

Folio Fifty-Nine

Folio 59

Poems 1160 - 1179

- 1160 [Who is it ?](#)
- 1161 [Jesus' Own Joy, Centers Ours](#)
- 1162 [God's Spirit Centers Our Lives](#)
- 1163 [Jesus' Passion for His Abba-God](#)
- 1164 [Joy, Our Paschal Identity](#)
- 1165 [Gardener of Our Spirits](#)
- 1166 [A Constantly Welcoming Spirit](#)
- 1167 [To Love Like God](#)
- 1168 [The Light of Our Lives](#)
- 1169 [Make Your Home in Me](#)
- 1170 [Paradise Now](#)
- 1171 [Humanity's Dream](#)
- 1172 [Soaring Free in the Spirit](#)
- 1173 [The Wonders of Your Grace](#)
- 1174 [Breaking Bread Together](#)
- 1175 [Opened to Mystery](#)
- 1176 [Ending in Forgiveness](#)
- 1177 [Yearning for Union](#)
- 1178 [Believing Lets Us See](#)
- 1179 [The Mystery of Our New Humanity](#)

Who Is It ? ¹

Who is it ?

— *Who is the lynchpin*

To the mystery of being human ?

— *Who first trod the way of UNIVERSAL compassion,*

And suffered the pain of feeling the DEEPEST human empathy ?

— *Who freely shared a WHOLLY INCLUSIVE vision*

... Of lives, drawn together in love,

In a community of ALL God-centred hearts ?

Who is it ?

JESUS : the DIVINE HEART CENTRE of human compassion, joy and peace .

It is Jesus

Who both sourced these heart energies of our humanity,

And who, in His Person, revealed our humanity's DESTINY ...

LIFE-WITHIN-THE-ARMS of His Abba-God !

It was Jesus, whose heart ached

That His Abba's encompassing love for Himself ... become OURS !

Jesus' deepest intuition
Is that we 'brother' and 'sister' each other,
Within His PASCHAL family
... So we may come to share
His own new way of being human
— *Becoming both the Emmaus teacher, AND the Emmaus disciples*
... Proclaiming the Word, receiving the Word
... And celebrating the Word — EUCHARISTICALLY raised to Life, uplifted to Abba's
Embrace !

To begin, Jesus invites us
Into the camaraderie of "the poor in spirit",²
Coaxing us ... to plunge into a radical discipleship
With the sidelined of our earthen community ;
... To IDENTIFY with a broken, forgiveness-seeking humanity
— *Just as He Himself did, in His baptism .*
And, to do so, again like Him,
From the very heart, of His one, key relationship
... His being IMMERSED, in the Embrace of His Abba-God !

Within this enveloping Fatherly embrace,
It becomes stunningly obvious
That the way of life for us
Is to be one of FOLLOWING Jesus,
Not, with a self-fulfilling independence of spirit
— *But through humbly IMITATING*
The thorn-wreathed Jesus,
In His mission of self-sacrificing love .

*In so doing, we allow ourselves to be DRAWN —
Into the very PERSON of Jesus,
Into the inclusive FELLOWSHIP with Jesus Ascended,
Into the REALITY of our new humanity ...
Which He visioned, on the hillside of Galilee
— “To love those who oppose you
... Be good to them.
... Pray for them . ” ³*

*Then, in a deeply human way,
Jesus invites us
To continually celebrate
WHO-WE-ARE-WITH-HIM :
... Our Paschal identity,
... Our Churched fellowship,
... Our joy-filled Eternal destiny
— Within His Abba’s arms, NOW !*

1 Poem 1160, Day of Preparation for the Blue Mountains Retreat, Coffs Harbour, October 2013.

NOTE: I composed this poem at my sister Patricia’s home, Coffs Harbour, on my way to the Retreat - on waking -at 4am (Author).

2 Mt 5:3

3 Cf Lk 6:27,28

Jesus' Own Joy, Centers Ours ¹

"I've told you this, so that my joy MAY BE IN YOU,

And your joy be complete ."

(Jn 15:11)

Our human joy, left to itself, is incomplete .

Without Jesus in our lives,

We constantly seek joy outside of ourselves :

We fail TO CENTER ourselves, on our joy WITHIN .

With His Paschal entry into our lives,

Jesus centers us, within .

His is a wondrously humanizing presence

... If we but open our hearts to Him .

Jesus' own joy, shared with us,

— His own HUMAN joy —

Not only centers our joy within, but " completes" it

Bringing it to fulfilment,

Exalting it so completely

... That our human joy

Breaks open — to bloom !

Opens to the Divine !

Blossoms with such glorious receptivity,

That the Spirit of Life

Allows Divine Joy

To fruit within our spirits !

Thus, IN JESUS ASCENDED

— The Divinely fragrant fruit of our humanity —

Our JOY

Finds its true home ...

“Complete”, in the JOY of the Son of God !

— Itself, wondrously mirroring Abba’s OWN JOY !

IN the Spirit, who IS JOY !

God's Spirit Centers Our Lives ¹

*To center all our living,
To assist in centering the spirits
Of all those, received within our heart, IN Christ,*

*We need to let go ...
So as to be drawn into the flow ...
The Flow of the Spirit's Dreaming ...*

*To dream the Spirit-Dream
— For ourselves, and with others !*

This Co-Dreaming with the Spirit,

Not only centers our PRESENT,

But wondrously centers

All our PAST living

... Integrating it with our present

— To provide a centering beacon

For Christ's cherished dream for our FUTURE !

