

Folio Sixty-Six

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O Wondrous Paschal Light ¹

Suffused with Jesus' Paschal Light, from within, I can see —

Who I am called to be,

Who I am called to be with,

Who we are called to be ... TOGETHER .

In this wondrous Easter Light, we can DEEPLY HONOUR those —

From whom we've come,

With whom we are now,

To whom we are going .

Illumined by Christ's Spirit, we see ever more deeply —

Who we really are, in Christ,

Who others really are. In Christ,

Who really draw us ... TOGETHER !

Enabled by Jesus' Paschal Light, we now see anew —

Whom we've valued before,

Whom we value now,

Whom we need to value in the future .

The wondrous inner Paschal Light reveals itself as —

A saving, forgiving light !

A life-giving, uplifting light !

An integrating light !

Thus enlightened, we can NOW SENSE this wondrous light, in those IN CHRIST

— Who are open to give and receive love !

— Who radiate grace ... as joy !

— Who lovingly abide ... in peace .

Ultimately this Paschal Light, AS THE SPIRIT, alive within us —

Incorporates us, more deeply, into Christ, our Brother ...

Enabling us to BE CHRIST to Abba, and to others ...

Lighting our way ... into the wondrous Circle of Divine Love !

The Sinner's Distaste for God ¹

While personal sinfulness limits our HOPE

... Lowering our spiritual horizons to small-minded goals ...

It also essentially REDUCES our openness to the freeing, creative Spirit

— Giving us a distaste for God,

And for all, who cherish the values of the spirit .

Paradoxically, it also limits our FEAR of God

— Itself a graced gift of God —

Reducing our healthy fear ... of being un-Christlike ... to a dismissiveness .

It especially reduces our TREMULOUS AWE of Abba's all-enabling love

To a soul-less mean-spirited egoism .

Mirroring the above, our COMMUNAL sinfulness can also starkly limit

Our community's positive HOPE, and TRUST in God

... To divisiveness, the pursuit of dominance and exclusivity, and insularity .

Thus sinfulness, BOTH personal and communal

— Revealed perhaps, most stubbornly, in our refusal to quit ' the sin that clings' — ²

Can truly restrict the Christlike quality of our loving

... White-anting the wondrously INCLUSIVE character of our relating as Christians .

Clearly, our sinfulness attempts to CONFINE the essential BOUNDLESSNESS

Of the graced flow of God's love in our lives !

Sadly, sinfulness even disrupts the fulfilling of OUR BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

— Morphing, either into reckless risk-taking, or into a fretful anxiety,

Or an unfocussed anger on supposed injustices, and on those ‘to blame’!

Critically, our aching NEED for God

... Can be replaced by a drive to exalt personal independence,

Or contrariwise, by giving way to apathy .

With our human needs not met, we become out of touch

With both ourselves and with others .

... And of course, in so doing, close the door to God in our lives .

Most significantly, sinfulness undermines our very reliance on GRACE

— On our wholistic, human need for God’s empowering .

It palpably constrains our openness to share in Christ’s CENTERING PACHAL IDENTITY .

It devalues our Divine Inheritance, AS Abba’s loved adoptees,

... To pathetically worldly, self-absorbed, self-made individuals !

Such an existence — without God — begets a worldly smugness and affectation .

Goodness itself loses its taste, its attractiveness ;

Heroic virtue, its inviting, exhilarating appeal !

Self-sacrifice is derided : reverence and fervour sneered at .

Yet, an effectively Godless life offers little in return :

Only a life built on appearances, and endless competitiveness

... Substituting banal secular rituals, for the Divinely-Human encounter of Eucharist !

Substance, founded on Christ-empowered relating and teachings,

Gives way to either to reactionary conformity, or to a craving for stimulation and novelty .

Instead of naming evil, and honouring faith, there is outrage for the politically incorrect ,

Envy of ‘insiders’, and disdain and victimizing of ‘outsiders’.

*O ! How far our sinfulness, both personal and communal,
Has distanced ourselves
From the love-struck psalmist's prayer ...
“ O Taste and see the goodness of God !”³*

1 Poem 1301, Year 19 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, September 2017.

2 Heb 12:1 3 Ps 34:8 (Grail)

Quenched Hearts ¹

*“Here I stand, knocking at the door,
If any hear me calling, and open the door ...
I will enter the house, and have supper with them .”* Rev 3:20 (I.B.)

