHOOSE
To draw us, at any time, into the way of UNION ...
Still, the GIFT OF UNION usually unfolds
In somewhat the same way
For most.*

*Most ordinarily, at the beginning of this wondrous grace-journey,
We sense that the Father, Son and Spirit's desire for UNION with us
Is communicated, FIRSTLY, BY WAY OF PERSONAL INSIGHTS.
Here, a form of words, either read or heard ... externally, consciously,
Challenges us to discern
How UNION with God could come about.
These thoughts, forming our insight, commonly originate in Scripture.
Our consciousness, at this stage, expressly seeks to engage Christ's own.*

*The SECOND stage of this wondrous grace-journey
Is communicated, ordinarily, BY WAY OF COMMUNAL INSIGHT.
Here, the grace of dialogue with family, community, friends
Helps us to discern, more really, the possibilities of UNION ;
Their wisdom and praying together
Open us up, to the key role of grace, in discerning :
Our consciousness lies open to the Body of Christ's IN-SPIRATIONS.*

*The THIRD stage of this wondrous grace-journey
Is communicated, ordinarily, BY WAY OF SPECIFIC GUIDANCE.
Here, we come to rely on our life's spiritual authority figures
To co-discern with us ;
We become docile to the rhythms of the Church's wisdom
– In particular, by being accompanied by a spiritual director,
And, if one is truly graced, by a director
Who is a praying companion.
In this way, we become responsive to the Church's dream for us.*

The FOURTH stage of this wondrous grace-journey

Is communicated, ordinarily, BY SUGGESTIONS FROM THE SPIRIT OF HOLINESS.

Here, the Spirit intervenes directly, “PROMPTING” our discerning. ²

The Spirit uses EITHER ‘whispering’ ... subliminal phrases or words,

Which, float into our consciousness – “from Christ’s, which we share;” ³

OR ‘murmurings’ ... subconscious urgings, exciting our emotions ;

OR EVEN “sighs” and “groanings” ... “in ways that CANNOT be put into words.” ^{4,5,6.}

Thus in all these ways, “MOVED by the Spirit,” ⁷

And “impelled by that Energy of His”, ⁸

“This convincing power of the Spirit” ⁹

Accompanies us “AS A CO-WITNESS” to what we discern. ¹⁰

The FIFTH stage of this wondrous grace-journey

Is communicated, ordinarily, BY WAY OF SPIRITUAL EMPATHY.

Here, we allow our deep emotions – the movements of our heart

To colour and energize our Spirit-led discerning.

By having our consciousness, and sub-consciousness harmonize with Christ’s,

We allow the Spirit to form a spiritual EMPATHY with Christ

So Christ’s deep emotions INFUSE ours

... Often in a Eucharistic context.

*The SIXTH stage of this wondrous grace-journey,
Is communicated, ordinarily, BY AN OPENNESS TO MYSTERY.
Here, the whole Mystery that is the Trinity, seeks to encompass our discerning.
Father, Son and Spirit reveal Their eagerness, for us to be at ease in their Presence
... Gifting us with imagery, and especially SYMBOLS – as entries into the Divine Presence.
Truly, in this way, “the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory,
... Himself, fills us with Spirit of wisdom and PERCEPTION.”¹¹
Often, the Eucharist is the most wondrous of these SYMBOLS, given.*

*The SEVENTH and ULTIMATE stage of this journey into UNION
Is communicated, ordinarily and wondrously, BY COMMUNING IN THE PASCHAL MYSTERY.
Here, the Luminous Mystery ENCOMPASSING us, reveals itself as the Paschal Mystery.
... Centered IN THE PERSON of the Divinely Human, Ascended Jesus
– Who surrenders our HUMANITY onto full UNION with the DIVINE,
Into the enrapturous Embrace of the Most Loving of Fathers
Who breathes forth the Spirit of Love into us, IN Christ
... So we “are filled with the utter fullness of God.”¹²
... So that our whole being resonates wholly,
With what Abba, Jesus, and the Spirit desire !*

1 Poem 945, Year 11 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, April 2009.

2 Acts 6:10 3 Phil 2:5 4 Rom 8:26 N.R.S.V. 5 IBID N.A.B. 6 IBID J.B. 7 Rom 8:14 J.B. 8 Col 1:29 N.A.B.

9 1Cor 2:14 N.A.B. 10 Acts 5:32 and Rom 8:16 11 Eph 1:17 12 Eph 3:19

All That I Have Is Yours ¹

O Abba, Jesus, and Loyce ²

In Your Eternal Moment,

Each of You breathes forth the prayer –

“All that I have is Yours !” ³

But Wonder of Wonders !

