

Folio Fifty

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The Contemplative Evangelist ¹

To contemplate is to evangelize :

For to contemplate Love's Mystery

– Is to proclaim Christ Crucified

Risen and Ascended,

– Is to be “lifted up” ²

... Beyond self-emptying, beyond death to one's self

... Beyond that aching, bodily, yearning for the Divine,

Lifted up into UNION !

It is to be drawn, with fatherly tenderness,

To the heart of Reality,

To the Heart that sustains all hearts.

It is there ... to be ENRAPTURED,

... To breathe WITHIN, the Spirit of Divine Self-Giving !

It is thus, to be TOGETHERED in the Spirit.

It is, to breathe FORTH this same Spirit of Divine Self-Giving

–Being MISSIONED as ‘Good News’

... Proclaiming Jesus Ascended to our universe !

It is to become enfleshed within humanity's history

Unfolding in and WITH Christ

The LOCUS of our contemplation

Of the Father !

1 Poem 980, Year 12 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, January 2010.

2 Jn 3:15 (N.R.S.V.)

Evolution's Life-Force ¹

*The only POWER that can COUNTER
Both the natural law of entropic decline for humanity
– With its tendency to disintegration and to depersonalisation –
And the deforming destructiveness of original sin
– Our willed communal death urge –
Is LOVE !*

*Yet, surpassing human love
– Cradling it WITHIN –
Is Jesus Christ's own Fellowship of Divine Love .
This is the Life-force
For the SPIRITUAL EVOLUTION of humanity :
... Banishing its tendency to spiritual death,
... Re-generating humanity at its core,
... Vivifying it with Divine Possibility,
That is, with the transformative Embrace of the Divine
– Humanity's true evolutionary destiny !*

*This Divine Love, offered to us, IN Christ,
As the evolutionary Life-force of our cosmos,
Seeks out, and ENABLES –*

What integrates over disintegration

*The purposeful over the chaotic
The life-giving over the materialistic
The reasonable over the mindless
The creative over the apathetic
The thoughtful over the instinctive
The relational over the disconnected
Commitment over aimlessness
Community over individualism
Spiritual surrender over self-absorption.*

*Thus, Jesus' invitation to Divine Love's Empowering
Is, for us,*

Not only humanity's answer to natural entropy

But also, as a Divinely Gifted Love,

TRANSFORMATIVE of the human spirit

... Re-orientating its focus

... Galvanizing its very heart

– Causing it to evolve

Within the Embrace of the Divine Family !

In Christ – Our Needs Are Nil ¹

When we are TRULY in God's Presence,

NO need of ours goes unfulfilled

—Because, with GOD Present,

Our needs are NIL :

God's Presence is ALL !

BEING NEEDY cannot continue, for those OPEN TO God's Presence !

To truly be thus, in God's Presence, is to face

Everyday incompleteness, mundane disjointedness

With the certainty of FAITH

... With a radical openness of spirit !

It is to acknowledge that God is PRESENT

As the DIRECT cause

Of all that fulfils our "new humanity" in Christ ! ²

Yet, it is not faith that RENDERS God present ;

Rather God's Presence galvanizes faith

—To rejoice, anew, in the One already, always PRESENT.

Nor is it ever a matter of God being

'More' or 'less' or 'fully' present :

It is WE who are not present to God !

It is WE who are in need ... of FAITH !

Some cling to the self-generated mind-set
... *Of ever needing to be needy,*
... *Of there being always more questions than answers,*
... *Of perennially postponing the decision to radically* DEPEND *on God.*

These never quite arrive at the point
Of simply, single-heartedly
– *Like Jesus in His death throes,*
Like a child blinded by smoke in a tower of flames –
CASTING THEMSELVES into the arms of an UNSEEN Abba or father,

... CONFIDENTLY CERTAIN
I will be caught !
... *Caught, and SWEPT UP*
Into a FATHER'S joyfully tearful embrace !

Would such a Dad, as Abba,
Ever leave us stranded, and needful ?
Simply, NEVER !
Faith's INSTINCTIVE CERTAINTY
ALWAYS sees us deluged with Divine Affection,
ALWAYS sees God as desiring us to be "a single being in CHRIST" ³
– *Abba's "new creation" ⁴*

... *For whom the chimera of 'indirect causes' means little,*
... *And who AS the Beloved, has eyes only for Abba*

Who is "ALL IN ALL"
– *Thereby fulfilling our every conceivable NEED !*

*There is no need that can compare
To our primal NEED FOR GOD,
And its FULFILMENT, in Christ
– In whom, “man restores to man”⁵*

Fellowship with God !

Will Abba not always fulfil our LESSER needs ?

In answer, Jesus Himself affirms us –

“Do NOT WORRY about your life,

What you will eat, or what you will drink,

Or about your body, what you will wear

... Can any of you, by worrying,

Add a single hour to your span of life ?

... Strive first for the Kingdom of God ...

And all these things WILL BE GIVEN to you as well.”

