ORDER OF SERVICE

Didgeridoo

Decoration of the coffin

Art work for the coffin is by Nici Wright (Ross’s niece) together with the music of his round ‘God is Love’ -
‘God is love & love is giving,
God gives me the life I have,
The life I have leads me to singing,
Sing that God is love’.

Welcome and introduction

Song

We are not alone
Led by Fay White and Digby Hannah

CHORUS:
We are not alone in suffering.
Jesus goes before us.
We are not alone.
He knows our sorrows,
He will turn our tears to joy.

I hear the sounds of the suffering.
I see the terrors of war.
I hear the cry of the homeless and the poor.
Does all the sobbing and sighing
Just fade into infinite space?
Are we alone as we struggle and groan?
Can God feel our pain?

CHORUS
Weak like a shoot in the concrete,
Strong as he weathered the rain.
He was despised and rejected – oh the pain!
He took our suffering upon him.
We’re healed by the whipping he bore.
We turn away, we are sheep gone astray.
And he dies again.

CHORUS
Who will believe what the prophet said:
God stands in suffering revealed.
Who will begin on this journey – and be healed?
Questions remain, it is mystery.
But, searching for justice and peace,
Wholeness begins both between and within:
It is not in vain.

CHORUS

Ross Langmead, 1987
Tribute: Westgate Baptist Church  Geoff Wraight
Prayer of Lament  Geoff Wraight
Song  Multicultural Choir
Scripture reading  Deb Mountjoy

Romans 8:35, 37-39
Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ’s love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture…….
None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I’m absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God’s love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

The Message - Eugene Peterson

Song  You Stand Among Us

CHORUS:
Lord you stand among us, you stir within us,
You draw us on beyond what we can do, what we can be,
Revealing your freedom and mystery.

When we search for you and find a void,
When our sense of God has been destroyed,
We need reminding: Jesus came
And stood amongst the poor, the blind, the lame.
Felt our pain, and stretched his hand,
The sky is tinged with dawn.

CHORUS
When we’ve given in and had our fill,
When the air we breathe is stale and still,
We feel the gentle breeze: living grace,
We tackle obstacles we could not face,
We are loved, you stir within,
We take the road again.

CHORUS
When we say that’s all we want to do,
When we shut the door and say we’re through,
We feel the song of love draw us on,
Magnetic mystery, now here, now gone,
Sets us free and makes us whole,
We plunge into the sea.

CHORUS

Ross Langmead, 1986
Family Tributes  
Jeanette Woods on behalf of Ross’s siblings & family 
Alison, Benjamin & Kia

Photo Montage

Scripture reading  
Newton Daddow 

John 1:1-5,14
The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one. Everything was created through him nothing - not one thing! - came into being without him. What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn’t put it out….. The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish. 
*The Message* - Eugene Peterson

Tribute and Reflection  
Alan Marr

Meditative Reflection  
*A Place To Rest* 
Played by Murray and Dorothy Wright

Community Prayers  
Roslyn Wright and Frank Rees 
(Written by the Faculty of Whitley College)

Creator God, Spirit of all Life, 
Word made flesh, 
in Jesus you have been 
life-long friend to Ross. 
We mourn his death; but there is so much we want to 
acknowledge and celebrate in his life: 
seeds you planted in him that grew to fruit in many ways.

*All* 
**Spirit of Life and Love**
*May these seeds continue to grow.*

We pray for those who have journeyed with Ross in family and community life: especially for Alison, Benjamin and Kia; for countless happy memories of love in practice and living well, together with them we give thanks. 

We pray for their extended family, for neighbours and friends who have shared life with Ross. May they know your Spirit grieving with them, your love surrounding them, and your peace guiding them in the days ahead.

*All* 
**Spirit of Life and Love**
*May these seeds continue to grow.*
We pray for the many communities where Ross shared his vision of your world: a world of peace and justice, where all are included and live together in grace and hope.
We pray for the community of Westgate, embodying the passion for God’s love in the western suburbs, bringing grace to a common life, and celebrating cultural diversity.

All **Spirit of Life and Love**
May these seeds continue to grow.
We pray for the students and staff of Whitley College who have known Ross’s teaching, benefited from his intellectual clarity, and been inspired by his practical engagement in mission.
We pray for all colleagues through the MCD University of Divinity and academic networks around the world.

All **Spirit of Life and Love**
May these seeds continue to grow.
We pray for the communities of people pushed aside by the power structures of our world. For these people Ross had a special love.
We pray for indigenous Australians, communities of refugees in Thailand, Burma, and here in this land.
May we all find a new day, walking together in peace, freedom and hope.
We pray for the Earth, so ravaged by our greed and exploitation.
May we learn to live in harmony as one community of your creation.

All **Spirit of Life and Love**
May these seeds continue to grow.
We pray for the Church in all its forms and places, to which Ross was committed. Keep alive the vision for renewal and transformation.
May the example of Jesus be the measure of all things, so that people grow into the fullness of your life and love, and leaders be empowering servants of their communities.

All **Spirit of Life and Love**
May these seeds continue to grow.
We thank you for the faith that Ross lived and shared.
May we also know and live this faith;
may we love one another, live in peace and forgive;
may we lift our eyes and look for the sun;
may we recognize you as you stand among us;
may we be ready for your kingdom;
may we be God’s family together;
may we welcome children and surround them with love;
may we live joyfully and justly;
may we take the shape of holy beauty;
may we grow in love as we walk the road;
always giving thanks for the journey.