*Jesus’ Presence lovingly FLOWS into responsive hearts :
... Into earthen hearts, open and ready to receive
His deeply nourishing Paschal ‘rain’ ;
... Into hearts, NEWLY-SEEDED, eager to be re-generated
By the nurturing flow of supping with Him !*

*These ‘seeded’ hearts,
Now quenched hearts,
Their yearnings sated,
Uncoil with delight ...
And, drawn by His Light,
Thrust, through soft enriching nutrients,
Until ... upright in His Presence,
They thrive, ALIVE with His Life !*

*Jesus’ sunlit Presence then nourishes these sprouting hearts
With the daily dew of His Life, and regular Eucharistic Paschal down-pours
... Bathing them, all the while, in His copious Light !*

*These newly energized hearts,
Constantly thirst for His rain
... His infilling Paschal Presence ...
And daily track His sunlit Radiance
Across the arc of their lives ...
Until, at each twilight,
He enters, at their invitation,
Into the community of their hearts
... To “break bread” with them.*

Co-extensive with All Created Reality ¹

Our share in Christ's Ascended Humanity

Enables us to become CO-EXTENSIVE

... With all created reality, uplifted in the Ascended Jesus' very Person,

... And with ALL, whom grace en-Spirits, within Him .

We become one with His Cosmic Person

... En-beautifying all

... And being en-beautied by all !

Irradiated by Christ Risen's Spirit,

We are enabled to CO-RELATE to Abba, with Him,

... Breathing Life into all creation !

This Life frees all with the Divinely-Human freedom

With which He is free

— En-Spirited to love AS He loves !

Paschal Spring-time for Our Spirits ¹

*My solo, Spirit-companioned stroll
Through Lawson Convent's hillside spring garden
Was all-encompassing !
The live EMBRACE of its over-arching, new-growth foliage
— With its kaleidoscopic festival of blossoms, set amidst a riot of leaf-greens —
And the invisible mist of its jostling fragrances ENFOLDING me
... Became, WITHIN, a metaphor for both my life-journey,
And also that of the Church's Heart Communities !*

*Indeed, the very multiplicity and inter-connectedness of impacts upon me
.....The bright warmth of sunlight and the coolness of shadows,
The chameleon palette of colours, midst the pools of dark shadows,
The ever-mobile, dappled interplay of filtered light under trees,
The scurrying lizards, the flitting insects, the song-festive birds,
The soft layered delight of ferns, mosses and lichens,
The dry leaf litter mustiness, versus the sweet earthiness of dampened soils,
The miniscule ground-cover florets versus flamboyant palm-sized blossoms,
The variegated earth tones of tree barks ... natures tapestrie's,
The sudden sharp breezes, eddying the pools of stilled air,
The sonorous murmur of bees, counterpointed by the trickling water,
The tumbling flower fragrances, contending with air pockets of spiced eucalyptus oil,
The transient cameo views of far-off valley vistas,
Juxtaposed with the ever-changing variety of ' track-scapes' at every turn
ALL became a multi-layered PARABLE for the life-pilgrimages
Of our Church's varied Communities of Hearts .*

Most magnificently, our Pilgrim People's life-journey, LIKE my stroll,

Is an ESSENTIALLY TRANSFORMATIVE experience,

With Christ's Spirit MOVING us

Through wondrously varying means, timings, settings and events :

... From a co-visioning with Jesus, in our embrace of His "new humanity",²

To experiencing our Abba's OWN ever-inclusive Embrace ;

... From Jesus inviting us, to journey always with compassion-for-our-world,

To becoming pilgrim hearts, en-Spirited with sacrificial love for all ;

... From Jesus urging us to relate, simply AS He does,

To communing as His sisters and brothers, WITHIN His very Person !

Thus, just as Jesus died, rose, and ascended,

And gifted us with Abba's and His Spirit,

In Passover's spring-time

... So, the same Spirit can utilize

A simple stroll in a spring-time garden

To enable us to EXPERIENCE

A Paschal spring-time for our spirits .

1 Poem 1304, Blue Mountains Retreat, Lawson, October 2017, Day 3.

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

The Dancing Heart of God ¹

*“And the Father will dance, as on a day of joy !
He will rejoice over you, and renew you by His love !”*

(Cary Landrey, on Zeph 3:17)

*When the tender eyes of Abba
Gaze on humble, compassionate hearts
—Recognizing in them the beloved heart of Jesus —
His eyes light up with sheer joy !
Moreover, Abba’s DANCING EYES, in turn,
Light up Jesus’ human spirit
... And of course, OURS
—Those of His sisters and brothers, ALIVE within Him !*

*Animated by the Spirit of Song,
Our dancing hearts resonate with that of Jesus,
And, to our delight, to our wonder
... With Abba’s very own dancing heart !*

*These Godly Rhythms are Easter ones
And thus, Eucharistic Banquetting ones
—Inviting US into the exhilaration
Of celebrating being Jesus Ascended’s sisters and brothers
... Of spinning, whirling around the Trinity’s Circle of Love
... But also, slow dancing with THEM, THEIR Dance of Peace,
And most especially, THEIR Dance of Deep Communing .*

But, most popular of all
... Thrilling to THEIR Trinitarian Dance of Love
—Filling hearts, uplifting spirits,
Celebrating our DIGNITY TOGETHER AS FAMILY
... As daughters and sons to Abba
As sisters and brothers to Jesus
—All in the Wondrous Embrace of the Spirit !
All ... with dancing eyes ...
Dancing the Dance Divine !