If we are receptive

To the Spirit's Dreaming for us,

Then, with delight —

The Spirit ACTIVATES the dream !

ENABLES its unfolding !

And is eager to CELEBRATE its fulfilment !

... And to offer the cascade of graces

That are its harvest of joy !

How does this Spirit-Dreaming

Reveal itself ?

Perhaps as the wind ... appearing ... and disappearing,

Co-opting us to co-dream

... Mostly, like a caressing breeze,

... Sometimes, as a buffeting blast !

And though the Spirit's invitation

Is an open, simple, and free one,

We can never encounter the Breath of the Spirit

In the same form, in the same way

... Ever again !

In effect, the Spirit murmurs to us

'Seize the entry to your Spirit-Dream

Whenever, wherever, it offers itself !

Every time is the best time ...

Every place, the perfect place ...

For Abba "Does not ration the gift of the Spirit ." ²

If we respond thus

— Dream by dream —

We will be "renewed by a spiritual revolution" ³

... For it is the Spirit

Who so radiantly sees

Who we can become IN CHRIST

— The source, center, and summit of the New Creation !

*Carried thus ... into our future,
On the wings of the Spirit,
We become —
The focus of Abba's affection,
The heart of Jesus' brotherly pride,
The center of the Spirit's creativity
— Truly, the fond focus of a Loving Fellowship !*

1 Poem 1162, Blue Mountains Retreat, October 2013, Day 2.

2 Jn 3:34

3 Eph 4:23

Jesus' Passion for His Abba-God ¹

Jesus left His baptism in the Jordan

GOD-STRUCK

... God-struck for being revealed

As His Abba-God's "favourite" ! ²

As His Abba-God's "beloved" ! ³

... God-struck by Abba's approval

— Of His identification

With "the lowly" and "the poor in spirit" ; ⁴

— And of His quest for equality for ALL

Within His Abba-God's Kingdom

... All children of His forgiveness !

... All children of His love !

Feeling deeply humble, yet exhilarated

... At home with His Abba-God's love, and with the love of His people,

And deeply intent on committing His entire life to both,

Jesus open-heartedly YEARNED, for the sake of His commitment,

To be re-oriented, at depth :

... To be re-visioned with Abba's vision

... To be re-formed, in Abba's wisdom,

... And to be radically opened to His Abba's intimacy .

*Jesus firmly farewelled His tentative followers,
As Abba's Spirit of Dedication
Almost physically "drove Him" ⁵
... To move away from them for a period,
... To seek out solitude and silence, to still His excited spirit,
... And to journey into that wilderness
WITHOUT— away from His people, away from His disciples
... Into a place of primal choices ;
And also WITHIN— into jostling complex of emotions and motivations,
'Waiting', to be simplified, within His spirit .*

*Responsive to the Spirit's intuition,
Jesus KNEW that dedicating Himself wholly to proclaiming Abba's love,
Would mean a deep inner struggle
With His contending emotions and motivations,
And a necessary LETTING GO .
— Indeed, it would mean an open, free, and fearless ABANDONMENT
Of His own desires and strategies for the future
... To follow instead, Abba's cherished DREAM for His "Beloved Son"! ⁶*

*Jesus also KNEW
That identifying with the lowly and the poor in spirit,
Would mean identifying
With their pain, with their powerlessness, and with the multiple hurts
Inflicted on them, through layered inequalities .*

As the day passed,
These ‘outer’ demons of His downtrodden people
Morphed, for Jesus, into various ‘inner’ demons
— Insinuating, beguiling, and enticingly deceptive temptations .
Striking roots deep into His psyche,
These tempestuous trials
Tested Jesus inwardly
— Casting His usual equanimity aside
— Disrupting His accustomed joy-filled RHYTHMS
— Yet paradoxically, deepening some
Of His earlier ideas and motivations .

Indeed Jesus’ spirit became a battleground
— As His TWIN PASSION ... for His Abba-God,
And for His beleaguered people ...
Was tested, purified, and simplified
... Until a deeper, re-vitalized PASSION emerged .

However, for this to happen,
The Spirit of Abba’s Dream for Jesus
Was challenged
By Satan’s own darker, alluring temptations for Him ...
Firstly proposing that Jesus be an heroic saviour :
... Riding the easy, populist wave, of the super-organiser
... Of bread for the masses, and comfort for all,

*With this, came the allure to promote Himself, as the key supplier of needs,
While deliberately down-playing His people's own efforts and initiatives !*

Secondly, Satan suggests the acquisition of personal power for Jesus ALONE — as a priority .

This, he suggests could truly enhance Jesus' cherished "servant leadership" ⁶

— Because while it postpones equality, it much more quickly ensures the coming of the kingdom .

Satan adds that centralizing power in Jesus' hands, is ESSENTIAL

Because it will greatly promote the Good News more widely, and efficiently !

Yes ! Admittedly, this key objective ' could involve taking short-cuts' ...

Such as discounting His own ideals, and people's trust, for a while ;

*But, Satan insists, overall success can be ASSURED, if Jesus, makes a TEMPORARY deal with
him :*

... "Worship me, and it shall all be yours !" ⁷

Then thirdly, appealing exquisitely, to Jesus' newly revealed status as Abba's Favourite,

Satan twists it from a wondrous gift to be humbly accepted,

To an opportunity for displaying His closeness to God !

Moreover, he adds, one could make disciples by astounding people

... With supernatural marvels, magic, and miracles !

All this, Satan insinuates, switches the focus

AWAY from Abba, to Jesus Himself ...

However, Jesus counters all these temptations

Through His open-hearted humility before His God .

