

Funeral Planning Guide and Worksheet



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Funeral Planning

“The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.

The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.” Book of Common Prayer, pg 507

As Christians, we know that death does not have the final word. Through God’s grace, Jesus has conquered sin and death forever. As we profess in the Apostles’ Creed, we believe in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

Funerals are among the times that we as Christians do the task of the Church the best. We comfort one another in our grief, we gather in community, and we proclaim Christ crucified and risen. A Christian funeral is not a tribute to how wonderful you were, but instead it publicly affirms the saving power of God, as demonstrated in your life. We tell how God’s story interacts with your story. Baptismal imagery is important because it reminds us of God’s saving deeds. As Paul writes in Romans 6:5, “For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”

In the days following a death, it can often be overwhelming for family members to put the details of a funeral together. Whether it is following a long illness or a surprising accident, your loved ones may wonder what your wishes really were. This worksheet is an opportunity for you to think about these things now, discussing them with your family, friends, and priest. A copy will be kept in a confidential file at St. Paul’s to assist the priest and your family in planning your funeral. It is not a legally binding document, but a guide and starting point for having conversation about what is to come.

CHECKLISTS

To aid your survivors, you should consider the following subjects and gather necessary information in a central location. Make a concise record of the information, and notify appropriate people of its location.

- Personal affairs records including date and place of birth, marriage, etc
- Personal lawyer or trusted friend
- Family records including: Birth, marriage, and death certificates, Divorce, adoption, or naturalization papers.
- Military service personnel file
- Insurance policies
- Social Security Information
- Property records: Real Estate, automobile, etc
- Stocks, bonds, securities.
- Bank Accounts
- Safety Deposit Box

Basic information

Full name: _____

Date of birth: _____ Place of birth: _____

Date of baptism: _____ Place of baptism _____

Date of confirmation: _____ Place of confirmation _____

Date of marriage: _____ Place of marriage: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Survived by: _____

Preceded in death by: _____

Next of kin and/or those making funeral arrangements: _____

Work and education: _____

Hobbies, activities, and passions: _____

Care of the body

This worksheet is not a binding document, but it can guide your loved ones in making decisions. Please talk with your family about these options now. Some decisions require separate signed documents.

Organ donation (circle one): Yes No

Donation for research (circle one): Yes No

Autopsy (circle one): None unless legally required If it will benefit medical research

Final decision regarding autopsy to be made by: _____

Cremation (circle one): Yes No

Have you done any pre planning with a funeral home? (circle one): Yes No

If yes, which funeral home? _____

Visitation

The visitation is an opportunity for friends and family to gather, often in the evening before the funeral.

Please Circle One: No visitation Visitation at funeral home Visitation at the church

Funeral service

The priest of St. Paul's normally preaches and officiates at funerals held at St. Paul's. Other clergy may participate in the service at the priest's invitation and discretion. At St. Paul's, a white funeral pall covers the casket as a reminder of baptism, and the paschal candle is lit as a reminder of Christ's triumph over death. Episcopalians leave the casket closed as a sign of resurrection. Communion can be a comforting option.

Burial Before _____ or after _____ service

Funeral location (circle one): St. Paul's Church Funeral Home _____

Other: _____

Body/cremains present? (circle one): Yes (funeral) No (memorial service)

Liturgy (circle one): Rite I Rite II

Communion? (circle one): Yes No Unsure

You may choose one Old Testament reading, such as:

Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever)
Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort those who mourn)
Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 (The Lord is good to those who wait for him)
Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God)
Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)

A suitable psalm, hymn, or canticle may follow.

The following Psalms are appropriate: 42:1-7, 46, 90:1-12, 121, 130, 139:1-11.

You may choose one New Testament reading, such as:

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (The imperishable body)
2 Corinthians 4:16--5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)
1 John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)
Revelation 7:9-17 (God will wipe away every tear)
Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)

A suitable psalm, hymn, or canticle may follow.

The following Psalms are appropriate: 23, 27, 106:1-5, 116.

You may choose one Gospel Testament reading, such as:

John 5:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life)
John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to me)
John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd)
John 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life)
John 14:1-6 (In my Father's house are many rooms)

Homily and/or Remembrance

You may choose to have a homily or remembrance offered by the Celebrant, or a member of the family, or a friend. If so, who would you like to invite to offer the homily or remembrance?

Music

Through music, we are often able to express what words alone cannot. For services at the church, St. Paul's Organist and Choirmaster will normally be the musician. In some circumstances, other musicians may participate at the priest's and Organist and Choirmaster's invitation and discretion. In selecting music, it is important to consider how the hymn proclaims Christ crucified and risen as demonstrated in the life of the deceased.