Ever-Inclusive Abba ¹

“Go out to the whole world ; proclaim the Good News to all creation”. (Mk 16:16)

Because “God IS love” and is “all in all” ^{2&3}

God ... wholly, personally — Abba, Jesus, and the Spirit — loves ALL creatures !

Every creature ATTRACTS God’s affection !

Every creature matters !

Every creature is ‘ever-included’ !

Because, for Abba, Jesus, and the Spirit

... Relating as Three Persons,

Is, at once,

Oneness in Being ...

Their Presence to each creature is unique and totally Trinitarian !

Their singular focus, Tri-Personal !

Their love, ever-fulfilling, incomparable, limitless, overwhelming !

No being, no person ever escapes Their attentiveness ;

No one is ever on the margins ;

All are welcomed .

Indeed, God has no enemies :

Even when we set ourselves against God,

Alienating OURSELVES from God,

All that is Godly in us ...

Is embraced

... As Abba COMMUNES with all that is Christlike in each .

In a special way ... as with Jesus' single lost sheep ...

God 'ever-invites' any person

Who is devalued or isolated or rejected,

Into Divine Intimacy

... Therein, TOGETHERING them with ALL who are loved .

EVERY human being ...

FROM a minimally 'cellular' daughter or son,

To the most aged person, retaining minimal consciousness

... Are cradled within the limitless tenderness of God

— Wondrously Fathered, wondrously Brothered, wondrously en-Spirited !

No tear of theirs, is left uncomforted .

Indeed, God loves EACH of these, as incomparably lovable !

God does all that is divinely possible

To companion them

... While being infinitely respectful of their free choices .

Even when a person totally repudiates God's love

To the ultimate degree ...

God still lovingly preserves them

From a descent into non-existence .

The 'total darkness' such a person self-chooses,

Is wholly enfolded

Within the Light of God's love .

Whatever minimal light they do retain within,

Still signifies that they are enabled by God's Love,

And are ever-invited to return

To this Loving God .

*At this sad juncture,
God, as every prodigal's Father ...
Being deeply moved by each 'returning child',
"Throws his arms around him and kisses him"! ⁴
Isaiah too, sees God "GATHERING the lost ones in his arms". ⁵
Paul in Colossians sees even beyond the human — sees HOW, in Christ,
"All THINGS are to be reconciled ...
Everything in heaven, and everything on earth"! ⁶
Indeed, God positively INCLUDES every person, every element of creation,
AS BELOVED
Because, for Abba, "There is ONLY Christ :
He is everything, and He is in everything". ⁷*

*Truly, Abba is the Divine Includer
— The Divine Father, who somehow, 'some-when',
Stoops down to every single person,
To every creature of his wondrous love
... "Like someone who LIFTS an infant close against his cheek". ⁸
With such a Wondrously Inclusive God, we can exult :
"Thanks to Him, ALL ENDS WELL
And all things hold together !"⁹*

*Thus, God 'ever-awaits' to include, to embrace
Every single creature
No matter what their choices .
God's infinitely open arms
Are but an expression
Of God's infinitely open heart !*

1 Poem 1306, Blue Mountains Retreat, Lawson, October 2017, Day 5.

2 1Jn 4:16 3 1Cor 15:28 4 Lk 15:20 (I.B.) 5 Is 40:11 6 Col 1:20 7 Col 3:11

8 Hos 11:4 9 Sir 43:26/28

The Wonder of God ¹

The Wonder of the ungraspable, awesome Presence of God
—*The Wondrous Glory of Abba, Jesus Ascended and their ‘One-ing’ Spirit*—
Together with the Wonder of God’s matchless manifestations and revelations,
Generate ECHOES of Wonder, IN US
... Graced echoes, unfailingly suffused by the Divine !

To Abba, there is incomparable Wonder
—In the GIVING of His Self —
FOR both His Beloved Son and the Spirit of love
... For Their depthless graciousness, and Eternal readiness to welcome Him .
Wonder, too, for Their utter love and excelling generosity
In each One’s Gift of Their Self to HIM !
Wonder, as well, for the unsurpassable EQUALITY and UNITY
That ALL Three share, and exhilarate in !

So it is, equally, for the Wonder experienced
... By the Beloved, and by the Spirit of Love !

From this Divine fountainhead of Wonder,
OUR Wonder for this God of Love ...
Flows freely, with childlike openness .
Equally marvellous is the Grace of Adoption
Which ensures that the wonder WE feel, is itself Divine
... The Wonder of a son or daughter of Abba !
... The Wonder of a brother or sister to Jesus Ascended !
... The Wonder of a human being en-Spirited into the Family !

As such, OUR HUMAN WONDER, in Christ, for the Divine,

Is the wellspring and model

For all other forms of wonder within humanity

... Even when some of these, become unanchored from the Divine .

True human Wonder shares in Jesus' own earthly Wonder

... For His Abba-God,

And for the Spirit of Loving-kindness,

Who, from infancy suffused His earthly life

As a limited, struggling human being .