More comfortingly, following this period of testing,

Jesus spent a deeply formative time

In profound intimacy with Abba .

*Altogether, as Jesus's 'forty days' ended,
He felt wholly ASSURED —
That Abba's vision was now His vision,
Abba's people : His people
Abba's Kingdom of Love : His PASSION !*

*Jesus came out of the desert, at dawn :
The wilderness WITHIN, no more !
The wilderness WITHOUT, a friend .
Reflectively, overflowing with love,
Jesus headed home ... to Nazareth
... With Malachi's prophecy
Held close, within His heart ...
"The sun of righteousness will shine out,
With healing in its wings".⁸*

*Jesus made His way from Jericho, up along the Jordan,
Across the Galilean farmland, to Nazareth on the heights
... To His people ... and to His beckoning MISSION :
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me".⁹*

1 Poem 1163, Blue Mountains Retreat, October 2013, Day 3.

2 Mt 3:17

3 Mt 3:17

4 Mt 5:3

5 Mk 1:12

6 Mt 3:17

7 Lk 4:7

8 Mal 3:20

9 Lk 4:18

Joy, Our Paschal Identity ¹

“That my own joy be in you, and your joy be complete” : ²

Enthused by the Spirit of Easter,

Christians radiate the reality of Paschal joy

... In ever-widening circles ...

To those around them .

Whatever happens

— Come embarrassment, or whisperings of ‘going too far, too soon’ —

Let your joy spread

UNCHECKED !

Abba delights in our joy ... always,

Because, it reflects who Jesus is !

Pray to the Spirit of Joy

For joyful simplicity of spirit .

Let this joy

... Jesus’s Good News without speech ...

Ripple freely ... innocently, unselfconsciously,

Through all lives

... At all times !

Joyfulness is, truly, our Paschal IDENTITY !

Gardener of Our Spirits ¹

*O Spirit of Growth,
Gardener of our spirits
... The enrichment You supply
Periodically needs to be ... an initially pungent manure
— To both re-start, and boost, our timidity and mediocrity .
Mostly, however Your enrichment gifts us
With a creative mix of nutrients, for our daily loving .
These vitalizing ingredients
Colour our lives with lush blooms, full of promise,
— Which, providentially ... need to fade and die ...
So as to bear fruit
With nourishment, for many !

In this way, every such plant becomes
A EUCHARIST plant
... Sacrificing itself
So that many others may be nurtured .*

A Constantly Welcoming Spirit ¹

*Deep within our spirits
Are multiple treasures,
Spirit-gifts lying idle !*

Most are, simply, not sought out ... left UNUSED !

Many, are HIDDEN AWAY ... out of low self-esteem ;

Some, when they do surface are purposely rejected

... Out of our fear of ' being special'.

Yet wondrously, each Spirit-gift is truly unique !

Sadly, many, even if accepted initially, are later disowned

... Out of our fear of the need

For our CONTINUING generosity of spirit, to enhance the gift's growth .

Truth to be told : most are not welcomed, or attended to,

Out of pervasive LACK OF BELIEF

In the Trinity's GLORIFICATION of our human dignity !

What a loss ! What a loss !

God is SO good : how little we care !

All of us need to pray for an Uplifted humanity :

For graced big-mindedness, and open-heartedness,

For that humility ...

To ALLOW God's glory

To radiate our fragile humanity !

Graciousness and gratitude cost so little !

We're given the Universe ... and we count our grains of sand !

It's time — to count our blessings .

To Love Like God ¹

For a lot of people

Their lives lie lazily about ...

Un-inspired,

Un-energized,

... Lacking deeper purpose

... All because, of a RELUTANCE TO LOVE !

Inwardly as well, they lounge about

Listlessly awaiting

The Spirit's stimulus

... To INVIGORATE

... To REVITALIZE

Their loving !

However, loving begins ...

Not when we are gifted with energy,

Nor when we regain a sense of purpose,

But with ATTRACTION .

Therein, we are drawn

To what is beautiful in others, in The Other .

That is, we are drawn to what is INWARDLY beautiful :

For "The beauty of the Queen's daughter is WITHIN". ²

In truth,
What is most beautiful inwardly,
Is love itself !
Love truly begins for us,
When we are attracted
To what is lovable and loving in the other :
LOVE ATTRACTS LOVE, and is attracted to love !

O ! What then happens,
What a lovable God entices us to love ?
Jesus' overwhelming love on Calvary
Is stunningly LOVING, in human terms :
'He bled for us ! Poured out ALL ... the whole of His blood ...
Just for us !'

Jesus is thus, OVERWHELMINGLY ATTRACTIVE

— *'What a truly beautiful person He is !*

... He asks for nothing !'

— *'He's so deeply, deeply GIVING*

... He offers Himself FREELY for us !'

— *'I feel really moved to tears by His love*

... Just overcome !'

— *'What a wonderfully beautiful person !*

... I can't but love Him !'

— *'Truly, His love moves US TO LOVE...'*

*Yes ! Jesus' depthless humanity
Stuns us ! Exhilarates us !
His stunningly selfless sacrifice for us
Revitalizes OUR love !
Loving God was never so easy ...
God is so humanly beautiful
Because of Jesus !
To WONDER at a love so beautiful,
Is but to ECHO
The ultimate WONDER of Jesus' love for us !*

*Love surely CREATES love,
And reveals the wisdom
... That, ' to be human LIKE Jesus,
Is to love
Like God !'*

1 Poem 1167, Blue Mountains Retreat, October 2013, Day 4.

2 An Office Antiphon of The Little Office of Our Lady .

The Light of Our Lives ¹

Our universe, science teaches us

... Is expanding

— At almost a BILLION KILOMETRES

PER HOUR!

