



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, p. 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 and Financial Information (separate document)

_____ Advance Directive (separate document)

Basic information

Full Name/Printed please: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Date of Baptism: _____

Place of Baptism: _____

Date of Confirmation: _____

Place of Confirmation: _____

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

Yes

No

You may choose one Old Testament reading, such as:

Click on the blue links to see each reading

[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 Hymnal 1982 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 p. 507

Jesus Christ is risen today	Hymnal 207
The Strife is O'er	Hymnal 208
We walk by faith and not by sight	Hymnal 209

Hymns of Praise and Thanksgiving

"The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy..." BCP. p. 507

God is love, let heaven adore him	Hymnal 379
King of glory, King of peace	Hymnal 382
Praise to the Lord, the almighty	Hymnal 390
I sing the almighty power of God	Hymnal 398
I'll praise my maker while I've breath	Hymnal 429

Hymns to Jesus Christ, our Lord

O Love of God, how strong and true	Hymnal 455
Thou art the Way, to thee along	Hymnal 457
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus	Hymnal 460
Lift high the cross	Hymnal 473
Lord of all hopefulness	Hymnal 482
Jesus, our mighty Lord	Hymnal 478
Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life	Hymnal 487
Be thou my vision	Hymnal 488
Lord God, you now have set your servant free	Hymnal 499

paraphrase of the Nunc dimittis

Hymns for the Saints and the Church Triumphant

For all the saints	Hymnal 287
Ye watchers and ye holy ones	Hymnal 618
Jerusalem, my happy home	Hymnal 620
Ye holy angels bright	Hymnal 625

Hymns of the Christian Life and Pilgrimage

If thou but trust in God to guide thee	Hymnal 635
How firm a foundation	Hymnal 636/637
The King of love my shepherd is (para. of Ps. 23)	Hymnal 645
As longs the deer for cooling streams (para. of Ps. 42:1-7)	Hymnal 658
My Shepherd will supply my need (para. of Ps. 23)	Hymnal 664
All my hope on God is founded	Hymnal 665
O God, our help in ages past (para. of Ps. 90:1-5)	Hymnal 680
A mighty fortress is our God (based on Ps. 46)	Hymnal 688
Guide me, O thou great Jehovah	Hymnal 690
I heard the voice of Jesus say	Hymnal 695

Hymns of the Church and the Church's Mission

How lovely is thy dwelling place	Hymnal 517
Christ is made the sure foundation	Hymnal 518
The Church's one foundation	Hymnal 525

Hymns for Burial

Into paradise may the angels lead you (sung by a soloist)	Hymnal 354
Give rest, O Christ, to your servants (sung by a quartet if available)	Hymnal 355
May choirs of angels lead you to Paradise	Hymnal 356
Christ the Victorious	Hymnal 358

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): _____

Acolytes (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 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 plaques:	as invoiced by Matthews <i>2024= approx. \$355(per person) for Niche Plaque-- Price increases every year</i>
Altar Flowers (optional)	\$130 (may vary with choice of flowers)

Please share any additional details or requests:

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 provide us with the current contact information for you:

Name (Please Print): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Cell: _____ Home: _____

Other: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

Please return this worksheet to:

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