

*CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF
CLINTON, MD 20735*



FUNERAL/MEMORIAL SERVICE

ARRANGEMENTS

FOR

(NAME GOES HERE)

At Christ Church

CONCERNING THE SERVICE

Most planning for funerals, especially the worship service, is done by the family of the deceased within the first few days after the person's death. It is a very busy and emotional time and it can be quite difficult to give thoughtful consideration to the details. We hope this booklet will give you and your family an opportunity to have that conversation now and together, and that it will encourage the sharing of the concerns and joys for your own mortality and the promise of everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Savior.

This booklet will guide you through the planning of a funeral/memorial service within the liturgy of The Episcopal Church, with a few things specific to services here at Christ Church. In addition to basic information about the service, we have provided guidelines for choosing scripture, music and hymns, as well as involving friends and family in the service. Do not be concerned if you are not able to fill in every detail. You may not be able to or want to make some of the choices now.

Do not place these instructions in a safe deposit box. Generally, services will be over by the time your administrator checks your bank box. Please give a copy to our Parish Administrator to keep on file, retain a copy for yourself in a file in your home, and give a copy to the person(s) responsible for carrying out your requests.

ABOUT FUNERALS

The proper place for the burial service of baptized Christians is the church. The local congregation gathers to celebrate and give thanks for the life of one of its members, along with family and other friends.

The funeral service is a celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We believe that baptized Christians share with Christ in his resurrection and victory over death. This means that the funeral liturgy is an Easter liturgy and is, therefore 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 Lazarus. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Savior, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

AT THE TIME OF DEATH

The death of a member of Christ Church should be reported to the church office as soon as possible, and arrangements for the day and time of the service should be made in consultation

with the Rector/Priest in Charge, or other Clergy on call. The service should be held at a time when those who would want to attend have the opportunity to be present.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR CHRIST CHURCH

8710 Old Branch Ave.
Clinton, MD 20735
Office: 301-868-1330
Fax: 301-868-2074
Email: christchurchclinton@verizon.net

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Full Name:

Current Address:

Current Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Death: _____

Person (s) responsible for carrying out your requests:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Relation to you: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Relation to You: _____

FUNERAL HOME

Name/location of preferred funeral home:

Have you made pre-arrangements with the funeral director? Yes: _____ No: _____

Will it be a Cremation burial _____? Or Casket burial _____?

Have you made plans for interment in a columbarium? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, where

Have you made plans for interment in Christ Church's cemetery? Yes _____ No _____ Space

SERVICE PLANNING

SERVICE LOCATION Main Sanctuary ___x_____ or Other Location _____

Location Name and Address: Christ Episcopal Church, 8710 Old Branch Ave., Clinton, MD 20735

BURIAL RITES

The 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* includes two burial rites. Rite One uses *Thee/Thou* language for God and makes extensive use of material from earlier versions of the Prayer Book. Rite Two uses *You/Your* language for God and is more similar in feel to our regular Sunday liturgies.

Please use Rite I (Page 469) _____ OR Rite II (Page 491) _____

HOLY COMMUNION

The celebration of Holy Communion is a normative part of the funeral service in the Episcopal Church. However, out of consideration for the beliefs and practices of family and guests, you may choose not to include it. Know that the liturgy is very meaningful either way.

Include Holy Communion? YES _____ NO _____ Celebrated at the Altar _____

ORDER WITHIN THE RITE

Usually the casket or urn is brought into the church and rests before the altar during the service. However, the committal and burial may be held first and the service conducted in the church without the presence of the body or ashes.

Casket to be present _____ OR Urn to be present _____ OR Neither to be present _____

Note that the viewing, should you desire this, is normally held in the Funeral Home either the day before or the morning of the service. The casket is closed before entering the church and remains closed thereafter. It is covered by a pall (a decorative cloth covering of the church) during the service, or the flag of the United States if the person served in the armed forces.

DATE AND TIME OF SERVICE

Day: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

READINGS

Three or four lessons are typically read, including one from the Old Testament, a Psalm, one from the New Testament Epistles, and/or one from the New Testament Gospels. If there is to be Communion, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings. These are suggested readings, but you may have other favorites:

Old Testament

___ 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)

___ Ecclesiastes 3:1-6 (For everything there is a season)

___ Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)

___ Other (please specify) _____

Psalm

___ 23rd (Contemporary)

___ 23rd (KJV)

___ 26

___ 27

___ 42

___ 90

___ 106 (vs. 1-5)

___ 116

___ 121

___ 130

___ 139

Other (specify)

New Testament Epistle

- Romans 8:14-19,34-35,37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
- I 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)
- Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 (Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for)
- I John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)
- Revelation to John 7:9-17 (God will wipe away every tear)
- Revelation to John 21 :2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)
- Other (please specify) _____

The Holy Gospel

- 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)
- Other (please specify) _____

MUSIC

Two or three hymns are typically chosen. Frequently selected hymns from our *Hymnal 1982* (H) or *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (L) include those below, but you may have other favorites. Hymns/sacred music from other sources may be used provided we can secure a copy and permission to print it in the bulletin. The Recessional Hymn at the end of the service is always an Easter hymn (H208, H199, H180, H178, etc.) Non-sacred music is best reserved for the repast/reception after the service.