This outpouring of Your Being to Each Other

Is pledged in the same way

To US !

... Because, Abba,

“We receive, from You, the SPIRIT of YOUR SON”. ⁴

This Spirit CHRISTENS, our hearts, so lovingly,

Revitalizing every pulse of our Life, IN Christ, so tenderly

... That every drop of the LIFEBLOOD we share with Christ

Is channelled to its DESTINY

– So we become “fully mature with the fullness of Christ Himself”. ⁵

Yet, even more wondrously, Abba,

Through Your Spirit, You replicate is us :

... The very goodness of Your Beloved’s heart !

... The radiant Light of His mind !

... The Divine Beauty of His spirit !

*Together, we are so attractive to You,
That You choose to relate to us, IN HIM,
AS HE IS, within the Divine Fellowship
... Wherein, O Abba, Jesus, and Loyce,
You enrapture us with Your pledge –
“All that WE have is yours !”⁶*

1 Poem 946, Year 11 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, April 2009.

2 My favourite name for the Spirit – from LOVE, JOY, PEACE (LOYCEE)

3 Lk 15:31

4 Cf. Rom 8:15 (see also Col 1:29 N.A.B.)

5 Eph 4:13

6 Cf. Lk 15:31

Impetus to Fellowship ¹

O *Loving Spirit*,
It is *You, Yourself*,
Who daily causes to blossom, and to bear fruit in our lives,
Every *impetus*
Towards goodness, towards truth, and towards beauty
... *And THUS, towards Fellowship.*

In so doing, You urge us
Ever to hold close to our hearts ...

These counsels –
‘Wherever there’s good,
God ACTS;
Wherever you find truth,
Know you MEET God;
Wherever you sense beauty,
ENJOY your God!’ ²

O *Loving Spirit*,
Because it is You who ENABLE this Divine Fellowship of Love, within us,
Our hearts overflow with thanks
That it is this same wondrous Fellowship
... That is both the SEED and the FRUIT
For all the goodness, the truth, and the beauty
That GRACE our lives !

¹ Poem 947, Year 11 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, April 2009.

² These three couplets are from the author’s earlier writings – in the 1980’s

We're Yours * ¹

(Abba, Jesus and Loyce sing :)

*1st Stanza We're Yours, We're Yours, O Christian
Together in our Loyce
... Together, forever, together We're One !*

(We, AS JESUS, sing :)

*2nd Stanza You're ours, You're ours, O Abba
Together in our Loyce
... Together, forever, together We're One !*

(Abba, Jesus and Loyce sing :)

*3rd StanzaWe're Abba, Jesus, Loyce ...
Each ... 'Loved' and 'Love' and 'Lover' !
Together, forever, together WE'RE ONE !*

* Meant to be sung : TUNE – “Easter Parade” (refrain).

Spirit, Soul, and Body ¹

The Son of God's, and humankind's SOULS

Firstly, animate and enable

– What is sensory in their humanity

(Including their sensory emotions, imagery, and memory)

– What is vegetative in their humanity,

–What is inanimate in their humanity,

And, by extension ...

Become forever linked

To all that is sensory, vegetative and inanimate

In OUR universe.

Thus, our DYNAMICLY ACTIVE souls

FORGE links, ultimately, to all modes of stardust, to all that lives,

And, at one time, to our ancestral hominids.

The Son of God's, and humankind's specifically SPIRITUAL souls

Animate and enable

Human intellect, human willpower and human imagination,

And ELEVATE the functioning

Of human emotions, human imagery and human memory.

The ongoing effect is that all these six higher powers

Become ever more integrative and radiant aspects

Of their SPIRIT !