1 Poem 982, Year 12 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, February 2010.

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

3 Rom 6:5

4 2Cor 5:17

5 Preface for Christmas Mass

6 Mt 6:25, 27, 33

Galvanized Hearts ! ¹

(We responding to the Spirit's challenge to FORGIVE all others :) ²

*O Spirit of Forgiveness,
Transcending our every desire for vengeance,
Galvanize our hurting hearts
– With Your healing grace of HUMILITY
– Your empowering fire of COURAGE
– Your encompassing blessing of PEACE-MAKING.*

*... So, graced with healing HUMILITY –
May our bodies REJOICE in being brought together, in Christ,
in His Glorified Body ;
May our hearts EXULT in being graced to forgive ...
as we have been forgiven ;
May our spirits CELEBRATE in being uplifted by the Spirit of Freedom,
so as to free others, in this same Spirit !*

*... So, empowered by COURAGE –
May our bodies BE REVITALIZED by this experience of mutual care ;
May our hearts BE RE-ORIENTATED through the gift of attributing
only good motivations to others ;
May our spirits BE RENEWED through the gift of a new love for our 'enemies'.*

*... So, encompassed with the blessings of PEACE-MAKING –
May our bodies HONOUR both the forgivers and the forgiven ;
May our hearts GIVE THANKS that God's forgiving Love has become our own ;
May our spirits, TRANSFORMED by the Spirit of Unity, bless Him who draws all
into the Mystery of Fellowship .*

Glory to Abba, Jesus Ascended, and the Spirit – the God of Forgiveness !

1 Poem 983, Marian Valley monthly retreat, February 2010, Day 2.

2 Personally, for my forgiving a person, for his betrayal of me.

Open Us ¹

O Father of Love,

Open us

– Together –

To the empowering intimacy ...

The joy-filled communion ...

The overflowing peacefulness ...

Of the Love

Between You and Your Beloved

... En-Spiriting

All.

¹ Poem 984, Marian Valley monthly retreat, February 2010, Day 3.

Our Inner and Outer Worlds Unite ¹

In Christ Jesus ...

Our outer world both REVEALS

And is the LOCUS for our LIVING OUT

Our inner world of grace

... While the Church, in serving others,

LIVES OUT our mystical communion within.

Often, when we enter a church,

We journey into the SANCTUM of our spirits within.

Also, when we visibly gather with our Church community,

We can co-experience Christ's INGATHERING, in our spirits' depths.

Further, when we listen together, to the Word of Love, read in Church,

We are opened, within, to the Loving Voice of Mystery.

When we offer the Eucharistic Sacrifice, as God's People,

We are "given up" with the Beloved, deep WITHIN, in His surrender to Abba. ²

Indeed, through baptism's grace INCORPORATING us into Christ,

What is sacramentalized, AS SACRIFICE, before our eyes,

Becomes, within our spirits, the self-surrender of our lives, in Christ

– To the very Father of Love who CENTERS OUR SPIRITS !

What a wondrous Mystery !

*Because the Eucharist is an EXCHANGE in Christ, between Abba and His People,
Our Ascent with Christ, to God
– Paschal Body and Blood, separately offered up, in each Consecration –
Becomes ITSELF the very Acceptance of Christ, by God!
... The EXCHANGE being given final expression in the People's 'Great Amen!'*

*Then, our Abba, to whom we pray the 'Our Father',
Responds by BREATHING His Son's Spirit of Peace
Into us ... "My Peace I leave with you"³
–Therein UNITING our inner world to our outer world,
Fusing our COMMUNION within, with our COMMUNION without
–Sacramentalized, by our consuming the Beloved's Body,
And drinking of His Body's Life-Blood
... The Body of All-who-believe!*

1 Poem 985, Year 12 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, March 2010.

2 Words from the words of Consecration in the Eucharist. 3 Jn 14:27

Ever More Revealing Yourself ¹

Dearest Abba,
EVERY time You open OUR hearts
To Your Love's embrace,
You REVEAL
Ever more of Yourself.
Yes ! Every encounter with You is REVELATORY.
Thus, for those moved by faith –
Every Eucharist is a Revelation !
Every washing of another's feet, a Revelation !
Every resonating of Your Word in our hearts, a Revelation !
Every experience of fellowship, a Revelation !

Indeed, WHENEVER we are encompassed by Mystery
You UNVEIL to the faith-filled –
Ever more of Yourself !
Ever more of ourselves !
Ever more of others !
Truly, Your Presence ever more enlightens
Who WE ARE TOGETHER,
And how we can COMMUNICATE this experience more deeply
... So that every graced human encounter reveals Your Glory !