This wonder is primarily a deep, deep feeling for the Divine Presence .

With Jesus, we grow TO 'EXPERIENCE' Wonder,

As ...

Infinitely varied

Unifying

Breath-taking

Exhilarating

Astounding

Indescribable

Awe-filled

Unfathomable

Gloriously beautiful

Unsurpassable

Utterly unique

Incomparable

Of Depthless Intimacy

Job wisely reminds us that, "Such wonders are BEYOND MY EXPERIENCE and knowledge". ²

And the Psalmist adds ... "Such knowledge is TOO WONDERFUL for me!" ³

Sirach proclaims, "It is IMPOSSIBLE to fathom the marvels of the Lord!" ⁴

Indeed, the Wonder-who-is-God ... in engaging our humanity,

Can surprise, startle, and stun us, to such a degree,

That Job lovingly cautions us,

"I am AFRAID to be in the sight of God :

When I think of IT ... (the Awesomeness of the Divine) ... I am HORROR STRUCK". ⁵

*Peter's New Testament witness to the Wonder of God
Beautifully emphasizes the contexts of salvation and our destiny :*

“ Sing the praises

Of the One who called you OUT OF DARKNESS,

Into the Wonder of Divine Life !” ⁶

For us, to witness to such Wonder, causes us, LIKE MARY,

Both to puzzle and to question, in deep faith — “ How can this be ?” ⁷

... But also to ponder, and to contemplate —

“ Mary treasured all these things, and reflected on them in her heart .” ⁸

But above all,

Wonder calls us to surrender oneself, to sacrifice all

... In response to “ the Power of the Most High overshadowing” us ⁹

“ I am the servant of God . Let it be done to me, as you say .” ¹⁰

As we surrender ourselves, thus, in the service of Wonder,

Our lives will be TRANSFORMED radically .

THE GOD OF WONDER WILL :

*While companioning us ...

·Entice us

·Invite us

·Open our eyes

·Astonish us

·Awe us

·Exhilarate us

·Captivate us

*REVEAL THE DIVINE

·Stun us

·Enrapture us

·Enthuse us

·Inspire us

·Revitalize us

·Renew us

·Uplift us

*GIVE US A NEW IDENTITY

AND DESTINY, IN CHRIST

·Galvanize us

·Mission us

·GRACE US ... with zeal

... with a praying heart

... with an intimate heart

... with a thankful heart

... with a sacrificial heart

*En-Spirit us .

All that is left for us to do, is, like the shepherds ...

“To go away, glorifying and praising God” ¹¹

—For the transformation that Wonder brings .

1 Poem 1307, Blue Mountains Retreat, Lawson, October 2017, Day 6.

2 Job 42:6 (I.B.) 3 Ps 139:6 (I.B.) 4 Sir 18:6 (I.B.) 5 Job 23:15 (I.B.) 6 1Pet 2:9 (I.B.) 7 Lk 1:34 (I.B.)

8 Lk 2:19 (I.B.) 9 Lk 1:35 (I.B.) 10 Lk 1:38 (I.B.) 11 Lk 2:19 (I.B.)

The Map of the Human Heart ¹

“That all may be one - as YOU ARE IN ME, Abba, and I IN YOU .” (Jn 17:21a)

I pray that they may be one, IN US !” (Jn 17:21b)

In beholding us, Abba sees only His Beloved Jesus

And His love-filled hopes for US, IN HIM,

Thus, because of His unique Dream for each of us, Abba is our map-maker !

There is nothing surer, than that each of Abba’s personalized dream-maps

Highlights some special lovable personal qualities of Jesus, in each,

And, of course, our hoped-for graced companionships, to help fulfil these ...

And, how, like Jesus, each ought lovingly sacrifice for others .

Thus, in a deep sense, Jesus is our template for our life-journey .

Indeed, our most lovable brother

Is the LIVING ‘MAP’ of our hearts :

“Jesus has risen from the dead and, NOW, GOES BEFORE YOU .” ²

If “faithful friends are the essence of life”,³
Then Jesus Ascended is the essence of faithfulness for us all .
He is the PERSONALIZED TEMPLATE for each of our hearts !
Thus, He is our UTTERLY TRUSTWORTHY —

Compass point

Life-force for our journey

Heart-companion, day by day

Light for our nights

Focus for adventure, and restfulness

Centre of our community of hearts

Compassionate searcher for the lost

Healer of hurt hearts

Self-sacrificing model for all

Nourisher for the journey

Setter of horizons

Integrator of visions

... And most surprising of all,

At our journey’s end,

Jesus is there AS our Homecoming Host

... Lovingly leading us, by the hand, to Abba,

Enabling us to share in Their Relationship

—As our Key Map and our Chief Journeyman .

Jesus, the journeyman, unsurprisingly, has suffused all of our journey

With a steady focus on Abba, and on Abba's hopes for us .