Imagine

The Light of Our Universe

Vanishing darkness

— Outwardly —

In all directions

... Over a staggeringly daunting circumference ...

At almost 280,000 kilometres

PER SECOND

... With Light's outriders

Claiming an ever-expanding

Kingdom for Light

Vanishing darkness

— For Him who is , “The Light of the World”! ²

This wondrous world of ours began

FROM Light

— From an infinitesimal point of light,

Of wondrously surpassing brilliance .

It expands AS light

— In an ecstasy of Divine De-light —

So that Light's own Glory

Can light up

Our world, our lives, and our spirits

... So we can GLORIFY Light !

But, part of us, part of each person

Has chosen, and chooses, darkness !

And this darkness spreads, as joylessness

Ever deeper

Within us !

Within each !

... Wherever Light is obscured .

In response, the “Father of Light” eternally sends the Son of Light ³

To re-enlighten us,

To re-vision us,

Ultimately ... to adopt us, as “Children of Light”. ⁴

The “Father of Light” enthralls us to ACCOMPANY the Son of Light

Within ourselves !

Within humanity !

In so doing, He who is Light

Vanquishes our personal and collective darkness

— So that we may wholly glory in our journey

Into the heart of Light !

Here, at the very center of Light,

— IN Christ our Light —

We are drawn

Into the most loving

EXCHANGE OF LIGHT

Between the Father ... the Son ... and the Spirit .

In this Exchange,

Each gives WHOLLY OF THEIR LIGHT,

Within the ONE, SAME LIGHT, ALL WHOLLY SHARE :

... In Their Fellowship of Light,

... In the Light that is Love !

Thus, the expanding universe of light

WITHOUT

Reflects our incomparably communal journey,

To the Fellowship of Light-that-is-Love

Within

... So that, all sing of the Light

“Who has shone in our minds,

To radiate the light of the knowledge of God’s Glory,

The Glory on the face of Christ .”⁵

1 Poem 1168, Blue Mountains Retreat, October 2013, Day 4.

2 Jn 9:5

3 Jn 1:5

4 Jn 12:36

5 2Cor 4:6

Make Your Home in Me ¹

To abide with Jesus,

Is firstly, to respond to His invitation —

“Come aside, and rest awhile”... ²

To pray with Him, through being open to His Spirit .

More deeply, Jesus suggests that He Himself IS OUR REST —

“Come to me ... and I will give you rest”. ³

To rest thus, IN Jesus, and to be opened to His wisdom,

Is to have our sense of abiding DEEPENED —

“Learn from me ... and you will find rest for your SOULS”. ⁴

Zacchaeus the sinner found, in forgiveness,

That it is Jesus who CHOOSES TO ABIDE with the sinner —

“Jesus had gone TO STAY at the sinner’s house”. ⁵

John powerfully and beautifully amplifies

This INFLATING aspect of Jesus’ abiding with us —

“Make your HOME in me,

As I make mine in you”... ⁶

Revealing, in doing so,

The profound MUTUALITY involved !

Indeed, Jesus Himself declares that, without this mutual abiding,

*Our lives are barren and unproductive —
“Cut off from me, you can do nothing!”⁷*

But, life is a harvest of fruitfulness

If we do co-abide with Jesus —

“Whoever abides in me,

With me in him,

Bears fruit aplenty!”⁸

The gifts that stream through our lives,

Out of the heart of this mutual abiding,

Reveal the wonderful face of Divine faithfulness —

“If you abide in me,

And my words abide in you,

You may ask WHAT YOU WILL,

And you shall get it”.⁹

Such faithfulness call forth OUR faithfulness —

“You will abide in my love,

If you keep my commandments”.¹⁰

Thus, such faithfulness in Jesus’ love is Covenant-based,

And calls forth the wonder of Divine INTIMACY, in response

... The Spirit’s Gift of Trinitarian intimacy :

*“Those who ... keep my commandments
... Will be loved by my Father,
And I will love them,
And reveal myself to them”.¹¹
But wonder gives way to wonder ...
As this Divine Intimacy
Deepens the very mutuality of abiding
“And WE will come to them
And make OUR HOME with them”.¹²*

*To abide in God ... in Jesus,
Is to abide*

*IN all those who are alive — IN the Paschal Jesus,
Comfortingly so, IN the Eucharistic Jesus .*

*This is exemplified
With the disciples at Emmaus .
Jesus “went in to STAY with them”,¹³
And, IN their mutual abiding,
And, IN their celebrating it, in Eucharist,
“Their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus”.¹⁴*

*This was the same Jesus, who that very Easter noontime,
Had, “received from the Father,
The Holy Spirit who was promised”¹⁵
So as to give to all who-abide-in-Him,
The one whose very Presence*

Is

The pulsating heart of their mutual abiding !

1 Poem 1169, Blue Mountains Retreat, October 2013, Day 5. 2 Mk 15:31 3 Mt 11:28

4 Mt 11:29,30 5 Lk 19:7 6 Jn 15:4 7 Jn 15:5 8 Jn 15:5 9 Jn 15:7-10 10 Jn 15:10

11 Jn 14:21 (N.R.S.V.) 12 Jn 14:23 (N.R.S.V.) 13 Lk 24:30 14 Lk 24:31 15 Acts 2:33

Paradise Now ¹

A

*“Weave a circle round him thrice,
For he, on honey bread had fed,
And drunk the milk of paradise !”* *John Milton.*

Whatever magical moments Milton envisaged ...