*In these Divine DISCLOSURES, O Loving Abba,
Your revelations diffuse our whole experience :
... Bidding us “Listen to my voice”,²
... Uncovering Your Face to us,
... Inviting us to “Taste and see the goodness of God”,³
... And galvanizes our SPIRITS to experience Fellowship !*

*Such self-disclosures draw us to RECIPROCATE Your deep yearnings for us
... So that Your sentiments BECOME OURS :
“Come then my Love, my Lovely One come !
... Show me Your Face, let me hear Your Voice,
For Your Voice is sweet
And Your Face is beautiful !”⁴*

*Abba, within this Fellowship experience,
Your PRIMARY REVELATION
Is always Your Beloved Son, Jesus
... “This is My Son, the Beloved.
Listen to Him.”⁵*

It is through Jesus wondrously TOUCHING our lives, Abba,

That You reveal YOUR longing

To heal, to comfort, and to make us whole

– As when, Jesus “Takes the blind man BY THE HAND,

LEADS HIM out of the village,

And LAYS HIS HANDS upon him.”⁶

Also, it is through Jesus, that You invite OUR touch

... So that WE can caress our God :

“Put your finger here : look, here are my hands.

Give me your hand : put it into my side.”⁷

The effects of such revelations for our daily life

– As Love LIGHTS UP our spirits ...

And shares intimacies –

Is to INTENSIFY fellowship among ourselves.

In this way, our experience of belonging is deepened

... “Grace upon grace” ...

– Firing our faith, uplifting our hope, and enthusing our loving

... As we are, literally, TRANSFORMED into Your Beloved,

Into Him, who is ‘ THE REVELATION OF YOUR GLORY!’⁹

1 Poem 986, Tugun, monthly retreat, Gold Coast, March 2010, Day 2.

2 Jer 7:27

3 Ps 34:9 (Grail)

4 Song 2:13-14

5 Mk 9:6

6 Mk 8:23

7 Jn 20:27

8 Jn 1:16 (N.R.S.V.)

9 Cf Jn 17:1

Sacrifice ¹

*The Heart of our hearts calls us, continually,
To sacrifice our EVERY gift
... ALL we receive from Love ...
FOR Love,
And ultimately – TO Love !
We have no entitlement
To RETAIN these gifts of nature or grace.
All has been given us, IN TRUST
– Because marvellously, we alone of creatures
Are “like” God
In whom, ‘ALL that is received, is given’
... Sacrificing ALL to the OTHER !
And, not only are we like God as nature’s creatures
– Formed, even here, with the Beloved IN MIND –
We are also drawn lovingly, into the Godhead
... As NEW creatures, IN the Paschal Christ,
Loving God, as God-in-Christ !*

AS GOD IS, SO WE ARE TO BE :

– Holding nothing back,

Possessing only our DESIRE TO GIVE

–Communing in love !

–Loving to commune !

As with Abba, Jesus Ascended and the Spirit,

The SACRIFICE of all that WE'RE given ...

SANCTIFIES both giver and receiver

–Goodness glorifying goodness !

Because LOVE is the blossoming of sacrifice,

When we sacrifice our gifts for others

We become STEWARDS

For love's PASSAGE through our hearts !

And because life's very purpose is TO LOVE,

Sacrifice is the womb that gives it birth.

The What, How, and Why of Mystery ¹

*Our natural intuition sees Mystery, as the Unknown ;
Counter-intuitively, FAITH declares that the 'What' of Mystery is CERTAIN :
Its DESIRE being ... wholly to reveal itself, to share itself with US !
Yes ! The Mystery enveloping our lives
Longs to commune fully with us –
... Simply, to LOVE US, ETERNALLY.*

*Significantly, the 'How' of Mystery's Loving,
... While clouded in tenderness that is all-surpassing and ever-surprising ...
Is NOT something impenetrable, or secretive.
On the contrary, Light RADIATES from the very heart of Mystery,
Precisely, to illuminate our lives.
Indeed, it does so while RESIDING within humanity's heart,
... Even in the very depths of our vulnerabilities
– Revealing its Face of Compassion.
Our very sins vanish, in the Light of Mystery's healing touch
... Our spiritual wounds, caressed by Light's gentle Presence.*

*Lovingly, Mystery, IN Christ Jesus, has taken our hand,
And walked with us upon the earth.*

*Mystery's MURMURING and WHISPERING ever rouses us
Through Jesus' OWN Spirit-Witness.*

*Mystery's Word lavishly, freely, shares itself
So that we can ever proclaim it, with OUR lives.
In these ways, Mystery's self-revelatory calls to us
Beckon us also to be open, receptive, and responsive.*

*Thus, Mystery does not leave us stranded,
But is close, attentive, and waiting.*

*Love's Mystery, historically, clearly loves to gather us together
... To 'Church' us IN Christ Jesus,
Into a Community of Sacramental Intimacy,
Into an embrace of closeness.
And, wonder of wonders ...*

*Mystery loves to sit down with us, to a Banquet of Joy,
Inviting us to participate in Christ's Paschal Cycle of sacrificial love
– Our Eucharistic entry into the heart of Mystery !*

*Even when we withdraw into varying degrees of self-chosen alienation,
We can STILL sense Mystery
Gently BREATHING through our consciousness,
Enticing us 'back', through suggestion, and invitations of grace,
And then, more explicitly, through the Church's sacred inheritance
Of Scripture, the Sacraments, and other symbols of faith.*