- H688 A mighty fortress is our God
- H662 Abide with me: fast falls the eventide
- H665 All my hope on God is founded
- H460 Alleluia, sing to Jesus
- H579 Almighty Father, strong to save
- H671 Amazing grace
- H174 At the Lord's high feast we sing
- H676 Balm of Gilead
- H488 Be thou my vision

- ___L184 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
- ___H608 Eternal Father, strong to save
- ___H287 For all the Saints
- ___L183 God will take care of you
- ___L189 Great is thy faithfulness
- ___H637 How firm a foundation
- ___L60 How great Thou art
- ___H335 I am the bread of life
- ___H423 Immortal, invisible, God only wise
- ___L193 I need thee ev'ry hour
- ___L188 It is well with my soul
- ___H293 I sing a song of the saints of God
- ___H376 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee
- ___L137 Just as I am
- ___H324 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
- ___H473 Lift high the cross
- ___H657 Love divine, all loves excelling
- ___H8 Morning has broken
- ___H664 My Shepherd will supply my need
- ___L54 Nearer, my God, to Thee
- ___H680 O God our help in ages past
- ___H410 Praise my soul, the King of heaven
- ___L106 Precious Lord, take my hand
- ___H560 Remember your servants Lord
- ___H685 Rock of ages
- ___L141 Shall we gather at the river
- ___L101 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling
- ___L14 Soon and very soon
- ___H645 The King of Love my shepherd is
- ___H208 The strife is o'er
- ___H470 There's a wideness in God's mercy
- ___H625 Ye Holy Angels bright
- ___H618 Ye watcher and ye holy ones

Other hymn choices: _____

Solo (s) (Singer and songs – 2 to 3 selections): _____

Our Organist typically plays instrumental music for the Prelude (before the service begins, as people gather), during Communion, and as the Postlude (while the family and congregation leave the church). Please indicate any preferences you might have for specific composers and/or specific pieces. We will try to accommodate your preferences if our organist has access to the music:

Composer _____
Selection _____
Composer _____
Selection _____
Composer _____
Selection _____

LAY SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Pall Bearers

If the casket is to be present, you may choose family members and friends to accompany the casket as it is brought into and out of the church.

Speakers

Extensive sharing of stories of the deceased is best saved for the reception/repast after the service. However, after the opening prayer and welcome, a few family members and friends may offer brief remembrances. This is also a time when the Obituary may be read, as is the custom in some families. It is best if individuals are identified ahead of time so that they have time to prepare their remarks. *If it is your desire that no one speak, please indicate that here.*

Readers

The Celebrant, or Deacon if present, reads the Gospel lesson if there is to be Communion. Family members and friends are invited to read the other readings: Old Testament, Psalm, New Testament Epistle, (and Gospel if there is no Communion).

_____ Reading: _____

_____ Reading: _____

Assist at Communion

If there is to be Communion, one or two family members may assist with administering the chalice.

NUMBER OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS EXPECTED:

_____ (To reserve pews.)

BULLETIN

Number expected at the service _____

We produce a bulletin that includes all the texts and hymns for the service. Is there anything special you would like included in the bulletin, usually on the outside or inside cover (e.g. picture, additional scripture reading, prayer or poem)? Please list them; and if it is something other than scripture, attach a copy if possible.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The arrangements used in the church are supplied by the florist of your choice. They are placed on pedestals by the casket/urn or beside/on the altar. The family may take the altar flowers after the service; or, make arrangements with church to leave them for the Sunday service.

Requested wording in the bulletin for flowers (e.g. *The flowers are placed on the Altar by Sue's family in celebration of her life.*):

Any additional floral arrangements sent to the church by friends and family will be placed in the church narthex (by the entrance doors), space permitting. The family is asked to make arrangements to remove them as soon as possible. Often the family takes them to the reception/repast after the service.

BEQUESTS TO CHRIST CHURCH

Since the first *Book of Common Prayer*, Episcopalians have been encouraged to make a will, to provide for their families, and to make bequests for religious and charitable purposes if possible.

____ Yes, I have made a will ____ Yes, I have made a bequest to Christ Church

MEMORIALS

Often Christ Church is the recipient of monetary gifts given in memory of the departed. When such gifts are received they are placed in our Memorial Fund account and used by the church for special purposes. If you wish the gifts received earmarked for a particular purpose, please indicate below:

SIGNATURE

I understand these instructions will be followed to the best of the ability of my family, friends and the Church.

Sign Name Date

Please attach or include here any special pictures, prayers, poems or other special instructions ...

Life is eternal; and love is immortal;
and death is only a horizon;
and a horizon is nothing
save the limit of our sight.
Lift us up, O God,
that we may see further;
cleanse our eyes
that we may see more clearly;
draw us closer to you,
that we may know ourselves nearer to our loved ones
who are with you.
And while your Son prepares a place for us,
prepare us for that place,
that, where they are and you are,
we too may be;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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Web Site: www.christchurchclinton.org

The Parish Office is open Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM