



ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL

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Funeral Planning Information & Guidelines

The purpose of the funeral is to commend the departed to God and to support the Christian hope of family and friends. The Christian hope at physical death is the same hope that sustains the Christian through life: that the God who loves us will continue to love us, even in death. The guidelines are to help say farewell and commend your loved one with their ongoing life with the Lord.

The Burial of the Dead

The purpose of a Christian funeral is to commend the departed to God and to support the Christian hope of family and friends. The Christian approach to the Burial Service is stated eloquently in *The Book of Common Prayer*:

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all 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.

This information is provided to help with the planning of the funeral here at St. Peter's Cathedral, and in keeping with our Christian hope are to help commend those we love into the care, love, and new life in the Lord.

Ministry at Time of Death

When a person is near death, please notify the Cathedral Clergy so that the ministrations of the church may be provided. The Book of Common Prayer provides a number of prayers and liturgies for the following:

Ministration to the Sick, including the Laying on of Hands and Anointing
Litany and prayers at the time of death

Prayers and readings for a Vigil or gathering before the funeral (BCP 465-466)

It is desirable that family members and/or friends take an active part in these prayers.

Reception of the Body or the Ashes at the Church

These prayers, found on pages 466-467 in the BCP, are used before the liturgy begins.

The Funeral

The Book of Common Prayer reminds that funerals are Easter liturgies. The liturgy finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised. Easter vestments and Easter music are always appropriate. The Paschal Candle is lit and placed near the casket or ossuary.

It is especially important to celebrate the Holy Eucharist when a Christian is buried. Because the Episcopal Church welcomes all baptized persons to the altar, this is an occasion for Christian unity.

Flowers

Because we share equally with all others in this Easter faith, only two vases of flowers are placed at the altar (a small arrangement may be placed in front of the urn for cremation and/or at the table by the guest book at the back of the church).

Readings

Two or three lessons from the Bible are read. There may be an Old Testament Reading and/or a New Testament Reading. There must always be one of the passages from the Gospel.

The following is the list of reading options:

From the 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 (The Lord is good to those who wait on 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: 23, 27, 42:1-7, 46, 90:1-12, 106:1-5, 116, 121, 130, 139:1-11.

From the New Testament

- 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)
- 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.

From the 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)

Family or friends may read the lessons, except a deacon or priest always reads the gospel. A homily by a member of the clergy follows the readings.

One or two family remembrances (eulogies) may be offered before the readings. These should be limited to 3-5 minutes and should be prepared before the service.

Music

Music is an integral part of the liturgy and as such hymns should be consistent with the themes celebrated in the service. Well-known Christian hymns are recommended. Suitable ones include, but are not limited to:

- Hymn 680 "O God Our Help in Ages Past"
- Hymn 688 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
- Hymn 618 "Ye Watchers And Ye Holy Ones"
- Hymn 208 "Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! The Strife Is O'er"
- Hymn 645 "The King Of Love My Shepherd Is"
- Hymn 620 "Jerusalem, My Happy Home"
- Hymn 287 "For All The Saints, Who From Their Labors Rest (Stanzas 1-4)"
- Hymn 691 "My Faith Looks Up To Thee"
- Hymn 690 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"
- Hymn 625 "Ye Holy Angels Bright"
- Hymn 637 "How Firm A Foundation"
- Hymn 665 "All My Hope On God Is Founded"
- Hymn 388 "O Worship The King"
- Hymn 664 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"
- Hymn 623 "O What Their Joy And Their Glory Must Be"
- Hymn 671 "Amazing Grace"
- Hymn 525 "The Church's One Foundation"

All music choice, including solos, need to reflect the Christian Resurrection theme of the liturgy.

A member of the clergy will assist the family in selecting the music.

Portions of the liturgy may be sung by a cantor.

Graveside Committal

The graveside committal follows the liturgy (or may take place later). If ashes are placed in the Memorial Garden, the committal takes place immediately after the liturgy. The reception occurs next. If ashes are buried later, it is important that the Prayer Book committal service (BCP 501-503) is used for the final prayer to honor the departed person's religious journey in this church. The cathedral staff will lend you a Book of Common Prayer if you don't have one.

St. Peter's Cathedral Columbarium

The St. Peter's Memorial Garden has both niches and a common columbarium available. Please speak to the clergy if you are interested in having your loved one interred in the Columbarium and if you are considering reserving a niche for others.

Reception

The St. Anne's Guild/ECW offers receptions in the Cathedral Undercroft. Here are some guidelines for the reception.

- Many families wish to have a display area for pictures and other important objects for either a reception or vigil. Tables and bulletin boards are available.
- In the case of a reception after the funeral, about two-thirds of the people stay for a reception if it occurs immediately after the service.
- Less than one-half of the people return for a reception if it occurs after driving to the cemetery.
- Over the years we have found that people eat very little at receptions. Receptions are more about being together and sharing than eating a meal.
- St. Anne's Guild sets up the reception, purchases the food, decorates the tables (unless you would like to do something special) and cleans up. A donation to the St. Anne's Guild over and beyond the cost of the food is appreciated. The Guild provides support for the Christian formation of children and Camp Marshall assistance among other ministries.

Some menu suggestions:

- Luncheon meal: meat and cheese trays; small veggie tray; small fruit tray; rolls; cookies or cake; condiments; punch; coffee and tea.
- Sandwich meal: finger sandwiches; small veggie tray; small fruit tray; cookies or cake; punch; coffee and tea.
- Mid-morning or mid-afternoon reception: fruit; cookies or cake; punch; coffee and tea.

The Weeks & Months After the Funeral

The time after the funeral is for grieving and rebuilding. The pastoral care staff of the cathedral is available to help you through this time, so please feel comfortable about calling. Every fall the congregation gathers for an All Souls Day celebration on or about Nov. 2 (part of the All Saints festival) to remember by name all the departed. Your loved one will be remembered that day.

Expenses

There is no charge for the use of the cathedral and the pastoral care staff for members of the Cathedral, although families do often choose to make a donation as follows:

- Suggested donation to the Officiating Clergy - \$100
- Suggested donation to the Cathedral - \$100

The following additional expenses are to be covered by the family.

- Organist/pianist - \$150
- Cantor (if available) - \$50
- Reception - Cost of food plus a suggested donation of \$100.

Cathedral Clergy

The following members of the clergy are available to officiate at a funeral:

- The Very Reverend Scott Anderson, Dean

The following members of the clergy, if available may assist at a funeral:

- The Very Reverend Raymond Brown, retired
- The Very Reverend Steve Brehe, retired
- The Very Rev. Heidi Kinner, Retired
- The Reverend Glen Gleaves, retired
- The Reverend Deacon John Moran
- The Reverend Deacon Rick Johnson
- The Reverend Deacon Donna Gleaves

Clergy from other parishes and denominations may assist with approval from the Dean of the Cathedral (and in some cases, the Bishop.)