*Mystery has also bequeathed us, “a cloud of witnesses”,²
Fellow pilgrims intensely infused with the Life of the Beloved,
To assist us, to accompany us,
As we constantly RE-INACT Mystery’s pivotal Paschal Sharing with us, in Eucharist
– And thus share in Christ’s REVOLUTIONARY RENEWAL of human history.*

*Clearly, the ‘How’ of Mystery
... Though encompassing us with such surprises, and open-ended experiences ...
Does not leave us alone
As unattended orphans, helpless in our ignorance.
No ! We are ADOPTED into that Divine Family
Who live a Life of self-sacrificial love
– Giving wholly, endlessly of Themselves to Each Other –
In deepest Communion ...
As the very core of Mystery !*

Similarly, the ‘Why’ of Mystery is not an unfathomable blankness :

*The Mystery of Love always acts – out of love !
Its only purpose – love ! Its only means – love !
Yet questions linger ...
Why love US ? Why love ME ? Why ALWAYS ?
Especially why, when we sin ?
The answers are STILL enfolded within Mystery.
Yet, even here, Mystery, as Love, has revealed to us
The general thrust of its MOTIVATION :
“The SON always DOES, what He see the FATHER doing”³
... That is, all Mystery’s motivations
Are EXPRESSIBLE in the SON, our beloved Jesus
... Our brother.*

*Moreover, the motivations are more personally REVEALED
... The more we ourselves EMBODY THE LIKENESS of Mystery's Beloved, Jesus.
Indeed, Love's Mystery only ever focuses on the SON'S RELATIONSHIP TO ABBA.
And on "those to whom the Son chooses to reveal" how thus to relate. ⁴*

*Significantly, MOST of Mystery is not gifted to us :
Though divinized ... our minds are not divinely simple or integrated.
We have cluttered and confused them, with the effects of sin,
And with endless rationalisations concerning ourselves,
And with many, many more – concerning others !*

*Yet, if we are attentive to "the whisperings of our heart" ⁵
Insights will be given, at times,
And our jumbled minds will resolve into graced simplicity and clarity.
The VEIL of Mystery's motivations
Will be increasingly parted
To conform our minds closer to Christ's ...
And to allow us, ultimately, to receive
The transcendent Light of Glory
–Wholly illuminating our spirits
Within the Ascended Jesus' Spirit !*

1 Poem 988, Year 12 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Good Friday, 2010.

2 Heb 12:1

3 Jn 5:1

4 Mt 11:26

5 Ps 19:14

With a Unifying Love ¹

Abba

On Easter's dawn ...

In looking upon Jesus,

Looks also upon us,

And upon creation,

With a revitalizing, overflowing love

– With a unifying love,

“Hoping to make everyone COMPLETE in Christ” ²

And “proclaiming the Good News” ³

... Of His Beloved Son's RISING,

“To the whole creation !” ⁴

1 Poem 989, Year 12 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Easter Sunday, 2010.

2 Col 1:27 (N.R.S.V.)

3 Mk 16:15 (N.R.S.V.)

4 IBID

Easter Zeal, Easter Humility ¹

*In the Ascended Jesus,
Abba's Divine Love for His most lovable Son
Floods Jesus' human heart
With Their Spirit of Divine Togetherness !*

*Thus empowered as 'the New Man,' ²
Jesus simply CANNOT keep His EN-SPIRITED LOVE
To Himself ...
But wills it to burst forth
Into all expectant human hearts
EN-PERSONING them
As a "new creation", in Himself! ³*

*And we in turn, wonderfully affirmed in this 'TOGETHERNESS',
CANNOT keep this Easter Spirit
To ourselves ...
But surrender our newly EN-SPIRITED hearts
To our Abba-God, who raised Jesus to Life,
Therein suffusing other open hearts with His Renewing Spirit !
– As they do us !*

This Divine Paschal Treasure, within our weak “earthen vessels”,⁴

Generates, within faithful hearts,

The wondrous RECEPTIVE grace

Of HUMILITY.

This gift of Paschal awareness of our profound limitations

– Positively ...

Allows us to rejoice with heartfelt thanks,

As Triune Love EXPANDS our spirit’s very capacity

To experience the wonder of Divine Fellowship !

–Negatively ...

Strengthens us – in simplicity – to resist

Our ever-present tendency to addictive pride

... Forever attempting to substitute self-initiated human effort

For the Paschal Spirit’s subtle empowering.

Moreover, this HUMBLING grace of being a receptive Paschal heart,

Transforms every level of our humanity,

ENABLING us to live beyond our limitations,

Allowing us, to PRAY with deep openness of heart :

O Ascended Jesus, RISEN within our spirits, EMBRACED by Abba,

En-Personing us together to breathe forth Your Spirit,

Move us to do, what Your Gift empowers us to do,

And to leave the rest to You : the Kingdom is YOURS !