All **Spirit of Life and Love**
May these seeds continue to grow.
We offer these prayers through the one who is your Word made flesh,
AMEN
Finding Our Home
Led by Fay White

We are pilgrims, we are strangers,
we are orphans, we are widows,
Is there anyone who will shelter us in this land?
On the hard road, in a strange place,
needing comfort, feeling lonely,
Will we find a roof and a welcoming hand?

CHORUS:
We’re restless till we find our home in you, Oh Lord,
Find our resting place in you.
A place we’re never alone, A place where we are known.
May we find our home in you.

If we’re hungry, if we’re thirsty,
if we’re shivering, if we’re prisoners,
Is there anyone who will take us out of the cold?
If we’re wandering like a lost sheep,
without shelter or direction,
Will we find the shepherd and sleep in the fold?

CHORUS
You are homeless and rejected,
and send us into byways
Calling anyone who will take on what you went through.
Yet you call us to your mansions,
to your fireside, to your ballroom,
Will we come and celebrate living with you?

CHORUS

Ross Langmead, 1982

Committal and Benediction
Simon Holt
**Song of Praise**  
Led by Fay White and Digby Hannah

Creator of this great land, we adore you.  
Renewer of your people, hear our praise.  
Transformer of all life, you often take us by surprise.  
Continue to be present in life-giving ways ...

Creator of this great land we adore you.  
Renewer of your people, hear our praise.  
Transformer of all life you often take us by surprise.  
Continue to be present in life-giving ways,  
Great God.

Ross Langmead, 1996

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**You are invited to refreshments at**  
Werner Brodbeck Hall (Scots’ Church),  
156 Collins Street

The GRACE leaves that you received on the way into the service are the concept of Nici Wright, Ross’s niece.  
‘One tree, many leaves, as part of the Tree of Life’.  
Wear them as an invitation, in the grace of God’s great Love, to become who you truly are.  
We sense that this was Ross’s deepest yearning, not only for himself, but for all people everywhere.
Ross Oliver Langmead was born on August 13, 1949, in Albury NSW, to Oliver & Jean Langmead. As part of their calling as Salvation Army Officers, the family moved to Hong Kong in 1952, where they lived & served in a post-war orphanage for Chinese children. Young Ross became fluent in Cantonese. In 1956 the family returned to Australia, serving in various communities around Melbourne during Ross’s youth. Ross had one older sister, Jeanette, & four younger siblings, Les, Howard, Peter, Grace.

Ross married Alison Joy Wright in 1973 beginning nearly 40 years of loving relationship & teamwork. Ross & Alison welcomed Benjamín Ross in 1978, & Kia Marinna in 1980. Parenting was one of Ross’s greatest joys (and challenges!). He was a VERY proud grandfather to Zara (3), & step-grandfather to Sage (13). It was a delight to observe Ross with children, where he applied pure love-in-action. How fitting that Ross spent his final day with Zara, at the swimming pool & playground. Her final words before sleep, on the night of his heart attack, were: “He’s okay, he has his new skin on now”.

Ross was a committed & integral member of Westgate Baptist Community in Yarraville, since its formation in 1982. His home-based small group enriched his life with honest working-class faith & he felt further enriched by a large & growing group of friends from around the world, especially Karen & Chin refugees.

As a follower of Jesus, Ross “sat loosely to religious structures”, an Australian Baptist influenced by the Anabaptist tradition, the radical discipleship movement & the ecumenical movement. Some of his passions were justice, peacemaking, care for creation & exploring intentional missional community.

Ross was a talented musician who wrote songs for worship & social justice, & published a collection of songs called On the Road (1988). His music expressed the passion & struggle of his journey to live authentically, touching many around the world & will be an important part of his legacy. He was a keen environmentalist, who rode his bike or caught public transport to work most days, & introduced many to the link between faith & the environment.

Ross also had a distinguished academic and professional record as a teacher and scholar. He trained as a school teacher, then did further study in philosophy of religion (at the University of Melbourne), religious studies (at Lancaster, UK), theology (at Whitley College) and missiology (through the Melbourne College of Divinity). He researched ways churches could respond to their context, published in the Western Suburbs Conference Report (Baptist Union of Victoria, 1978). From 1980 to 1992 he was on the pastoral team at Westgate Baptist Community.

He was appointed Whitley College’s first lecturer in mission studies in 1993 and then Professor in 1998. He was director of the School of World Mission from 2000 to 2006 and served as Dean of the Theological School from 2009 to 2012.

Ross’s doctoral study was on incarnational mission and was published in The Word Made Flesh (2004). He also edited Re-imagining God and Mission (2007), on contextual mission in Australia, and has published numerous articles and reviews, particularly on mission theology, reconciliation, ecotheology and multiculturalism. He is the founding secretary of the Australian Association for Mission Studies and convenor of the Melbourne-based Mission Studies Network.

Over several decades, Ross contributed to the work of the MCD University of Divinity as a diligent and wise committee member, highly distinguished supervisor of doctoral and master’s students, and warm professional colleague across the entire academic community. His passion for the marginalised and less fortunate saw him regularly teaching in Burma, India and Thailand, as well as engaging in numerous activities in support of refugees, multiculturalism, ecotheology and reconciliation with Indigenous Australians.