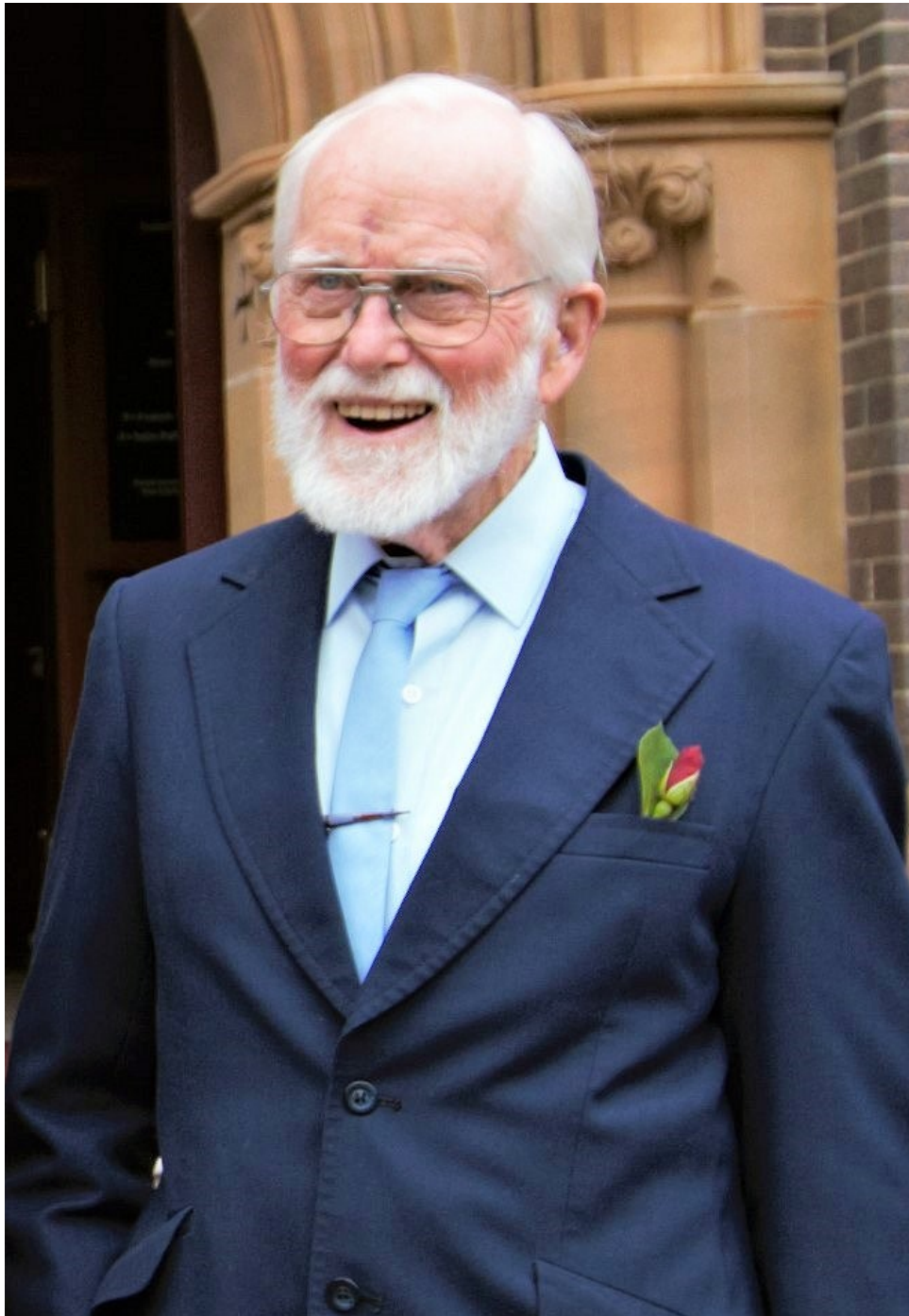


A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
AND CELEBRATION FOR THE LIFE OF



ROSS JOHN LAMONT

4TH OCTOBER 1930 - 18TH FEBRUARY 2023

SAINT MARY'S WEST ARMIDALE ANGLICAN CHURCH
10AM MONDAY, 6TH MARCH 2023

BIOGRAPHY

Ross John Lamont was born 4 October 1930 in Brisbane, the youngest child of Gordon Lamont and Ethel Catherine Lamont (née Ross) (a Presbyterian chutney manufacturer and office manager). He was sent off to board at The Southport School at the age of 10. A polymath, he studied medicine for nearly seven years before discovering an interest in theology and history, which he studied at St Francis' Anglican College (where he met his future brother-in-law, Keith Atkinson) and the University of Queensland.. He was ordained a deacon in 1957 before converting to Catholicism in c. 1959 and then travelled to England to study his Master of Arts at the University of London. To support his studies, he worked firstly in a sausage factory and then as a teacher at two schools, the last being St Benedict's School where he was asked to conduct the choir.