When ANY graced person beholds the glories of our humanity IN Christ

— So wonderfully expressed in the miracle of our very bodies

Even now, before there promised glorification in the Risen Jesus —

They too, feel BLEST, to be able continually,

To feast on Creation’s graced delights

... The “honey bread” of Milton .

Such persons have, like Milton’s hero,

Found Paradise now, upon the earth !

And have tasted its Elixir !

These, of course, have been graced to share in the Ascended Jesus’ identity :

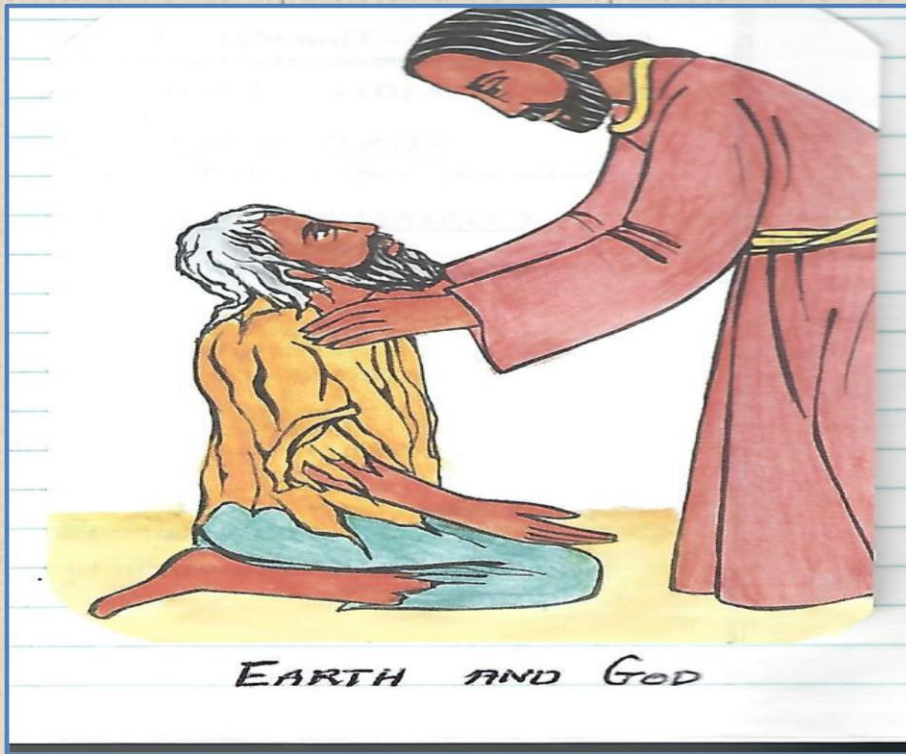
To ‘redeem’ Creation with Christ’s Divinely-human Presence,

And to give it voice, as Son ...

In our now abundantly graced heaven-on-earth !

GOD LOVES OUR EARTH

IN CHRIST.



AND WE OF EARTH,

LOVE GOD

IN CHRIST.

Humanity's love affair with the earth,

And with the rest of Creation,

Rests on humankind being Creation's-FOCUS

... Also its voice-of-thanks, its song of praise !

Humanity's role can be likened to numerous CONSCIOUS points of lights

— Lit up luminously IN PRAISE, to varying brightnesses .

Thus, humanity is like a world-wide, wonder-land of lights,

REFLECTING the Glory of God, in Creation ...

Back to the Light of lights,

To the Light-who-is-Love !

Surpassingly, it is Christ's radiant Easter Humanity who leads us all

To radiate earth's praise and thanks to Abba

" Shine ! Jesus, Shine !

Fill this land with Your Father's Glory !" ²

All of us, together

... Hopefully as "fully alive persons", IN Christ ... ³

Feel profoundly called, IN Him

To be the EXPRESSIVE HEART of Creation !

The Trinity is overflowing in Their response

To our acting as the VOICE AND HEART OF CREATION

Drawing us, with delight,

Into Their CIRCLE OF LOVE !

We exult with Them

... Abba, Jesus, Spirit

In Their exhilarating Dance of Love ...

Dancing forth our joy

As Creation's Eucharistic celebrants

... With our paradisiacal elixir, surely, being Christ's Joy !

B

*Those of humanity who are IN the Glorified Christ,
Especially pour forth Creation's unconscious yearnings*

To Abba ...

Drawing ALL CREATION TOGETHER in their own persons, IN Christ

— To praise and glorify Abba

... “Let the heavens be glad, let earth rejoice !

Let the fields exult and all that is in them !

Let all the trees of the forest sing for joy !”⁴

Their ministry of praise is a continuing one,

BECAUSE of the life and death cycles of Creation —

“Sing Yahweh, a NEW song !

Sing to Yahweh, ALL the earth !”⁵

Scripture especially, is a Blessed Voice in their ourpouring of praise :

Beginning with a focus on OUR sun,

They can sing with Sirach —

“As the sun, in shining, LOOKS ON ALL THINGS,

So the work of the Lord is full of his glory !”⁶

Indeed, in our age of electrons and atoms

NOTHING need escape their admiration —

“All of God's works are desirable,

Even the smallest spark visible to the eye

... Each of them fulfilling many purposes .”⁷

Contemplating the biological kingdoms

Of plants, bacteria, insects, and animals ...

They hasten, perhaps with scientists, to acclaim with Sirach —

“God has made nothing INCOMPLETE .