All of a WISE human person's POWERS

Are gradually ENERGIZED INTO A WHOLE

By one's spiritual soul.

Significantly,
The SUM of all that is spiritual, within ALL of us,
OPENS US to a possible radical sharing,
TO COMMUNING –
As a unified RACE of persons !
Even at the sensory level of being
We ... individually, and together ... SUM UP
All that is sensory, vegetative, and inanimate in the universe.
We do so, in a much more ELEVATED
And specifically spiritual manner
... As EN-SPIRITED persons.

Surpassing ALL THIS
... Let us honour the reality
Of God's Genesis INTENT –
'Let US make humankind in our IMAGE,
According to our LIKENESS". ²
And, in faith, let us join with St Paul in acknowledging
That the Father created the whole of creation through Jesus Christ
... "Through whom all things come, and THROUGH WHOM WE EXIST !" ³
Both of these realities radiantly point
To the SOURCE OF OUR IDENTITY as flowing
From the Divine, through Jesus.
Thus, what is of the earth, "humus", and thus HUMAN,
Is uniquely linked to GOD IN JESUS !

*Thus, AS human beings,
Wondrously adopted and divinized in the Ascended Christ
We share –
In Christ's continuity-in-being with all creation
... Especially in His enabling kinship with all humanity.
We also share in Christ's Presence as the FOCUS OF CREATION
... And as the FOCUS of, and for, humanity
... Indeed, as humanity's DESTINY!*

*Thus, IN Christ,
–Sharing in His elevated and divinized humanity –
Our destiny, and duty, is identical with HIS :
... To gather in, to uplift, to love our fellow humans
INTO UNITY,
... To co-create relationships within humanity
Through the SPIRIT-WHO-ENLIVENS-US,
IN Christ,
To the Glory of OUR FATHERING GOD !*

*Wondrously it is two very human EMOTIONS
–Of LOVE, and of FEELING FREE
That are integral to both Jesus', and divinized humankind's,
Very relationship to the Father and the Spirit
Within the Trinity !*

1 Poem 949, Year 11 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, June 2009.

2 Gen 1:26 (N.R.S.V.) 3 1Cor 8:6

Only God Can Forgive ¹

*Of ourselves, as humans beings,
Neither sinew, nor spirit
Can turn us back to God :
Adrift in guile, we hunger for healing.*

It is ONLY

*The boundless loving-kindness of Jesus
– Wondrously mirroring His Loving Father’s –
That can draw from us
The choice to change ...
Those tears of sorrow
We come to feel
From wounding Him
... IN His kin, and in ourselves.*

*This sorrow gently draws our estranged spirits
Into the transformative crucifixion of His own spirit
... Re-opening our hearts
To Abba’s Easter Sunrise with in Jesus’ heart
... Bathing us, sinners and our victims TOGETHER,
In His Son’s re-creative Easter Light of Love !*

To ANCHOR
Our consciousness
Of our spiritual RESURRECTION
—Of this restoration of COMMUNION within those graced—
Abba, moves us, through His Spirit,
To involve ourselves in the Church's SACRAMENT of Reconciliation.
This confirms for us
That, truly, “Only God CAN forgive”,²
And that OUR forgiveness of each other
Flows directly from the ENABLING HEART OF GOD.

Bolstered by the GRACE of Reconciliation,
We also can acknowledge that forgiveness, RECEIVED from another,
Is truly ABBA'S GIFT,
Given to humankind IN Christ ...
For us to share :
“Whose sins you shall forgive, they are FORGIVEN”.³

1 Poem 950, Year 11 of Prayer Ministry Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, June 2009.

2 Lk 5:21

3 Jn 20:23.

Taken, Blest, Broken, and Shared ¹

*Eucharistic Jesus,
Lead us, each day
To where YOUR Body
Waits*

*... To be TAKEN
... To be BLESSED
... To be BROKEN
... To be SHARED....²*

We too consume, become, and ARE THAT BODY !