From our earliest days He urged us

To "Cling to Him and not leave Him", ⁴

Assuring us that His Dad was "our saviour in troubled times". ⁵

He also claimed, from 'personal experiences',

That "those who LOVE OTHERS, follow God's path". ⁶

What Wonderful GOOD NEWS for wavering hearts !

Jesus is really "the heart of our hearts" ⁷

—The personalized MAP OF THE HUMAN HEART, for us

...Precisely through His ever-loving focus on Abba, who, ever FATHERS us into life .

Memorably, He constantly offers to sort out our heart's troubles

With the exhilarating assurance ... "Whoever loves Abba, loves life !" ⁸

And adds, with great tenderness, for those who have broken trust ...

"Abba tests us again and again, until we trust WITH ALL OUR HEARTS !" ⁹

Perhaps Jesus' deepest wisdom is to assure us ...

"Reverence for Abba-Yahweh transcends everything !" ¹⁰

Never has Abba, our hearts' Map Maker, such a perfect Journeyman

To brother us on our heart-journeys !

*Ultimately, for us NOW, as He does at our journey's end,
Jesus profoundly desires us, TO EXPERIENCE
His depthless bond to His Abba :
“That all may be one
As YOU ARE IN ME, Abba, and I IN YOU .”* ¹¹

*Thus, Jesus' prayer for all of us, His sisters and brothers
Is twofold —
“Keep your hearts PREPARED !”* ¹²
*And
“I pray that you may be ONE
IN US !”* ¹³

1 Poem 1308, Blue Mountains Retreat, Lawson, October 2017, Day 7.

2 Mt 28:7 3 Sir 6:16 (I.B.) 4 Sir 2:3 5 Sir 2:11 (I.B.) 6 Sir 2:15 (I.B.) 7 Sir 4:15 (I.B.)

8 Cf Sir 4:12 (I.B.) 9 Cf Sir 4:17 (I.B.) 10 Sir 25:15 (I.B.) 11 Jn 17:21a 12 Sir 2:17 (I.B.) 13
Jn 17:21b

The Exhilaration of a Homecoming Heart ¹

*Our life is FULL of loving homecomings to our Beloved Abba
Not just ... in our return to Paradise, following death .
From the Paradisical Cloud of our origins, within Abba's loving heart,
Our present lives unfold as ones, "hidden WITH Christ in God". ²*

*Our choices, even as Christ's devoted disciples,
Have seen us wandering away, seeking our own ends .
At times, we're disorientated, but at others, we're LOST in a maze
... Be that of egotism, or addiction, or self-absorbed wilfulness .
However, grace has always called up back
... Back HOME to the arms of Abba !*

*Our homecomings have been numerous, and on-going
... Joining an endless exodus of 'prodigals', returning .
Many returns are apologetic, and simple, some drawn out and difficult,
Some dramatic, and few ... truly empowering turning points .
Whatever the case, unfailingly, we are greeted with the SAME welcome
— That of the prodigal son's Father :
"I will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you !" ³*

*Equally, yet in a wholly positive way, our whole life-journey is a homecoming
... As we are DRAWN, ever more deeply, within the depths of our own spirits
— To the enrapturous embrace of Abba, Jesus, and Their Spirit, there .
Here, Paul, reminds us, we are ALWAYS "being called to intimacy with Jesus, our saviour ." ⁴*

With every homecoming, there is always SURPRISE :

“It has not dawned on ANYONE,

What things God has prepared for those who love God !” ⁵

Unsurpassingly, these ‘surprises’ come by way of the Spirit of Mystery —

“The depths of God can ONLY be known by way of the Spirit of God .” ⁶

Be it a homecoming ‘on the way’, or our ultimate homecoming ...

“We have ... received the Spirit so that we understand

What God has FREELY GIVEN US .” ⁷

Paradoxically, in each homecoming ... the Spirit moves us BEYOND WORDS,

As we are “caught up to paradise, to hear UNUTTERABLE words” ⁸

... Caught up in Abba’s Embrace, with feelings of intimacy beyond words !

Yet this Spirit of Surprise is not finished with us !

What begins in our heart’s journey in the Spirit

As happiness ...

BECOMES

Gladness (then)

Enrapture.

.Delight

Ecstasy.

.Joy

Bliss.

.Elation

Exhilaration

1 Poem 1309, Blue Mountains Retreat, Lawson, October 2017, Day 8.

2 Col 3:3

3 Ezk 36:26 (I.B.)

4 1Cor 1:9 (I.B.)

5 1Cor 2:9 (I.B.)

6 1Cor 2:11 (I.B.)

7 1Cor 2:12 (I.B.)

8 2Cor 12:4 (I.B.)

Jesus' 'Depthing', and Ascendant, Humanity ¹

*Our Loving Trinity
Primes our receptive hearts
... Continuously raising us up
With ever more intimate, ever more inclusive*

*REVELATIONS of Love
Of Who-They-are-together
... Uplifting us, drawing us
To Themselves*

In the Ascendant Humanity of Jesus !

