

## And a final word from Peter:

I don't believe God created the universe. The thought that God was there at the universe's beginning, so many billions of years before human history, raises too many problems for me. So traditional beliefs like "God is the creator" and references to "Nature being created by God" are not for me.

Rather, I find myself more comfortable with thinking that Religion, like Art, Music, Science and Technology, is one of the needed unnecessary great inventions of Thinking Humans. As the invention of religion became significant for humanities existence, the idea of "God or Gods", as both beyond us, but also present with us, has been introduced in culture after culture in many different ways.

For me, the essence of being human is twofold –the relationships we have with other humans and with the rest of the natural world on which we depend. This essence is shared so that, I believe, all humans have the individual and corporate, creative abilities to initiate actions that enrich these relations.

My meaning for the word "God" is this essential source of my creative ability to be socially and environmentally human. Personally, I identify with the term "Spirit" (the Christian idea of "Holy Spirit") rather than "God", to describe a source I regularly experience of sudden inspirations for extending relationships. The presence of this Spirit as a potentially available energy in every other human being, thus makes possible an ever-expanding set of richer outgoing and incoming relationships. Good human relationships also require respectful and quality relations with the natural order other living things and of the biosphere we all share.

Since my heritage and nurturing has been essentially Christian, a most powerful model for rich relationships between humans and the "Spirit" quote has come from what is known of the life of Jesus of Nazareth and from many others I have known or learnt about who have based their lives on his example.

Furthermore, Christine and I have also, for most of our lives, been fortunate to be part of Christian communities that are open about beliefs, concerned about social justice, and provided a warmth of caring relationships.

Because I believe relationships, not individuals or atoms, are the basis of being, my goal in life has been to strive to become more human: more loving, more compassionate, more courageous, more just, more environmentally responsible, more happy, more caring, more peace seeking, and more wise.

## Celebration Of A Life: Peter James Fensham

26.10.1927 – 23.08.2021



The Avenue Church, Blackburn  
Thursday 23rd December 2021

Entry Music:	<i>Love</i> (John Lennon)
Welcome	Reverend Rod Peppiat, Avenue Uniting
Opening message and prayer	Reverend Alex Sangster, Fairfield Uniting
Song:	<i>Gather us in</i> (Marty Haugen)
Eulogies:	Dick Gunstone and Dick White (Colleagues) Queenie Fensham (Granddaughter)
Visual Memories	
Eulogies:	Carolyn and Laurie Ingvarson (Friends and Colleagues) Patrick Fensham and Mark Fensham (Sons)
Sharing of Candles	Everyone
Song:	<i>Deep Stillness</i> (Robin Mann)
Blessing	Alex
Farewell Music:	Medley from Adrian Montana (Son-in-Law)



## Here in this place new light is streaming

Here in this place new light is streaming, Now is the darkness vanished away,  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, Brought here to you in the light  
of this day.

Gather us in the rich and the haughty, gather us in the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.  
We are the young – our lives are a myst'ry,  
We are the old – who yearn for your face, We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry  
Called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in and hold us for ever, gather us in and make us your own;  
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.



## For You, Deep Stillness of the Silent Inland

For you, deep stillness of the silent inland  
For you, deep blue of the desert skies  
For you, flame red of the rocks and stones  
For you, sweet water from hidden springs.

From the edges seek the heartlands  
and when you're burnt by the journey  
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit  
soothe and replenish you.

In the name of Christ,

In the name of Christ (repeat - last time, sing 'in the name of Christ' 3 times)