The following list suggests a number of hymns from the 1982 Hymnal that are appropriate.

Easter Hymns "The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised." BCP 507

- 174 At the lamb's high feast we sing
- 178 Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord
- 179 Welcome, happy morning!
- 180 He is risen, he is risen!
- 181 Awake and sing the song
- 188 Love's redeeming work is done
- 191 Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts and voices heavenward raise
- 194 Jesus lives!
- 199 Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
- 204 Now the green blade riseth
- 205 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
- 207 Christ the Lord is risen today!
- 208 The strife is o'er, the battle done
- 209 We walk by faith and not by sight

Hymns of Praise and Thanksgiving "The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy..." BCP 507

- 379 God is Love, let heaven adore him
- 390 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
- 397 Now thank we all our God
- 398 I sing the almighty power of God
- 400 All creatures of our God and King
- 410 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven
- 411 O Bless the Lord, my soul
- 429 I'll praise my Maker while I've breath

Hymns to Jesus Christ, Our Lord

- 447 The Christ who died but rose again
- 455 O love of God, how strong and true
- 460 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
- 473 Lift high the cross
- 478 Jesus, our mighty Lord
- 482 Lord of all hopefulness
- 487 Come my Way, my Truth, my Life
- 488 Be Thou my vision

Hymns to the Holy Spirit

- 508 Breathe on me breath of God
- 516 Come down, o Love divine

Hymns for the Saints and the Church Triumphant

287 For all the saints
293 I sing a song of the saints of God
620 Jerusalem, my happy home
623 O what their joy and their glory must be
625 Ye holy angels bright

Hymns of the Christian Life and Pilgrimage

555 Lead on, o King Eternal
556 Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
635 If thou but trust in God to guide thee
636 & 637 How firm a foundation
645 & 646 The King of love my shepherd is
658 As long the deer for cooling streams
663 The Lord my God my shepherd is
664 My Shepherd will supply my need
665 All my hope on God is founded
671 St. Paul's! How sweet the sound
680 O God, our help in ages past
687 & 688 A mighty fortress is our God
690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah
692 I heard the voice of Jesus say

Hymns of the Church and the Church's Mission

517 How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord
518 Christ is made the sure foundation
525 The Church's One Foundation
541 Come, labor on

Hymns for Burial

356 May choirs of angels lead you to Paradise
358 Christ the Victorious, give to your servants rest

Paraphrase of the Nunc dimittis

499 Lord God, you now have set your servant free

Navy Hymn

608 Eternal Father, strong to save

Including Others In Your Service

There are several opportunities for including friends and family in the service.

Assisting minister:

Pall bearers (If casket is present) (up to eight):

Readers (up to three): _____

Ushers (two to four):

Acolyte (up to three):

Burial

Internment (circle one): In the earth Cremation

If internment in the ground, have you secured a cemetery plot? (circle one): Yes No

If yes, where: _____

Military Honors

Those who have served in the military may be eligible for military honors. A flag is usually placed on the casket after the funeral for transport to the burial.

Have you served in the military? (circle one): Yes No

What branch? _____

When? _____

If you would like Military Honors, please describe:

Memorial gifts

I have shared with my next of kin where financial gifts in my memory should be directed. (circle one): Yes No

Recipients include:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church: Yes No

Other: _____

Other: _____

Gifts are to be in lieu of flowers (circle one): Yes No

If so, how should the gifts be directed?: _____

Planned giving (optional section):

I have included St. Paul's Episcopal Church in my will (circle one): Yes No

I am a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church's Legacy Society (Circle one): Yes No

I have planned another type of deferred gift (circle one): Yes No

Please list: Life insurance, gift-annuity, charitable trust, etc:

If you have circled yes above, you may wish to note the following:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is included in my estate plan for:

Percentage: _____ % Estimated value of gift: \$_____

Fixed amount: \$_____

Charges by St. Paul's Church for the Columbarium

(Note: prices subject to change)

Purchase of niche	\$700 (up to two individuals)
Opening and closing of niche	\$250 (per person)
Memorial plaque	\$275 (per person)
Altar Flowers (optional)	\$130 (may vary with choice of flowers)

Please share any additional details or requests:

Name of person preparing this form (print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Do you desire a visit with the priest to discuss these plans? (circle one): Yes No

Please feel free to call upon the priest at any time for help with issues of death, dying, grief, or mourning.

Please return this worksheet to:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church
A parish in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