While in England in 1962, he married Brisbane-born Joan Atkinson, who gave birth to Catherine and Marianne before the family travelled on *SS Orcades* (via the Cape of Good Hope) to take up his first and last academic post at UNE in Armidale, where Ross and John were born. Taking sabbatical leave firstly with the family in 1974 and then on his own, he loved teaching and researching but disliked the promotion process and so remained a junior lecturer. A perfectionist with insatiable curiosity about people and how their stories come to be distorted (by history and in real life), he dictated the last paragraphs of his first major articles, on the relationship between Charles Darwin and Captain Robert Fitzroy of HMS Beagle, just before he died. This work will be completed by the literary executors.

He loved his family, but found family life challenging and lived separately from Joan after 1995. He had very special relationships with not only his children and their families but more distant relatives and in-laws as well. The last five weeks were particularly special as family travelled or connected by zoom or email for some final conversations and reconciliations. He was not afraid of dying and prepared eagerly for his funeral, designing the order of service 'to rejoice in the Christian ethos', he said, selecting the readings from the Jerusalem Bible and hymns and requesting a 'small choir' sing them in harmony. He said he was just a little sad that he wouldn't be around to find out what would happen next to all of us ...

ORDER OF SERVICE

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Minister: Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Minister: We have come together to thank God for the life of Ross, to mourn and honour him, to lay to rest his mortal body, and to support one another in grief. We face the certainty of our own death and judgment. Yet Christians believe that those who die in Christ share eternal life with him. Therefore in faith and hope we turn to God, who created and sustains us all.

HYMN | *Praise to the Holiest in the Height*

1. Praise to the Holiest in the height, and in the depth be praise,
In all his words most wonderful, most sure in all his ways.
2. O loving wisdom of our God! when all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight and to the rescue came.
3. O wisest love, that flesh and blood which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against their foe, should strive and should prevail;
4. And that a higher gift than grace should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very Self, and Essence all-divine.
5. O generous love! that he, who smote in Man for man the foe,
the double agony in Man for man should undergo;
6. And in the garden secretly, and on the Cross on high,
Should teach his brethren, and inspire to suffer and to die.
7. Praise to the Holiest in the height, and in the depth be praise,
In all his words most wonderful, most sure in all his ways.

PRAYER

**All: Loving God, you alone are the source of life.
May your life-giving Spirit flow through us, and fill us with compassion,
one for another. In our sorrow give us the calm of your peace.
Kindle our hope, and let our grief give way to joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Psalm 121

The Response: *My help comes from the Lord.*

I lift my eyes to the hills: from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord: the maker of heaven and earth.

Response:

The Lord will not allow your foot to slip: your guardian will not sleep.
See, the one who watches over Israel: shall neither slumber nor sleep.

Response:

It is the Lord who is your keeper: the Lord is your shelter on
your right hand, so that the sun shall not strike you by day:
neither shall the moon by night.

Response:

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil: it is the Lord who shall guard
your life. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:
both now and for evermore.

Response:



THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

BIBLE READING | *2 Samuel Chapter 1: 23 - 27*

FROM DAVID'S LAMENT FOR JONATHAN

Read by Peter Chambers

Saul and Jonathan, loved and lovely, Neither in life, nor in death, were divided.
Swifter than eagles were they, stronger were they than lions.

O daughters of Israel, weep for Saul who clothed you in scarlet and fine linen,
who set brooches of gold on your garments.

How did the heroes fall in the thick of the battle?

O Jonathan, in your death I am stricken, I am desolate for you, Jonathan my
brother. Very dear to me you were, your love to me more wonderful
than the love of a woman.

How did the heroes fall and the battle armour fail?