These Trinitarian REVELATIONS

— Though wholly hidden to us, except through faith's KNOWING —

Are marvellously interwoven

*With the Wonder of Each Divine Person's Self-sacrificing love
... With Each wholly transcending, and thus surrendering, their Self
... As a Divine Gift of Love, to the Others !*

*Amazingly, this depthless sharing of a Loving Trinity,
Is replicated, FOR US, in Jesus' sacrificing His Self on the Cross .*

*HERE, HE 'DEPTHS' OUR HUMANITY, to its ultimate limits :
Summoning all-we-are within Himself, summoning what is best in our nature*

— To surrender the same to Abba .

This is the Glory of Jesus' 'Depthing' Humanity !

Marvellously, our graced IDENTITY, our graced DESTINY,

Is to be, exactly THAT OF THE TRINITY

— *Because, IN CHRIST, we are with-Them-as-They-are .*

... With Them, to be 100% transparent and open !

... With Them, to be totally revealing of who-we-are !

... With Them, to value the surpassing uniqueness of each other person !

... With Them, to draw from the Transcending Wonder of Their Equality

— the enabling Eternal source of our human EQUATITY !

... With Them, to be 100% INTEGRATIVE of all relationships in our lives

— enabled by the empowering Presence of the Spirit of Unity !

Deeper still, our graced identity, our graced destiny

Urges us to actively CO-EXPERIENCE, WITHIN THE TRINITY OF LOVE, in CHRIST,

Each person's sacrificing of Their Self TO the Others

— *Specifically through CO-EXPERIENCING Jesus' sacrificing of Himself*

... Sacrificing the depths-of-all-that-is-human within Him and us ...

To Abba,

To loving Creator of our humanity !

Here also, our grace us to be, IN Christ, exactly THAT OF THE TRINITY :

... Being-with-Them-in-Him, as we are drawn, INWARDLY,

To co-experience the stunning depths of Jesus' SAVING HUMANITY !

... With Them, in Him, becoming persons of depthless compassion and joy !

... With Them, in Him, GIVING all-we-are for others !

... With Them, in Him, wholly transcending our individuality,

Through sharing in the Community of Love, within Christ !

... With Them, in Him, CONTINUOUSLY, ALTERNATINGLY

— Opening our spirits, NOW inwardly, givingly,

To the Depthless Wonder of Jesus' humanity !

— Opening them, NEXT outwardly, receptively,

To Abba's Embrace of us, in Jesus' Ascendant humanity !

Blessed be Abba, Jesus Ascended

And Their Spirit of Oneness !

1 Poem 1310, Year 20 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Trinity Sunday, 2018.

NOTE: 2018 was a year the author spent almost wholly, in re-editing his many years of past poetry.

The above, is the only new poem in this year. Much of years 2019,2020 and 2021(to May) were also given over to re-editing .

We Co-live His Life in Us ¹

Jesus : “Live on in me, AS I live in you”. ²

As Christ lives-His-Life in us,

Together we are enabled to live in Him

— that is, we CO-LIVE HIS LIFE in us .

Paul : “In Christ, we are members one of another”. ³

— that is, we indwell each other’s spirit

... all, in Christ’s human spirit,

— that is, OUR SPIRITS CO-INDWELL Christ’s spirit

... as we CO-LIVE HIS LIFE in us .

1 Poem 1311, Year 21 of Prayer Ministry, Annual Retreat at Lawson, Blue Mountains : with Sr. Yvonne Parker. Day 3, October 2019.

NOTE : Accommodation was at Christian Brothers Community, Mulgoa - the site of the author’s Second Year Novitiate, 54 years before !

2 Jn 15:4 N.A.B.

3 Rom 12:5 N.R.S.V.

In Service of Christ's Dream ¹

"I am in your midst, as one who serves" (Lk 22:27)

Christ Jesus IS the Dream Abba dreams for us ;

And because we are graced persons IN Him

Christ Jesus is the Dream, that together, we dream to be !

In the service of HIS Dream for us, Jesus did not refuse the Cross ...

But SACRIFICED His very life, for ours to REVIVE .

His Dream for us did not stop there :

In the service of His Dream for us,

He was raised in a New Humanity,

Which He instinctively invited us to share

... WITHIN Himself.

Abba fully realizes His Risen Son's Dream for us

By UPLIFTING Him, and thus US, to Himself

... Embracing us, rapturously, in Jesus' New Humanity

... Crowning His, and our, New Humanity, with the GIFT OF THE SPIRIT !

In our being thus en-Spirited, Jesus' Dream for us

Is wondrously fulfilled !

So, the fulfilment of our dream FOR EACH OTHER

Is ... to be IN Christ,

Gifting Abba's, and His, Spirit

TO ONE ANOTHER !