*“To be TAKEN”...
Is to be INVITED by Eternity’s Paschal Jesus,
To JOIN Him, to be adopted as His brothers and sisters,
To be IN-GATHERED, into His Eucharistic Person
—So that, our spirits indwell His, AS His indwells ours
Becoming one with His many-personed “New Humanity,” ³
Indwelling each other, in Him ... “members one of another”. ⁴*

“To be BLEST”...

Is to be welcomed by Christ, made to feel at home with Him,

And, when needs be, as we suffer, as we feel guilt ...

To be able to spiritually experience His Sacrifice FOR US,

Learning to VALUE suffering – ours and others – as He did

–So that, we feel PERSONALLY BLEST by Him

... By being drawn into the focus of His care

... Be being drawn into the embrace of His compassion

–And, most especially, feel blest

... As we are RAISED to a sinless, revitalized future IN Him !

... And as we CO-ASCEND with Him, to Abba’s Eternal Embrace !

“To be BROKEN”...

Is IN the Ascended Jesus, TO BE OPENED

–To the Spirit of Truth and Life, whom Jesus receives, FOR US,

–To welcome THIS IN-BREAKING OF THE SPIRIT,

Just as the disciples did, in the Upper Room, on Pentecost Day,

... Recognizing, in the Presence of the Spirit,

The continuing ACCOMPANIMENT OF JESUS, “Their Lord and their God”! ⁵

“To be SHARED”...

Is most mysteriously, TO SENSE

That, in receiving Jesus’ Eucharistic Body,

... Thus, more fully, becoming the Body

Of His “New Humanity”...⁶

We are IMPELLED by Christ’s self-same love :

–To share, immediately, this Greatest of Gifts,

His Divine Presence within us, WITH OTHERS ;

–And to allow one’s own DIVINELY TRANSFORMED Life

... To light up the lives of others,

... To allow the Flame of the Spirit within

to ignite and transform the spirits of others,

... To radiate Easter’s Mystery of Presence to others

Wherein “Heart speaks to heart”⁷

... And thus, TO BE CHRIST to each other.

Thus to be TAKEN, BLESSED, BROKEN and SHARED

Is to BE EUCHARIST

... Not only to each other, and to creation,

But to be Eucharist TO ABBA

–To en-Spirit humanity’s ‘THANK-YOU’

In Christ, to Abba !

1 Poem 951, Year 11 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, June 2009.

2 Cf Mt 26:26 3 Eph 2:15 (N.R.S.V.) 4 Rom 12:5 (N.R.S.V.) 5 Cf Jn 20:28

6 Eph 2:15 (N.R.S.V.) 7 Bl John Henry Newman.

Drawn into the Heart of Equality ¹

Jesus walked among us as another man

—As an EQUAL !

Yet, AS GOD, He can never ever be JUST ANOTHER !

STILL,

In a depthless and utterly transcendent manner,

God's Wondrous Mystery of Love

Draws us, IN Christ, into THE EQUALITY

Within-the-Trinity !

... By raising us up, TO BE GODLIKE,

IN the Beloved Son !

Thus, Abba's ADOPTION for us, through the Spirit,

Introduces us, IN THE EQUAL ONE,

Into the Trinity

—Into the Heart of Equality !

It is our being UPLIFTED

Into this Fellowship of Equality

Which ensures

The true equality of our compassion,

And of our care of ALL, REGARDLESS

It is our graced sharing in this equality,

That also ENABLES distributive justice BASED ON EQUALITY

—To each, according to one's NEEDS —

To be so lovingly pursued, IN Christ.

Yet, best of all ...

It is this equality we experience, IN Christ,

Which directly ENABLES our love of enemies

—AS EQUALS—

To flourish !

... Mirroring Jesus' love for ALL sinners, on Calvary.

