



## **Funeral and Memorial Service Information**

### **Concerning the Service**

**The Book of Common Prayer, page 507**

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.

### **At the Time of Death**

**The Book of Common Prayer, page 462**

When a person is near death or has died, the Minister of the congregation should be notified, and when possible, the family and friends should come together with the Minister to join in prayer. A Litany and other suitable prayers are provided for *Ministration at the Time of Death* in **The Book of Common Prayer.**

### **The Funeral**

**The Book of Common Prayer, page 491**

The Rites for the Burial Dead is normally a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with special psalms, readings and prayers for the departed.

Members of the family of the deceased and close friends can take an active part in the service by reading the lessons, leading the prayers of the people and by presenting the Bread and the Wine at the Offertory.

In addition, a member of the family or a close friend of the deceased may give a short (3 minutes) eulogy. The eulogy must be in writing and should be reviewed by the officiating minister.

## **The Committal**

**The Book of Common Prayer, page 501**

A brief service usually follows the Requiem Eucharist. This may be at the gravesite when interment follows, or some other appropriate place, depending on the final resting place of the deceased. If cremation follows the funeral, *The Committal* will usually take place a few days later. If cremation has taken place before the funeral, the ashes will normally be present for the Requiem Eucharist and can be placed following *The Commendation*.

## **Times of the Service**

The time of the service must be coordinated with the church and school calendars and pending scheduled event. Because our campus is busy and many events are scheduled far in advance, no service time should be announced or published without confirmation from the church office or clergy. Weekday funerals/memorial services are usually held at 4 p.m. or later to avoid conflicts with our school and to maximize guest parking. Weekend funerals/memorial services are usually held on Saturdays at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m.

## **Clergy**

St. Philip's clergy preside and preach at all services. Visiting or guest clergy may be included in the service at the invitation of the Rector of the church. The family should make this request known to the St. Philip's clergy who may then issue the invitation.

## **Flowers**

Because of the strong simplicity of the sanctuary, the positioning of flowers is limited to two altar arrangements. Other flowers may be placed in the narthex or parish hall. If flowers are desired, the church office can arrange with our florist for this service or you may work with your own florist. The customary color for flowers is white, though other colors or favorite flowers may be included.

## **Music**

All music is under the supervision of the Associate for Music & Liturgy who approves all musical selections. We suggest themes of triumph, resurrection, strength, thanksgiving, hope and peace-filled repose. Please see the Music Suggestion list for a complete list of hymns and anthems.

It is the family's responsibility to pay the musician(s) and soloist(s) directly. Please see the fee list for musician fees.

## **Fees**

A funeral service is a pastoral office and we strive to keep costs to a minimum. Please refer to the Funeral Fee sheet for a complete list of options and prices. Some fees are paid directly to the vendor by the family (soloists, caterers). Others costs will be invoiced to the family after the service.

## **Additional Information**

In this parish it is customary for the casket to be covered with a pall as it enters the church building. This is large cloth of white brocade with a tapestry cross from which the word “pall bearer” originates. The pall covers all caskets, regardless of design, to symbolize the fact that in the eyes of the Lord we are all equal. The pall is removed after the service and before the casket leaves the church building. In the event that the deceased was a military veteran, the national flag may be used.

It is the custom of the church that the casket be closed at all times while in the building.

Ashes (cremains) may also be present at the service and are also covered by a pall for the service.

When interment follows the Burial Office, it is expected that this, too, will be **The Book of Common Prayer** formulary, standing in its own simplicity and not to be interspersed with fraternal rites. Should such rites be of deep meaning to the families involved, then these should precede the church’s final blessing upon the deceased.

## **Finally ...**

It is important to remember that even in the crisis of death and bereavement your parish clergy may have commitments to other persons or to other services which render a particular day or hour impossible for their participation in the Burial Office service. Therefore, no final arrangement which involves either the clergy or the church should be made before the church has been consulted.