The Whisper of the Spirit ¹

*In Eternity's Moment ...
Abba's and Jesus' Love for each other
Reveals itself
As the softest Whisper,
The gentlest Breath,
A mutual Murmur of Delight,
A depthless Sigh of Peace ...*

*This Whisper, this Breath
Issues forth within Their Kiss of Love ...*

*This Murmur, this Sigh
Expresses all Who-They-Are-Together
— Wholly One in the Other
— Wholly inclusive of us, IN Christ
Yes ! Ours to Whisper,
Ours to Breathe,
Ours to Murmur,
Ours to Sigh
... With Them, IN Christ*

“O !

*May the Whispering of my heart
Find favour in Your Presence, O my God .”* ²

¹ Poem 1313, Year 21 of Prayer Ministry, Annual Retreat Blue Mountains, October 2019, Day 6.

² Ps 19:14

Human Spirits ... Seasoned with The Spirit ¹

“If salt loses its savour, *Mt 5:13 (K.J.B.)*

how can it be seasoned again ?” *Lk 13:34 (J.B.)*

Seasoned footy players, seasoned officers-in-charge, and even seasoned wood,

All RE-ASSURE us, through either ...

The passage of years of experience, or season upon season of maturing .

On the other hand, seasoned meats or seasoned rice, attract us

... Because they're newly flavoursome, having been savoured with herbs and spices .

Almost uniquely placed, is a seasoned fine wine

... Incorporating both sets of “seasoned” qualities

... And providing us with a template, to explore a “seasoned” human spirit .

Indeed, Abba delights in any human spirit

Who, like Christ, and IN Christ, have been “salted” with years of sacrificial suffering,

And thus, almost always, with years of deep love .

Abba especially exults in such a spirit

Who, instead of “losing its savour” and thus, its distinctive appeal to Abba

... Is opened by the Spirit of ‘Springtime-Passover’ Renewal,

To be newly “seasoned”, newly spiced

... And so rendered, much more delightful to Abba’s ‘taste .’

*Not only does Abba “ savour” such a “ seasoned” spirit,
But we, IN Christ, thrill to join Abba, in ‘ experiencing’
Any person thus re-invigorated or en-Spirited
With the Spirit of Jesus Risen !
Truly, we can ‘ TASTE AND SEE THE GOODNESS OF GOD’ ²
... Newly revealed in such spirits !*

*To be thus “ seasoned” with the spiced Spirit of the Paschal Jesus,
Is not only — IN Him, the Bread of Life — to ‘ be broken and shared’
... Satisfying the hunger of the poor in spirit ...
But, much more subtly, more sensitively, more beautifully
— To have our spirits PERFUMED by the same Spirit .*

*This FRAGRANCING of our spirits, attracts those whose hearts are ENTICED
By the Scent of the Beloved ... the Scent of Earth wedded to Heaven’s Allure,
These hearts thrill to the Beauty of the Beloved of Humanity, Radiant with Abba’s Life !
Yes ! Such are those, whose lives are “ seasoned” and fragranced
With the Spirit of Love !*

1 Poem 1314, Year 21 of Prayer Ministry, Annual Retreat, Lawson, Blue Mountains, October 2019, Day 7.

2 Ps 34:8

To Co-liberate Each Other's Lives ¹

To be in the Cosmic Ascended Christ

Is to be plunged

Into that graced MUTUAL LIBERATION of all life,

That has its enabling centre IN Christ Jesus .

Alive to all that generates life, IN Christ,

We are led ever deeper, within Christ's New Humanity,

... Wherein we are enlivened by His Risen Life ...

To co-liberate each other's lives, in the Spirit !

Wondrously free ... and freeing of others ...

We discover that we share

In that wondrous consciousness, that is Christ Jesus'

And in that wondrous capacity, to choose always, the Father's heart-desires !

Thus, as free and freeing persons-in-Christ

We more truly sense what is life-giving ...

And come to really value and celebrate life

In all its myriad expressions !

Most profoundly, we allow the Spirit

To open us radically — that is, DIVINELY,

To the Ascended Christ's VERY OWN LIFE,

... To all that flows from HIS LIFE, from His Integrative Presence .

*Together, as we co-experience His Paschal Life
We sense that we have been mysteriously drawn
Into the Trinity of Belonging
... From whom all life and love issue, and to whom they return .*

*Alive to God, IN Christ,
We not only share in each other's liberation,
But we CO-LIBERATE each other's lives,
And wondrously, are co-liberated to Life-IN-Christ !*

*Our natural 'sense' of WHO these 'others' are,
Is often turned on its head,
By the Spirit of Surprises
— The Spirit of Abba , who chooses as He pleases .*

*This vivifying subtle Spirit often moves us
To suspend judgement on others' likeness to Christ
... To close our eyes to appearances
— As our hearts are opened, to their hearts !*

*The Spirit moves us to welcome them
As brothers and sisters,
To embrace even all apparent opponents-of-life
As FAMILY !*

*The Spirit moves us to simply CEASE trying to comprehend
WHO belongs to the Kingdom of Life and Love !
Rather, as captives of the Spirit, we choose to honour and celebrate
All human expression of being ALIVE IN CHRIST !*