Offer No Resistance to One Who Is Evil ¹

*Can these words of Jesus truly mean ²
That on registering the pain of another's wounding behaviour,
We offer that person, if he is INTENT on evil,
No resistance to wounding us again ?*

*Jesus' teaching is not only
Counter-common sense and counter-intuitive,
But counter-worldly
... A true Calvary stance,
Espousable only by faith-filled disciples !*

*Jesus does NOT teach us
"Not to resist" EVIL-AS-SUCH
– Institutional, systemic, societal wickedness –
But, very specifically,
'To offer no resistance to ONE-WHO-IS-EVIL'.
Jesus' focus is on the person ...
His eyes rest upon the wounding one,
As ONE-TO-BE-HEALED.
Jesus' desire is for a change of heart within the person.*

*As the Wounded One, Jesus' response
Is not to entrench the person's aggression
nor to deepen the person's wilfulness
nor to be a resistant target
But to be a NON-RESISTANT target !*

*This is not to say – 'Be a RECEPTIVE target !'
Crucially, Jesus' response, in thus being a NOT-UNWILLING target,
Is not by way of AGREEING,
Nor by way of DISAGREEING,
But, THROUGH SILENCE
... Accepting the pain,
Without protest, without reservation
With a meek attitude
... Humble in heart,
Loving in spirit.*

*Through silence, He silences the argumentative,
Through meekness, He gentles the Spiteful spirit,
Through humility, He lets the other's pride diffuse,
Through love, He invites the other to change.*

*Through accepting pain, He becomes an obvious witness
To evil's true effects.*

*Through non-resisting ... as a continuing target,
He undercuts the cascading effects of the use of force,
But, at the same time, acts as a CIRCUIT-BREAKER.*

*Through silence-in-pain, He invites the wounding one to re-consider,
—Because he is visibly, NOT achieving his purpose ...
Of lowering his victim's self-esteem, or of disempowering him.
Through offering no resistance, He quietly, gently EXPOSES
The other's false self-worth, and false self-empowerment
... Hopefully moving him to a NEW self-assessment,
CO-ENABLED by the activity of the Spirit,
On a now more sensitized conscience.*

*Ultimately, this stance of silent non-resistance
—Wedded to faithful love of one's 'enemies' —
Brings about, firstly, compliance to the call
To lay aside the use of force,
And then, crucially to espouse LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE
... For both the once perpetrator, and the once victim.*

*This Peace of the Spirit
Comes to rest within the heart
Of the wounding one,
A PEACE which overflows, continually,
From the ever-open heart
Of the Wounded One ...
“My peace I leave with you, my own peace I give to you ;
A peace the world cannot give : this is my gift to you.”²*

1 Poem 953, Year 11 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, June 2009.

2 Jn 14:27

Deep Calls to Deep ¹

Our Father God
Is not only One-Who-Calls
– Constantly inviting us to COMMUNE with Him –
But is the ONE
Who fathers OUR response
As sons, as daughters,
In our Brother God.

Through the Spirit God,
Abba fashions us to be deeply receptive
... Welcoming hearts
... As ‘resonances’ wherein His Living Word
AMPLIFIES Abba’s Reality within us.

As WE thus echo Abba’s Heart-Song
These deepening calls of the Father,
Awake in us a Son’s response
... Love evoking Love
– Truly, “Deep calling to Deep”! ²

Therein, are our hearts CHRISTENED
... Deluged with Abba's flow of affection
– His cascades of delight in us
EASTERING our spirits,
Configuring us to the Person
Of His Paschal Beloved !

Watching and Waiting, in Silence and Stillness ¹

*As Jesus longs for, yearns for,
Abba's Empowering Presence,
Post-Calvary, from the Abode of the Dead ...
He WATCHES and He WAITS,
As the Spirit readies His aching faith-filled heart,
That KNOWS Abba will reveal His Enlivening Presence !*

*Exhilaratingly, joy arrives with the Easter Dawn ...
With Abba's REVITALIZING LIFE TRANSFORMING ALL HUMANITY, IN HIS !
Still ... the Father's Loving Face and sensed Presence are withheld.
As Jesus Risen's longing for FULL COMMUNION, deepens,
The Spirit GUIDES Jesus' ever-faithful heart
– As He does ours, in prayer, or within Eucharist –
Firstly, into an alert time of WATCHING,
And then, within this,
Into a patient period of WAITING.
Thus, for us, this Easter morning phase of prayer or longing
Is co-experiencing, with Jesus Risen
... Both watching for Abba, and waiting for Abba.*

Paschally, to watch-with-Jesus, is to express our FAITH :
... Lovingly pre-supposing Abba's Enlivening Presence,
... Lovingly pre-supposing Abba's Yearning FOR US.
Paschally, to WAIT-WITH-JESUS, is to express our HOPE :

Yearning, for Abba's APPEARING !