In accomplishing Your Work through us,

You give us ONLY the energy we have :

We faithfully RETURN it to You, hour by hour.

Everything BEYOND THIS, we calmly leave to You.

Prompt others to PARTNER us, in Your Work of grace

... So that they do, what we are UNABLE TO DO

–Be that to pray, or to sacrifice themselves –

In lieu, of our limited faltering energy.

... Because, O Jesus – Dawn, Noon, and Sunset for our destinies –

You are IN Your Work, and IN Your Church

... May we ALL, gift each other,

With something ‘divinely’ more than what is ours

– Your all-encompassing ever-empowering Presence –

So “together, we make a UNITY in the work of service !”⁵

1 Poem 990, Year 12 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, 2nd Sunday of Easter, 2010.

2 Eph 2:15

3 2Cor 5:17

4 2Cor 4:7

5 Eph 4:12

The Mist on Easter's Calvary ¹

The rays of Jerusalem's Easter sunrise
–Breaching the spring-greened tops of the Mount of Olives, in the east,
And bathing, in golden light, Herod's white-marbled Temple, to the west –
Speared through the MIST crowning Calvary Mount, still further west
Radiating it also, with dawn's golden glow.
The effect was ... that a shaft of sunlight, from Golgotha's summit, #*(see note)*
Lit up the entrance to the Resurrection tomb !

THERE ... STOOD JESUS
Facing east,
Alight with Calvary's 'light'
– Facing Abba's sunrise
... Suffusing His whole being with Life !
His pierced hands were uplifted in praise
... Overflowing from a grateful Son's heart !
Jesus eyes lit up, wondrously
... With the light of Abba's dawning brightness !
His gaze settled
... On the glowing MIST atop of Calvary :
Of the three crosses upon it,
Just forty metres away
Two flanking the central upright tree trunk of His own 'cross',
From which Abba's shaft of fiery loving light now shone,
– Setting HIS HEART afire !

*Jesus moved towards the MIST ;
Ascending the low but steep rocky outcrop
–In places, still splashed with His own dried blood –
He stood on the summit, under His ‘cross’ ... facing east
... Towards the Temple Mount, and the Mount of Olives beyond.
The encompassing MIST now glowed even more brightly in FULL sunlight
... Like Moses’ Mount Sinai CLOUD
– Both, radiant witnesses of Yabweh’s saving Presence !
Jesus felt the EMBRACE of the MIST
... These ‘waters of life’, now but the finest vapour,
Coming to rest, feather-soft, UPON Him,
Intimately ENVELOPING Him.*

*Yes ! In both outward sign, and deep reality WITHIN,
Abba’s own Spirit of Light
Utterly ENRAPTURED Jesus,
There on Easter’s Calvary
... Divinely transforming
His already re-vitalized Humanity,
Into a divinely-human beacon of Light
– Yet visible only, to the spiritual eyes of FAITH !
The outward MIST, like a halo of Light,
Became ...
His Garment of Salvation !
His Veil of Encounter ! ²
His Robe of Glory !*

For all faith-filled hearts
Who, NOW, respond to Abba's Easter invitation
– To find our HOME, in the Paschal PERSON of His Beloved –
THEIRS TOO is this halo of Light on Easter's Calvary :
There they wait, spiritually IN Christ,
To be embraced,
To be enraptured ;
There they wait, in the enveloping Mist of Mystery,
In the encompassing Cloud of Love,
To be enfolded in Abba's ARMS,
Uplifted into the Divine Embrace.

1 Poem 991, Eastertide Retreat (6days) , Pennant Hills, Sydney, 2010, Day 1

... Sister Yvonne Parker again as Spiritual Director.

#This poem takes, as geographically and historically FACTUAL, the proximity of the higher Calvary 'Mount'
(simply a remnant rocky outcrop in a surrounding dug-out quarry) TO the Resurrection tomb.

The latter is a mere 10m lower, and at 40m distance, to the west of the Calvary outcrop.

The outcrop is west of the Temple Mount which is, again west of the Mount of Olives.

All four sites – the Mount of Olives, Temple Mount, Mount Calvary and the Resurrection Tomb,
are from east to west, in a rough STRAIGHT LINE.

2 This is a reference to Moses' Tabernacle, which was, in places, referred to as 'the Tent of Encounter' (between the Divine and human).