Each thing complements the qualities of another .

Who can ever have too much of God’s glory ?”⁸

Thus before dawn, in the still-night sky,

These voices, Creation’s evangelists, exclaim with Sirach :

“How wonderful is the vault of the clear night sky !

How magnificent the stars in all their glory !”⁹

As dawn breaks, they too can join with Sirach as he wonders :

“As the sun rises, it proclaims the sky’s greatness

—A reflection of the glory of its maker !”¹⁰

The moon, languishing between day and night,

Also attracts their common delight —

“The moon waxes wonderfully in her phases !

Banner of the angels on high, singing in the vault of heaven !”¹¹

Come the day ... comes the sun, the rain ... and rainbows !

With Sirach they are moved to wonder —

“Look at the rainbow, and praise its maker !

It shines with a beauty beyond all else ;

Its shining arch, bridges the heavens —

A bow bent by the hands of Yabweb !”¹²

Winter does not escape Sirach's delight —

*“ At the command of Yahweh, the snow-storm advances,
And lightning bolts execute the judgment of God !”* ¹³

Yet winter also has a gentle beauty, for him —

“ The purity of snowflakes dazzles the eye,

And their falling ...

Hypnotizes the mind of the watcher”. ¹⁴

Lastly, the heat of summer calls forth his admiration —

“ Yahweh scorches the mountain and deserts ;

The desert flowers wilt in the heat .

Then God sends the clouds to rejuvenate them,

And the morning dew brings relief from the blaze”. ¹⁵

Buoyed by his deep praise of Creation,

We can only concur with Sirach —

“ It is by God's plan,

That each of these fulfils its own purpose :

By the word of Yahweh,

They are held together”. ¹⁶

With deep longing to offer Eucharist

—To have Jesus PERSONALIZE our praise,

To actualize it, in His Sacramental Sacrifice of Praise —

We can only murmur ...

“No matter how much we say,

Or words are inadequate ;

In the end, GOD IS EVERYTHING !

God is greater THAN ALL CREATION !”¹⁷

1 Poem 1170, Blue Mountains Retreat, October 2013, Day 6.

2 From the refrain of the hymn, Shine Jesus Shine. 3 St Irenaeus 4 Ps 96:11,12 5 Ps 96:1 6 Sir 42:16 (J.B.)

7 Sir 42:22,23 (Inclusive Bible *) 8 Sir 42:24,25 * 9 Sir 43:1 * 10 Sir 43:2 * 11 Sir 43:8,9 (J.B.)

12 Sir 43:11 * 13 Sir 43:13 * 14 Sir 43:18 * 15 Sir 43:21,22 * 16 Sir 43:26 17 Sir 43:27,28 *

Humanity's Dream ¹

*To speak of humanity's dream,
Is to envision the wide arms of the Risen Jesus
... As He yearns to embrace His kin,
... To breathe His Spirit into their hearts,
... And to lead them to the heart of His Father in His Ascension
— Thus fulfilling ABBA'S Dream for them
— Wherein He is a "home" for them .*

*But Abba has dreamt His dream for us
... Wholly DEPENDENT on our free choices .
Thus, the total rejection, of Abba's Dream,
Needs to be a real 'choice-possibility'
... With the outcomes 'unobstructed'...
Precisely because of Abba's wondrous, loving respect for our freedom !*

*God is not God
If we cannot, ultimately, reject God,
For God is utterly free, and freeing !*

*Corollaries to such total rejection, for individuals, include
Refusal to be part of humanity's universal dream ... of peace and harmony .
Insistence on wholly incompatible dreams for differing sub-groups ;
Ultimate insistence on excluding particular others from their dream ;
Or not caring enough to bother with any dream !*

*All persons, to be found in Christ,
Need to respect these choices ... most especially in their ultimate expression, regarding God .*

*Hopefully, identifying with the Ascended Jesus' inclusive heart,
And with His reading of humanity's history,
We pray always that more, rather than fewer people, in any situation,
Will come together in some way, to share humanity's dream .
Some would want God to be integral to this togetherness ;
Others would prefer less, far less, or none, of God's Presence ;
Still others would wholly REJECT God's Presence, or even God's existence !*

*Thus, for many, humanity's dream does not equate to Abba's Dream,
Thus we are left, only with a ' remnant' of humanity, for whom it does !*

*This remnant, alive with the Spirit, in Christ,
And following Abba's Dream
— Be they Moslems, or Hindus, or Christian —*

*Journey
Through " the narrow gate,
Along the hard road that leads to life", ²
And find that they are companioned by only a " few". ³*

For those — of varying other choices regarding humanity's dream —

*" The gate is wide, and the road is easy
That leads to destruction, and there are many who take it". ⁴*

These latter, by the road's end, break Jesus' heart .

Even His deep love for their free choices,

Cannot keep them from their chosen destiny .

Moreover, the hearts of those IN Christ are bruised, or bleeding,

... Even as all this unfolds .

Increasingly, their only recourse is to prayer, and to sacrificial love

... To be offered up for these "many". ⁵

Yet those in Christ keep in mind

That "grace super-abounds", ⁶

And that the God who deeply loves our freedom,

Is most compassionate,

And FULL of loving-kindness .

1 Poem 1171, Blue Mountains Retreat, October 2013, Day 7.

2 Matt 7:14 (J.B.)

3 IBID

4 Matt 7:13 (N.R.S.V)

5 IBID

Soaring Free in the Spirit ¹

The contemplative spirit's journey 'within' the Ascended Jesus' New Humanity

Is personally enabled by the Spirit .