Yearning, for Abba's offer of His Embrace !

... To "set our hope on the living God", ²

Waiting upon LOVE'S TIMING ...

Then, our first graced 'sighting' of Abba,
Sees us swept up, that Easter Noon, with Jesus ³
... Ascending into the arms of Abba ! Into the EMBRACE OF PURE JOY !

In Jesus, we experience Love's Face REVEALING ITSELF

To our RESPONDENTLY HUMAN BROTHER !

The Ascended Easter Jesus' initial JOY deepens ⁴

With Abba's own deepening Embrace

... Revealing itself in SILENCE

–The silence of DEEP COMMUNION ... of Both, as One

This SILENCE not only readies Jesus Ascended for God's love ;

It is, itself, the EXPERIENCE OF TRANSCENDENT DIVINE LOVE !

This silence of the Paschal communing of Abba and Jesus

Itself, DEEPENS into STILLNESS

–The Spirit of Love’s deepest gift, within UNION.

Thus, for us to be gifted with this stillness

... In a Passover-prayer experience with Jesus ...

Is to be drawn into the heart

Of the Circle of Trinitarian Love :

... Breathing IN with Jesus, the Spirit of Abba’s Love

... Breathing FORTH, with Jesus, the Spirit of Jesus’ Love for Abba.

Thus ...

To WATCH, is to express our FAITH,

To WAIT, is to express our HOPE,

TO BE SILENT, is to experience DEEP LOVE,

TO BE STILL, is to experience THE DEEPEST LOVE

... Breathing through Love’s universe of hearts, IN Christ,

... Breathing through Love’s Trinitarian Communion.

1 Poem 955, 8 Day Retreat, Blue Mountains, July 2009, Day 2.

2 1Tim 4:10

3 Jn 20:17

4 IBID.

Dancing Fellowship of Love ¹

*Flush with excitement,
Buoyed up by "The Melody of Life Within",
Abba's eager heart
Pounds with joy
As each of us prodigals
Is swept up
To join in His Dancing Fellowship of Love ! ²*

*Caught up in the swirl of the Spirit
– At the exultant homecoming of Jesus –
Freedom dances in our spirits
As we who are IN Jesus,
Circle in time, with Abba's dancing eyes !*

*O Abba, You reach out to Your Beloved !
And, as You press US, IN HIM,
To Your yearning heart,
Our spirits ... spin
– Exulting, in the exhilaration of Your Love !*

Then, we whirl outwards
Spiralling in the joy of ecstasy
–The ec-stasy of sur-rendering all we are
... With Paschal abandon !
All Love ! All Glory !
To You Abba
–The Epicentre of all dancing hearts !

In the rapturous rhythm
Of the Song, “Mutual Loving”
– ‘Giving and Receiving ... Receiving and Giving’ –
A joyous Light wells up within us
... Suffusing all with Peace.

1 Poem 956, 8 Day Retreat, Blue Mountains, July 2009, Day 3.

2 Otherwise ... The Circle of Love or The Dance of Love – from the ‘PERI CHORESIS’ (the dancing around) of the Church Fathers.

Touching the Pulsating Heart of God ¹

(Jesus, facing Thomas :)

“Give me your hand, and put it into my side ...” ²

With these words,

Jesus eased the tunic off His left shoulder,

And lowered it to His hip.

Thomas fell to his knees

... Shaking ...

Readying the fingers of his right hand to obey,

And raising his left arm to Jesus’ right arm

... Seeking SUPPORT for the trembling

That now vibrated his whole frame !

Jesus “at once reached down” ...³

To steady and calm his friend.

Then bending, He whispered lovingly –

“Come. Be the first to enter this OPEN WOUND

Which Abba uses

To lavish His love upon our People.

So through this entry to my heart,

Abba welcomes their love – through yours – in return.

And fear not, Tom, to cause me any pain,

... For raised up by Abba,

Pain touches me no more

... Gently now ...”