As It Is in Heaven ¹

*Every movement of our hearts,
Every opening of our spirits,
Every firming of our wills
... Towards compassion,
... Towards unity,
Is a movement,
Ever opening into the Divine Fellowship,
Such that –
Our compassion is a resonance of Theirs,
Our simplicity mirrors Theirs,
Our unity expresses Theirs.*

*Theirs is primary, full and eternal !
Ours is secondary, partial and inconstant.
Theirs is lived out in the fullness of Life !
Ours, to struggle to survive, because of our inconstancy
We need Their graced empowerment, to enable ours :
“Your kingdom come, on earth as in heaven !” ²*

*Our kinship with this Fellowship of Love
Is initiated, not by us, but by Love itself !
Our choices of what is good, true and beautiful
Are not self-empowered
But CO-EMPOWERED with Them
... At Their graced initiative !*

*We do not try to re-enact what is done in heaven,
But are humanly CO-ENABLED TO DO SO with Them, on earth ...
For Theirs is "an unending stream that waters
The heavens and the earth below".³
The Divine Fellowship is the source of ALL good,
Who, in an excess of love for us,
Has sent One amongst us, who straddles
Both heaven and earth, in His own Person :
So, what is done in the Paschal Christ, in heaven,
Is wondrously enabled within us on earth.*

*In Christ, the Divine Circle of Love
Is en-fleshed in our earthly lives :
We live it out now, as "altogether new creatures",⁴
In A HIDDEN WAY ... IN Christ's very PERSON
... CO-EXTENSIVE through time-space
With all faith-filled lives.
Then, after our passage, IN CHRIST, through death,
We shall, in a FULLY-SENSED manner,
Take our place, in this eternal "new creation",⁵
In a seamless melding of heaven with earth.*

1 Poem 992, Eastertide Retreat, Pennant Hills, Sydney, 2010, Day 2.

2 Mt 6:10

3 Saint John of the Cross, [Living Springs](#).

4 Gal 6:15

5 2Cor 5:17

Make Room within Your Hearts ¹

*With utter tenderness,
Abba breathes but One Word
To His Beloved
– Who, heart aflame,
Echoes with the same Word ...
“You, I love”.*

*This wondrous Mutual Love
– This Spirit
Shared in Fellowship –
All Three do now proclaim !*

*Unbounded is Their Joy :
A deluge of delight !
All of those They call forth
... From nothingness, to Kinship in Their Joy,
Are enabled by Their Love.*

*And One there is, the Son
Who ENFLESHES this delight :
Conceived in Mystery, born into history
– He’s the HUMAN focus of Their Joy !*

This son both of earth, and of Mystery

Died of love

... Of utter love for us ...

And, raised to Heaven's Breast,

Made this, His heartfelt plea to us –

“Surrender to Me – to your Kin within,

As I've surrendered Myself for you ;

Make room within your hearts for Me

As I's made room for you.”

Our Fire-Fellowship ¹

As twilight eases away ...
The towering eucalypts around us
Loom ever larger, ever darker.
With our many tents finally up, with sleeping gear tossed inside,
The newly struck camp-fire
Starts to ATTRACT us, from our circle of tents
– DRAWING us, to its promise of warmth, to its sure source of light.
Soon, we half stumble with our food, and clattering cooking gear,
Over the scattered rocks, and across the grassed spaces
... Both streaked with long outriders of firelight ...
To this CENTERING fire.

As we pick a spot to sit,
Amid rising levels of chatter,
The camp-fire's still producing volumes of smoke.
Some adjust their 'possies' away from its drift ;
Yet, no one's in a hurry to cook.
Our gaze is caught by the smoke's grey billows
Ballooning out – smothering some, stinging others' eyes.
We idly watch as these elegant plumes of smoke-swirls,
Flecked with sparks, spiral into the night's black canopy.

*Increasingly our eyes are drawn to the hungry fire itself
... Now engulfing the last pockets of volatile gum leaves
... Then, swelling to gorge on the glut of bark and kindling .
The smoke's greys, changed to a flickering flamboyance of gold and orange.
This gaudy fire-power sings the hair of those nearest ;
Respectfully ... they draw back.
As the wood itself fires,
A glorious cascade of golden light
Floods out, gifting even the tallest gums, with a second sunset.
We look at each other's suddenly bronze faces
And at the fire's saffron figures of flame
Dancing in each other's eyes !*

*An hour of clatter, cooking aromas and smoke-flavoured food LATER,
Our twenty-so strong group
SETTLES DOWN AROUND THE FIRE.
Slowly a RHYTHM develops ... of animated banter and laughter ...
Silence ... story telling ... silence ...
The fire itself, now with the steady, white-hot inner glow of a furnace,
Slowly CENTERS the group
... Drawing out from them, a deepening range of emotions
... Especially during the silences.
As we look into its fiery depths,
Elemental feelings of mateship, group spirit, and solidarity
Capture our hearts.*

This fire-togetherness

*Lays bare deeper, welcome, and surprising feelings –
Openness, undisguised delight, deep empathy, and heart felt thanks
... Emotions, devoid of our work-a-day rationalizations, and guardedness.*

*We truly are able to see others in a new light !
The warming re-assurance of the fire also deepens our sharing
– Roles are set aside : we are simply people, TOGETHER.*

*The silences also draw forth, within us – the reflective, the contemplative
... Mostly unspoken.*

*As our eyes, fascinated, seek the fire's centre
... Within the heat's intensity
– From the outer reds, and oranges, to the golds,
To its white-hot heart, tinged with blue –
A few ponder, perhaps, on OUR closeness to life's Centre ...*

*Others are startled
By the fire's explosive crackles,
By corkscrewing embers shot skywards,
And by the mini-hissing releases of steam or gas.*