Initially, like everyone, IN Christ,

Having been drawn into the wonder of Abba's Embrace,

... The contemplative is now SENT forth, in the Spirit,

To communities of receptive hearts .

Here the contemplative's perennial MISSION

Is to commune lovingly with others, through CO-INDWELLING CHRIST .

In so doing, these graced contemplative spirits

Are ever more released through grace, from their earthly attachments .

The become gently SINGLE-HEARTED, focussed only on Abba

... Being further transformed by the Spirit,

... Being freed to soar, in spirit,

... Evermore lifted up to the Divine !

Contemplative spirits, transformed thus by this Spirit of Freedom,

Are spirits imbued with the Spirit of Sojourning .

Thus, many become transitory members of a range of communities

... Presences who can renew perspectives, uplift spirits, and re-motivate hearts .

They can "fan into a flame, God's Gifts"... of enthusiasm, and whole-hearted FAITH ²

... Assuring each community, that the flow of faithfulness in their lives,

Will gently and simply lead them to its SOURCE — the open-hearted God of Fidelity .

For their part, the soaring spirits of these en-Spirited contemplatives

Particularly need to be ‘discipled’ to Jesus’ HUMAN reality .

They need to exercise self-control over a possibly judgemental heart and tongue

... Because, in visiting MANY, they can all too easily, favour SOME unfairly .

Also, in gently lightening “Burdens that are unendurable” ³

They need to remind themselves, ‘It is God’s doing, not ours’!

Again, as GOOD NEWS COURIERS, agents of the Spirit,

Witnessing to the Gospel’s power to activate faith

— Such that their own “faith leads to faith” in others — ⁴

They need to focus all hearts, not on themselves ...

But on the wondrous power of the Spirit

Who ALONE changes hearts and arouses faith !

Finally, and always, they need pray, never to presume

That theirs is a gift, RESERVED for contemplative spirits ... because, “God has no favourites !”

⁵

Indeed, any person of Abba’s choosing, can be thus EN-SPIRITED

... Being re-created, in the power of the Spirit who quickens hearts .

Wondrously, every person animated by the Spirit is impelled

To UNFETTER THOSE, whom sin has bound, or timidity constrained

And to INSPIRE ALL, to give ever more of themselves, in Love’s cause !

Unsurprisingly, for the contemplative spirit, carried on the Spirit’s Wings,

Grace is poured forth ABUNDANTLY ... especially in their time with communities .

Here, they find that for most, “the first fruits of the Spirit” ⁵

— *After the accompanying joy and peace of hearts forgiven* —

Are FREEDOM and a LOVE OF COMMUNING .

The first is a RENEWING freedom that RE-INTEGRATES communities

— *Because as Jesus assures us : “ It is the glory of my Father,*

That, TOGETHER, you should bear much fruit”. ⁷

As the Spirit DEEPENS the community’s inner freedom,

The contemplative sojourner CHALLENGES them, with Paul’s words ...

“The designs of God are revealed through FAITH” ⁸

— *A faith that does justice together,*

— *A faith that creates together,*

— *A faith that suffers together,*

— *A faith that is freed, and frees, together*

— *A faith that loves to pray together*

... Humbly urging all, to pray the following, frequently :

“In all circumstances, O God of Love,

LET ALL HEARTS CHANGE

... And come together, with one heartbeat,

In Jesus, Your Beloved”. ⁹

Other times, sees the sojourner urging the community

— *To call upon the SPIRIT, EVER NEW ... to lead it, continuously,*

Through the PASCHAL CYCLE :

... Of dying to their PAST ... of having their PRESENT re-vitalized

... And of longing, together, for the FUTURE of the Kingdom of Love,

Already present, but not yet fully realized !

— *Secondly, to call upon the SPIRIT OF EXPRESSIVENESS, to offer creative ways :*
To enable their sacrificial suffering together ... through profound Paschal EMPATHY,
To awaken a living faith in Christ Risen, ... by transforming them into ‘ lovers of life’,
To celebrate ‘ WHOSE they are’ ... by identifying with the Ascended Jesus
Embraced by His loving Abba .

As to the en-Spirited contemplative person themselves

... THE SPIRIT OF DESTINY

— *Calls him or her ever more radically ...*

To self-sacrificing love,

So to be conformed, ever more fully

To the CRUCIFIED JESUS ;

— *Calls him or her to become ever more identified*

With the radiant vitality, the radical freedom

Of the Glorified RISEN PERSON OF JESUS ;

— *Calls him or her to experience, ever more deeply,*

The Divinized Dignity of their New Ascended Humanity IN Christ,

... Being wholly at home WITHIN Him, WITHIN Abba’s Embrace ;

— *Calls him or her to be wholly identified with Jesus’ New Humanity*

... As the Receiver and Giver of Abba’s, and His Own, Spirit !

1 Poem 1172, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Blue Mountains Retreat, 2013, Day 8.

2 2 Tim 1:6

3 Lk 11:46

4 Rom 1:17

5 Rom 2:11

6 Rom 8:23

7 Jn 15:5,8

8 1Tim 1:4

9 Author’s own prayer.

The Wonders of Your Grace ¹

*Most Lovable and inclusive Abba,
May THIS person (or they), **
... And all of us, ...
Truly come alive
Within the wonders of Your Grace
In Christ
... As HE prays
' Abba, may THIS person (or they), ***
“ Be one is Us,
As You are in me, and I am in You ...
So that the Love with which You have loved me,
May be in THIS person (or them)”, ²
So that We may all be together in You'. ³*

1 Poem 1173, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, October 2013.

NOTE: A prayer the author prays frequently, especially when he is ' out and about'.