*In response, Tom pressed his tremulous fingers
Between the two welts of bright red flesh
Forming the edges of the gashing wound,
Just below Jesus' left rib-cage.
Then ... as his fingers slowly, gently
Entered the wound,
He bit his lip !
And the bright crimson of blood glazed both of Tom's lips
... As if in empathy ...*

*The cavity within, warmed Tom's fingertips ...
Hesitating, he looked up
– Into the welcoming eyes of Jesus
Who, gently nodded as He whispered “Deeper, Tom.”
CALM now ... Tom edged his fingers forward
And upwards ... !
This Spirit-space seemed limitless ... !
Then ... upwards some more !
UPWARDS towards the HEART ... !*

*At this point, Tom felt OVERWHELMED ...
Feeling he was being drawn, breathtakingly ...
Into Jesus' own intimate MOVEMENT of HIS Spirit
To Abba
–ALIVE within HIS heart !
This time, Tom's eyes rested on the wound itself
... As Jesus, very gently squeezed Tom's left shoulder
To coax him on ... “Deeper” ...*

Now his fingertips seemed DRAWN forward

... To an intenser warmth

And, as he breathed more deeply,

He seemed to breathe in

A FREEING LIGHT within ...

THEN,

By way of sheer Gift ...

His middle three fingers

Were suddenly CRADLING

–The pulsating heart of God !

Pulsing OUT ...

Drawing IN ...

Pulsing OUT ...

Drawing IN ...

Tom's whole being was Spirit-filled :

–Firstly with TERROR !

Then AWE !

Then, surpassingly, flooded with LOVE !

Then the Spirit,
Suffusing Tom's mind with marvellous IN-SIGHT,
Allowed him to SENSE
... Somehow, wondrously, with many others :
That ...
HERE, NOW,
Within Jesus' Risen Heart,
our ABBA GOD WEDS our BROTHER GOD
WITHIN –
Our ENABLING GOD ...

Tom's joy was at bursting point !
... Such that,
As the Spirit of Love withdrew his fingers ...
Tom, struggling to his feet,
Touches his own forehead
Onto Jesus' bare chest
Onto His Heart beating within,
And, with a whisper that FILLS the room,
And that resonates within history's willing hearts
–As it did within Mary's and the disciples' –
Gasps ... MY LORD ! MY GOD !

Later

... Days, weeks, months, years

Later,

As Tom lives out the Deep Reality,

Of this Holiest of Encounters,

He frequently prays this prayer FOR ALL

... As we ourselves can humbly pray, with him :

“Here ! Now !

WITHIN JESUS’ Paschal Heart,

Nothing is impossible ! All is possible !

Here ... God weds humanity IN the Ascended Jesus

Here ... we are reborn in God !

Here ... we become God’s Family

–Abba becoming our Father

–Jesus becoming our Brother

–Loyce, our Family Enabler ⁴

Here ... Their Fellowship becomes ours !

Here ... Each Person’s sacrifice-of-self for the Other, ours !

Here ... Their Paschal Glory, ours !

Here ... Their Eternal Love, ours

... Such that,

Within this Heart of Jesus,

Their Wondrous Eternal Moment

Is now measured, in human HEARTBEATS IN TIME !

AMEN! ”

When WE, like Tom, touch the Heart of God, IN Eucharist,

We are plunged –

Into the heart of God's people !

Into the heart of the Paschal Mystery !

Into the heart of Eternal Fellowship

... "My Lord ! My God !"

1 Poem 957, 8 Day Retreat, Blue Mountains, July 2009, Day 4.

2 Jn 20:27

3 Cf Mt 14:31

4 My familiar name for the Spirit.

Beloved, Lover, and Love : One ¹

‘Leaning back on Jesus’s breast ...’ ²

John then inclined his head upwards :

Here, Jesus’ soft gaze welcomed his

... Drawing John gently WITHIN.

Jesus, knowing Abba is “wholehearted, to those who are wholehearted” ³

Held John’s gaze in SILENCE

... A silence He did not seek to disturb ...

For He knew that those who hunger for silence

Like His young friend –

HEAR THE HEARTBEAT OF GOD ...