HYMN | *King of glory, King of peace*

Choir Only

*1. King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee;
and, that love may never cease, I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me;
thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me.*

Congregation

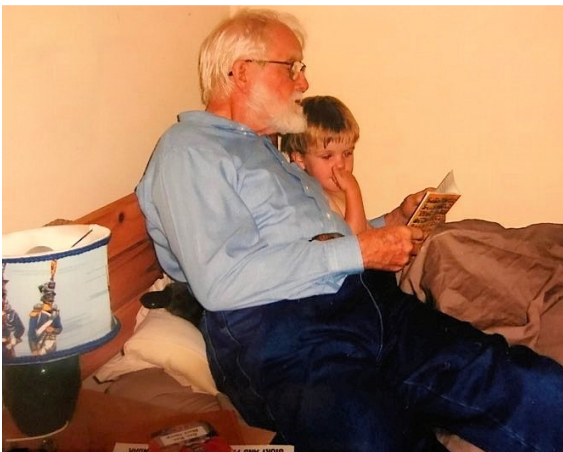
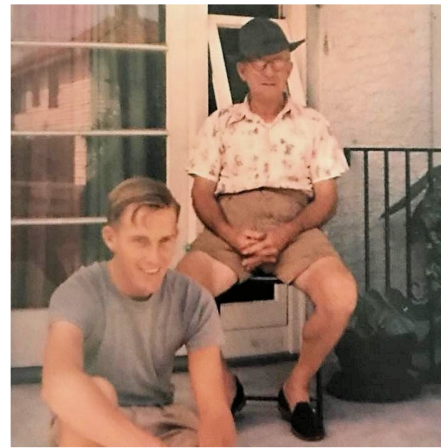
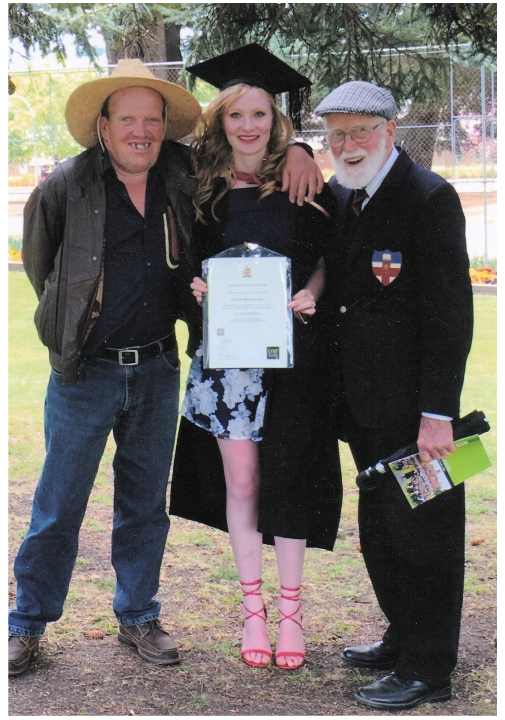
2. Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee,
and the cream of all my heart I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me.

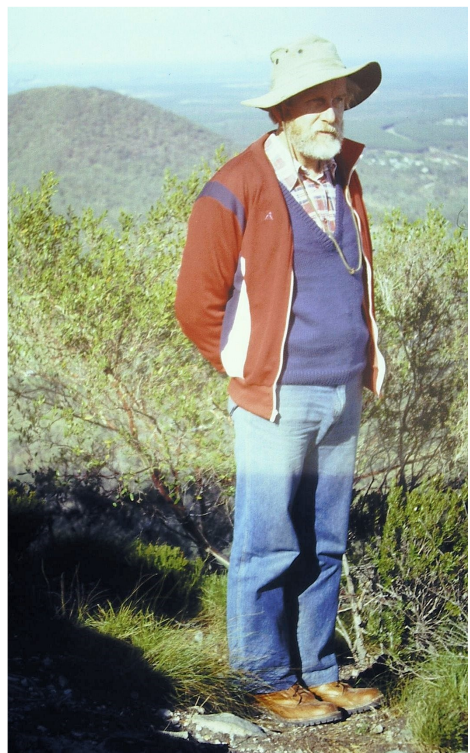
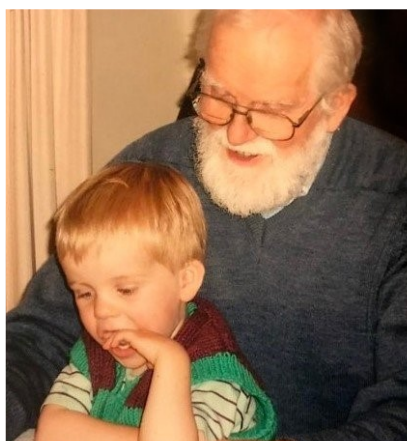
3. Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort to enrol thee:
ev'n eternity's too short to extol thee.