*For my part, I muse on
Our own unpredictabilities, and the striking differences among us :
To me, it seems we are all being INGATHERED
To the Christ-Fire at our centre !*

*As the stars circle further through the night sky,
The group edge a little closer to the fire,
Aware, with our shoulders hunched against the encroaching cold,
Of the firelight's periphery behind us ...
Formed by the pools of light and pools of darkness
– Symbolic perhaps, of a contending world beyond our fire-fellowship.*

*Perhaps most sacramental of all,
As we gaze again into the heart of the flames,
Is the awesome power of the fire
– Especially in its elevated sense of the Christ-Fire –
To penetrate the entirety of each piece of wood
... Suffusing it with fire
... Transforming it into fire,
... Until it BECOMES fire,
Even BREATHING fire !*

*I ponder on what this means for our lives :
How, in spreading the Christ-Fire abroad,
Our Fire-Fellowship
Might set others afire
– Empowering them with the Christ-Fire !
Inflaming them with His Spirit !
Setting the world alight
With Abba's Glory !*

The Spirit-Breath ¹

The Spirit-Breath

Is the active agent

... Purifying our senses of all that is un-Christlike

... Enabling us, then, within our spirits, to LET GO, more and more

– So that the SELF becomes less and less and less –

So Christ, within us, grows and blooms !

In this blossoming and fruiting of Christ within,

The Spirit-Breath

B r e a t h e s

The fragrance of Abba's love

Through

Jesus' whole being,

And through those

Who live, IN-CORPORATED in His Ascended Person .

This life-generative fragrance

B r e a t h e d

Through all, into each,

– IN Christ –

And drawn forth

From each into all,

Intensifies Abba's outpouring of Love

To truly be "All in all !" ²

It is breathed too, UPON the rest of CREATION
... As a co-extension
Of Christ's, and ours-in-His, re-vitalized humanity !
This fragrance of Life
Diffuses best –
When feet are washed, wounds are kissed,
And peace poured upon stricken spirits
... When minds crave in-Spiration, hearts yearn for harmony,
And when people sit at table, with their Brother God !

1 Poem 995, Eastertide Retreat, Pennant Hills, Sydney, 2010, Day 4.

2 Cor 15:28

Waiting for Love ¹

*For the committed, imitator of Christ,
The toll of continually 'letting go' for the Kingdom,
Still cumulatively engenders a NATURAL sense of loss-in-the-spirit,
A dimming of earlier NATURAL bright horizons.
While one's heart can pine for the easy, sunlit rhythms of the past,
Simultaneously, a deeper yearning does entail a Calvary VIGIL period
– Preparing us for the promise of an Easter Dawning.*

*For us, this time of heightened expectation of intimacy,
This walking in gathering darkness,
Provides the precious occasion for God to truly be God :
... Inviting us to a sensed absence of the Divine, so as to intensify our longing,
For an experience of sustained Divine Tenderness,
... Disciplining our inconstant spirits,
For a more committed abandonment to Mystery's Communing,
... Emptying our receptive hearts
For the enrapture of Divine Infilling.*

To see if the soul is responsive to such overtures,

Love ensures plenty of TIME

For the GROWTH periods that Love's seed requires

... To germinate ... to leaf ... to bud ... to blossom ... and to fruit.

The aroused heart, ever eager, WATCHES for Love to hasten the process.

For most, watching turns to WAITING ...

Time passes ... time inches by ... time weighs upon our spirits.

Our senses complain : we feel we've been neglected

... God's timing seems unreasonable !

Our sense of purpose is tempted to wane ... our sense of self-worth, to waver.

Later on, with the grace of oversight, we can see

That Love is nurturing us, with humility,

With a graced opportunity to learn dependency

And, more deeply, to CHOOSE dependency .

More deeply, we see that Abba, Jesus Ascended and the Spirit

MODEL what it means to WAIT

– Demonstrating, that waiting is NOT to be a solo experience.

Indeed, we ought wait, always, 'in fellowship' :

Because, while a determination to wait alone, is more about self-effort,

True waiting is a GIFT, opening us to a covenant of trust ... with Divine Fellowship

–Opening us to waiting, with FRIENDS, to waiting, indeed, with Love.

Thus GRACED, we learn to wait for Light to appear

... To light our way, to illuminate our destination,

... And, more deeply, to light up our hearts

–From WITHIN !

Such waiting can become CONVERSION :
In the face of our faith in Light's Presence, within
... Our sinfulness stands out, in stark relief!
Often, as such guilt surfaces
... True hearts find, anew, a compassionate home with Love
... False hearts revert to self-absorption
... Or, in between, if confusion enters into our waiting,
Love gently coaxes us, in our vacillating
... Always to FACE the Light
... To instinctively INCLINE to love.
Indeed, Love encourages us to take up, even the smallest crosses,
And fondly place our footsteps in Christ's
... Such that, loving-to-imitate-Jesus becomes OUR WAY of waiting .