John, with his ear, already above Jesus’ heart,

Heard, not words from his ‘Rabbouni’,

But HIS HEARTBEAT.

–The rhythmic beat of the heart

Of the One who loved him

... Drawing him into ITS RHYTHM.

Like John,

OUR very desire for union with Jesus

DRAWS US

To the Beloved

... So Beloved, Lover, and Love

Become one !

Then Jesus, still silent
–The wordless Word of God –
Closed His eyes
And whispered to John, several encouragements
... Ending with
‘In Abba, ALL become ONE’.

Years later, in the Eastertide of John’s life,
The Spirit brought this experience

ALIVE AGAIN

Within John’s peace-filled spirit

... Again, the head

... Again the breast

... Again, Rabbouni’s silent wisdom :

... ‘To you, who open your heart to the poor, ⁴

I will open My Heart.’

... ‘To you, who seek to make OTHERS,

The centre of your life,

I will be your centre,

Your heart’s HEART.

... *'Truly, the heart of Fellowship*

Is not found in the MANY,

But in the ONE

Who alone, is the Heart of all hearts.'

... *'In giving your heart to others,*

Know that – within you,

Will beat the very Heart of God !'

... *'To you who seek wisdom,*

Listen to Abba's response :

"Come closer, and kiss me, my son."'' ⁵

... *And again ... 'In Abba, all become one.'*

1 Poem 958, 8 Day Retreat, Blue Mountains, July 2009, Day 5.

2 Jn 13:26

3 Ps 18:26 (N.A.B.)

4 Cf 1Jn 3:17

5 Gen 27:26 – Isaac's words to Jacob.

Love's Gift of Empathy ¹

*The best of husbands are responsive
To the very body language
Of their wives.
They develop an instinctive feel
For her short-term emotional shifts,
And for her deeper human needs,
Because ... they CARE.*

*Such empathy is Divine Love's own special gift
To those whose hearts serve Love.
They become ATTENTIVE
To every desire,
To every movement of Love's Heart.*

*They become SENSITIVE, through the promptings of the Spirit,
To Love's gentlest RESONANCES, within others.
Indeed, their lives enshrine Love's sensed WILL ...
So that their very being, resonates in harmony with Love !*

But, in the service of FAILING human nature, ...

This empathy, gracing the hearts of Love's servants,

Is, like Jesus' ... repeatedly TESTED :

Many whom they serve –

Fail to appreciate them ...

Take them for granted ...

Studiously ignore them ...

Relegate them to the margins ...

Even actively distancing themselves.

Yet Love's servants KNOW –

That those who undervalue their gifts

Fail, so often, to value THEIR OWN gifts

... Failing to give such gifts the graced space and time

Needed to enhance their own lives and relationships.

However, these servants, by “turning the other cheek,” ²

–Offering no resistance to such indifference –

Pray always to ‘Let all hearts CHANGE’

And pray to Abba, to stretch others' spirits

To be ever more inclusive, IN CHRIST !

These servants of Love, through this process, are DRAWN
... To give a warm welcome to their own weaknesses
... And to regard others' indifference as a daily CALL TO LOVE.

Indeed, Divine Love,
In response to their continual attentiveness to others,
Draws them, ever more deeply, to appreciate ...
Their own need of God, their own need of Love.
Love's Spirit prompts them to PRAY, especially,
For "the peace of God ... to guard their hearts",³
For though their words are unheeded ...
Their deeds, unheralded ...
"Still, their MUSIC goes out to all the earth,
And their words, to the end of the world!"⁴

For them, Love's love will OVERFLOW :
"On their wedding night
— From within THE EVER-RECURRING GRACE OF COMMUNION —
They will sing Love's song
And celebrate the Dance of Life!"⁵

Because,
Their Fellowship is with every movement of love
... Such that the deeply expectant hearts of humanity,
Resonate to the PRESENCE within their spirits
... Though, all be hidden from human eyes.

1 Poem 959, 8 Day Retreat, Blue Mountains, July 2009, Day 5.

2 Mt 5:39

3 Phil 4:7

4 Ps 19:4 (Nan C, Merrill)

5 Ps 19:5 (Nan C. Merrill)