**This is a person (or group) one encounters anywhere, at any time, e.g. personally, or on T.V. or in reading .

***A shortened version of this prayer beginning with ' Abba, may ...'

2 Jn 17:21,26 3 The word ' We', includes, all who are IN Christ, and Christ Himself .

Breaking Bread Together ¹

To “BREAK BREAD TOGETHER”, ²
Is to participate in the loving outcomes
Of Jesus’ Paschal suffering :
... Of the in-pouring of Jesus’ Risen Life
Within all of us, here, and our world,
... Of the uplifting of humanity to the Fellowship
Within the Trinity,
... And thus, of that God-burst of the Transformative Spirit,
Within all of us, here, and our world
— Embodying us as Church,
“Members, one of another”, IN Jesus Ascended . ³

1 Poem 1174, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Brisbane, November 2013.

2 Acts 2:42

3 Rom 12:5

Opened to Mystery ¹

*When the Spirit reveals facets of God to us
... Whenever we “discover” something of God ...
We will ALWAYS discover new aspects of OURSELVES .
Almost as beautifully,
Whenever we uncover something new, real
And lovable about ourselves,
Something new about God will be unveiled .
This is GRACE given to us —
To ALLOW ourselves TO BE OPENED, EVER MORE,
To the wondrous TRIUNE MYSTERY
... To the Heart of Love itself ...
Whose FACE, is always that of JESUS !*

Ending in Forgiveness ¹

Any response ...

To the turmoil of deeply hurt spirits,

Or to the turmoil of contending, even vengeful, spirits

— *IF IT DOES NOT END*

IN FORGIVENESS,

IT WILL NOT END ...

— *Be that self-forgiveness, forgiveness of another,*

Or mutual forgiveness .

¹ Poem 1176, Year 15 of Prayer Ministry, Gold Coast holidays, December 2013.

My response on seeing the film, [PHILOMENA](#) ... Author .

Yearning for Union ¹

*Abba deeply desires to draw us
Into His creative designs for human happiness,
INTO THE DEPTHLSS CREATIVITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT*

... Within our hearts .

*He desires that we become co-creators
Of our own destiny,
Within Christ .*

Yet, Abba wants more than a radical partnership

With us :

He yearns for UNION

— A life of mutual indwelling !

Abba desires that, churchd in Christ,

We become

“More co-ordinated, more collaborative and more communicative

— In other words, more like God”. ²

What Abba desires, is, in effect, a SPOUSAL union

— Such that, IN Jesus,

“God and the human being

Become one flesh”! ³

1 Poem 1177, Year 16 of Prayer Ministry, Gold Coast holidays, January 2014.

2 Arch-bishop Mark Coleridge, 2013 Advent Pastoral Letter.

3 IBID

Believing Lets Us See ¹

*For those who assert ‘I’ll believe it, when I see it’,
The reality of life is CONSTRAINED by their own expectations,
By the limits of their own imaginations .*

*Such a person thus guardedly emphasizes
What succeeds, or what’s acceptable to them, or what is most pragmatic
— Thus experiencing a future, based on calculation .*

Such a life downplays chance, and surprise — almost wholly ignoring the GIFT OF GRACE !

To become a less limiting, and decidedly more free person,

We need to move —

*From ascertaining ‘what is wrong with my world’
To inclusively welcoming ‘what is good in my world’;
From living a life, by steering a course between pros and cons,
To engaging life with vision and passion !*

Such a life can become

An amazing feast of possibilities

... Expanding, immeasurably, beyond one’s own horizons

— If we but allow grace to lead us !

This happens when we CHOOSE to remain OPEN in mind, heart, and spirit .

We no longer look

For ‘an edge’, an ‘angle’, or an opening ;

Moreover, our belief in others ought not FOLLOW evidence

— Of performance, of fidelity, of integrity .

Rather, our BELIEF in others comes FIRST :
Our TRUSTING them becomes the touchstone of engaging the future .

TRANSCENDING such acknowledged HUMAN openness and trust,
Is openness to, and trust in, GRACE ;
To believe that life is overflowing,
Not only with human, but with DIVINE possibilities !

Here, faith LEARNS TO EXPECT
Not only marvellous,,
But LIMITLESS possibilities !
Beyond this, it learns to hope for, not just such limitless options,
But to be ever-surprised, ever-grateful

For a share in the DIVINELY INTEGRATED EXPERIENCE of reality
Brought together into unity through the Spirit !

Thus, in a revolutionary reversal
Of ‘ I’ll believe it, when I see it’,
It is our BELIEVING that enables us to SEE :
— Not only to delight in ever-new graced aspects
Of others’ personal stories, but also of our own
— Not only to wonder at, and value, life’s graced interconnectedness,
But, wondrously,
To personally commune with others
And with all reality
— WITHIN THE DIVINE !
IN Christ !

The Mystery of Our New Humanity ¹

The Mystery of Christ ...
Is a Presence that dazzles our spirits
... That generates Life-that-liberates-all-it-touches .

His own Paschal Person
Is en-peopled by spirits
— Themselves, love-lit by the Spirit of Life .

Thus, like their beloved Brother,
These become “ lovers of life” ²
... Members, sharing in the Paschal Christ’s
Radiant “ New Humanity” ³
Enlivened by, and enlivening
... All other co-indwellers of Christ !

¹ Poem 1179, Year 16 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, February 2014.

² Wis 11:26

³ Eph 2:15 (N.R.S.V.)