Moreover, the grace of waiting-in-fellowship
Teaches us, that waiting is not about us, at all
– NOT about what WE desire or hope for,
But about God ... about God's waiting upon us !
Yes ! It is about God turning every occasion of waiting
Into an invitation to love
– Because to wait, at depth, is always to wait for love !
It is about God TRANSFORMING HEARTS once focussed on THEIR hoped-for changes,
Into receptive hearts
... Open and attentive to God's promptings, resonating with God's desires.

Abba's Spirit of Transformation, working with such needy receptive hearts,

Is free, now, to regenerate, to invigorate and to integrate them,

To IN-GATHER them, into a 'kinship-kingdom' within Christ,

To welcome them as pilgrims, seeking a HOME,

To embrace them as wayfarers, longing to break bread together.

Inside this supper room of waiting

... In times of silence and reflection ...

Waiting becomes prayer – the prayer Love prays within us ;

And prayer becomes waiting – Christ waiting in fellowship with us

... Waiting for Abba's INFILLING !

With Love's Spirit ever-rising gently in our hearts

As a penetrating but subtle fragrance to entice us –

Our Abba uses our readiness of heart

To let His Word RESONATE in this much-emptied space.

Christ's Spirit enables us to discern the genuine resonances

Of God's Voice within

... While letting the echoes of our own heart's clamour, pass us by.

The Spirit also empowers us to respond to authentic, life-giving insights

... While, again, letting worldly self-chatter and fickleness, pass us by.

*Ultimately, the fruit of our waiting, in the twilight
... Of being true to God's waiting-upon-us ...
Is that we need to love – on Love's terms :
 To love others, as God loves –
 Openly, open-heartedly, open-endedly !
 Love unites with the waiting heart,
Encouraging it to cast aside its own treasured 'love compass'
– Focussed on HOW to love and be loved –
 For simply, being seduced by Love !
Indeed, we are being asked to be enveloped by Love,
 Without regard of consequences
... Surrendering all, to Love's Glory !*

1 Poem 996, Eastertide Retreat, Pennant Hills, Sydney, 2010, Day 5.

NOTE: This poem on the 'passive dark night' of the SENSES is loosely based

On my article No.23, [DARK NIGHT'S JOURNEYING](#).

God of the Darkness ¹

*As God descends
Into the very heart
Of the depths of our spirit's nothingness,
All ungodliness is blazoned away
– To its very roots –
By the laser Light of Love.*

*Nothing remains but God :
In Christ, we fully become God's home
– For only God can be a home for God
... A home of Love,
Where the host becomes the guest,
The guest, the host !*

*For us, IN Christ, IN The Three
... Lover and Beloved each BECOMES the Other,
Both become Love.
Love moves Each to caress the Other
–With Love
... For Love is who They are !*

*They love, out of Love,
They love, with Love,
They love, for Love
They become not only one Love,
But a Communion of Love :
Love, its Source,
Love, its Life
Love, its Focus.*

*Each becomes a Source of the Other,
Life for the Other,
A Focus for the Other
... Lover and Beloved
Together as Love.*

*Each within the Other loves
– With the love of the Other,
So Love unfolds itself, to Love,
In Love.*

*Love breathes in Love
... To breathe forth
Love.*

*Love dances with Love,
And the Dance
Is Love.*

*Love rests in Love,
For Love
Is Rest.*

This House of Love
Is a sunlit home for US, within Love :
No darkness is possible,
Save the darkness
Of being dazzled by light
... By the Source of all light,
Love Itself!

With the eyes of our spirit
Wide open,
We see only this Light of lights,
And, thus seeing,
Are blinded by Love :
“I will lead the blind safely
*... I will make their darkness, LIGHT.”*²

1 Poem 997, Eastertide Retreat, Pennant Hills, Sydney, 2010, Day 6.

2 Is 42:16

Love Renewing Love ¹

As Abba

– *With His* INITIATING *Love* –

Mutually delights

In His Beloved's RESPONSIVE *Love*

Both experience the UNIFYING *Love of the Spirit.*

The Spirit transforms Their Mutuality

Into a Triune Fellowship,

Three Together, Together One

... Love RENEWING *Love.*

The Spirit

Thus renews Abba's Love

– *Love* GIVEN *and* RECEIVED –

With the Son's Love

– *Love* RECEIVED *and* GIVEN –

... Three Together, Together One.

Abba, Father Us ¹

Abba, we ever-thank You, for the Gift of Your 'Self'
... Forever coming ALIVE FOR US, in the Son
– Who, in HIS 'Self', centers all OUR human selves !
For all this, Abba, we thank You now ... AS SON !
Because, IN HIM, both You and we ... are one !

Abba, IN Him, we give You ... ALL HE IS !
Abba, accept us now ... AS HIM !
As You caress Him tenderly ...
We feel so fondly loved by You !
Abba, O Abba ...
Your sons, Your daughters are we !
Abba, O Abba ...
IN Your Son – FATHER US !