ONE MINUTE MEDITATION

PLACING OF MEMENTOS ON THE COFFIN

Ross Lamont, Lulu Lamont, Emile Caballero
and David & Haylee Peters





BIBLE READING | 1 John Chapter 4: 7 - 19

Read by Ron Bradbury

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another. No one has ever seen God; But as long as we love one another God will live in us and his love will be complete in us.

We can know that we are living in him and he is living in us because he lets us share his Spirit. We ourselves saw and we testify that the Father sent his Son as saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him, and he in God. We ourselves have known and put our faith in God's love towards ourselves. God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.

Love will come to its perfection in us when we can face the day of Judgement without fear; because even in this world we have become as he is. In love there can be no fear, but fear is driven out by perfect love: because to fear is to expect punishment, and anyone who is afraid is still imperfect in love. We are to love, then, because he loved us first.

GOSPEL READING | John Chapter 15: 11 - 17

I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends, if you do what I command you.

I shall not call you servants anymore, because a servant does not know his master's business; I called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from my father.

You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you is to love one another.

HYMN | *Come down, O love divine*

Choir:

*1. Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*

Congregation:

2. O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3. Let holy charity mine outer vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing:
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

4. And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till he become the place
in which the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

SERMON

Reverend Greg Stanton

EULOGY & REMEMBRANCES OF ROSS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Minister: As our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are confident to pray:

All: *Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil. Amen.*

SONNET BY LOPE DE VEGA c. 1600

Read by Eleanor Peters

Shepherd divine, who call'dst so lovingly,
Wakening from sleep e'en such a one as I,
Whose crook is fashion'd from that blessed Tree
Whereon Thy almighty arms were stretch'd to die;
Turn to this faithful soul Thy pitying gaze;
Thou art my Master and my Life-of-love;
Thy gentle voice I'll follow all my days
And from Thy beauteous footprints never rove.
Shepherd, whom love can slay, I pray Thee hear;
Flee not before the blackness of my sin,
But, since the weary soul to Thee is dear,
Stay, quell the fears that compass me within.
Yet why say 'Stay' when Thou art at the door,
Waiting with piercèd feet for evermore?

HYMN | *God, that madest earth and heaven*

1. God, that madest earth and heaven,
Darkness and light; who the day for toil hast given,
For rest the night. May thine Angel-guards defend us,
Slumber sweet thy mercy send us,
Holy dreams and hopes attend us
This livelong night.
2. Guard us waking, guard us sleeping, and, when we die,
May we in thy mighty keeping all peaceful lie.
When the last dread call shall wake us,
Do not thou our God forsake us,
But to reign in glory take us
With thee on high.

THE FAREWELL

Minister: Let us entrust our brother Ross to the mercy of God.

All: *Holy and loving Father,
by your mighty power you gave us life,
and in your love you have given us new life in Christ Jesus.
We entrust Ross to your merciful keeping:
in the faith of Jesus Christ,
who died and rose again to save us,
and now lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit in glory for ever.
Amen.*

Minister: The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.
All: Amen.



SINGERS

Alan Wilkinson, Joy Bowles, Sharyn Holmes, John Hadfield

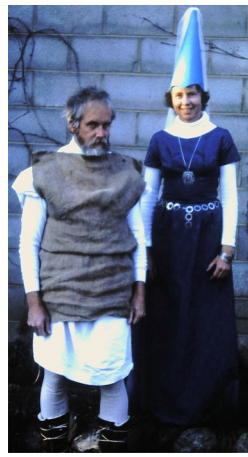
ORGANIST

Megan Ainsworth

PALLBEARERS

Nicholas Bradbury, Brett Farrell, John Lamont,
Ross Lamont, Lachlan Brazier, Terry Brazier

Please join us for morning tea after the burial,
with tea and coffee to be served in the interim.



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