*Thus, we are called, IN Christ, Ascended to the Father of Life,
To love whoever is life-giving, whatever if life-enhancing,
And thus, to value all expressions of life
That open us, to experience Christ's OWN LIFE !*

*Contrarivise, in the face of whoever undermines life,
Or of whatever discourages the GROWTH of life,
Ours is not to condemn, nor to minimize,
But to openly offer the vivifying, humble witness of-being-Christ !*

*Thus, our special grace is to open our spirits
Evermore positively, to any expression of life in others
... Perhaps, becoming ourselves a conduit of life for them,
Affirming life, promoting life — whether they are conscious of it, or not .*

1 Poem 1315, Year 21 of Prayer Ministry, ' Viridian', Brisbane, December 2019.

NOTE : Eleven months before writing this poem, the author had been transferred from Woolloowin Community, to the Viridian Retirement Community, in the last week of January 2019. Here he joined a vibrant community of fourteen other Brothers, who were interspersed in independent units, within a wider group of one hundred and forty residents (lay couples and singles) all living in a seven story complex , bordering Nudgee College .

The All-Revealing Mystery of God ¹

The God of Mystery is also the God of Revelation :

The one, whose unknowable, infinite depths of love

Limitlessly SURPRISES us,

Is the very One who, in revealing ALL-IN-CHRIST,

Endlessly astounds us !

The One who, wholly FULFILLED-AS-THREE

... A glorious Tri-unity of giving and receiving ...

Is, in Christ's New Paschal Humanity, limitlessly OPEN TO CHANGE .

The One who, eternally transcending all RELATIONSHIPS,

Is the wondrously Intimate One

Who sweeps us up into an all-uniting Embrace !

¹ Poem 1316, Year 21 of Prayer Ministry, Viridian Retirement Community, Brisbane, December 2019.

(Hereafter, Viridian Retirement Community will be written as ' Viridian'.)

Holding Your Hand in Mine ¹

*“I the Lord Your God,
Am holding you, by the right hand .”* *Is 41:13*

*This is a most personal initiative, of our Abba-God,
Who if asked, loves to tell us why :
‘By letting me hold your hand ...
You can surrender all your fears,
Because my holding your hand
Is exactly the same ...
As holding my Beloved Jesus’ hand
— The Fearless One, the Trusting One .*

*‘Yes, in holding your hand,
KNOW I-am-with-you
... Your heart within mine ...
Even when your surface feelings
Totally suggest otherwise .*

*‘In holding your hand, IN mine,
I, the Eternal One,
Am your COMPANION-FOR-LIFE .
My Life flows through my Risen Beloved
... Wholly into yours !*

*‘With my firm and gently loving grip,
I will NEVER RELEASE
My hold of your hand ... though you release yours .
While your ‘releasing,’ your sinning, does cause change WITHIN YOU ,
My limitless love for you, never changes .*

*‘Our going everywhere TOGETHER
... Your hand in mine ...
Is an expression, TO ALL, of our mutual intimacy .
You’re always as close to me
As the Ascended Jesus .*

*‘Holding YOUR hand is subtly different
From holding that of your brothers and sisters .
It expresses my SPECIAL ATTRACTION to you,
And our special bond together :
Know.... How, with Jesus and the Spirit,
We long to make Our home with you ! ²*

*‘Holding your hand in mine thrills me :
Through you, and with you,
I can rejoice in my Son’s New Humanity
In His, and your Ascendant Humanity
— Rejoicing, with my Homecoming Child
In the Embrace of the Spirit .’*

1 Poem 1317, Year 21 of Prayer Ministry, ‘Viridian’ Brisbane, December 2019.

2 Cf Jn 14:23

Divinely Open-hearted ¹

Openness

Is the essence of all good relationships .

Wondrously, to be ever more open TO GOD

Is to be called, IN the Ascended Jesus, TO LOVE

... Whatever, whoever is LIFE-GIVING

... Whatever, whoever, is LIFE-ENHANCING .

However, because of our human nature,

Being open-hearted, has mostly MIXED motivations and outcomes

— Both for ourselves and others

... Between what encourages, and what discourages, the growth of life

... Between what enhances, and what diminishes life .

So ... only rarely do we get to love, or be loved by,

People who are wholly lovable, or wholly loving

— That is, by people who are wholly open-hearted .

Wondrously, our Brother Jesus

Is the wholly Open One,

Who ever enables us,

To be AS HE IS ...

Divinely open-hearted !

We Ascend, Empowered by Love ¹

*Glory to You, Abba
O Tenderest of Fathers,
Ever uplifting our humanity
Through the marvels of Your Love !*

*O Wondrous, faithful Abba,
Embrace us all together
... As we ASCEND, empowered by love,
In the Uplifted Humanity of Your Christ .*

*Open-hearted Abba,
En-Spirit us together
... So, through the Breath of Your Love,
Our Paschal hearts are opened,
To commune, lovingly, IN Christ !*

