

MINISTRY AT TIME OF DEATH

Including Funeral Arrangements Planning Document



For many reasons, death is a spiritually significant time. Christian Burial has been an Easter liturgy of the Church for more than 2,000 years. In other words, Christians have always looked upon death not as an end to life, but as the gateway to resurrected life through Jesus Christ. This is, of course, surrounded in holy mystery, much of which we won't fully understand while on our earthly pilgrimage. But our Christian hope is that because Christ has been raised from the dead we, too, shall be raised.

One of the unique aspects of our tradition of common prayer is the fact that the personality of the one who has died is not central to the Burial liturgy. Instead, the liturgy is grounded in Holy Scripture, prayer and worship of Almighty God. Of course we highlight and celebrate the life of the individual, but that is more appropriately done before or after the worship service. For this reason, we encourage families to consider having a reception at St. Paul's immediately preceding or following the Burial liturgy and/or interment.

In the midst of this spiritually significant time, logistical decisions need to be made. The Burial liturgy needs to be discussed with the clergy, and usually a funeral home director is consulted. Even though we are all mortal, many of us don't prepare ahead of time for our own death. We leave the decisions to be made to our loved ones. These decisions are more difficult to make in the midst of the stress and grief associated with losing a loved one. Therefore, planning your own funeral with the assistance of your clergy, and having these plans on file in the church office, is a deeply faithful and loving act, and we encourage you to do so.

For more information about St. Paul's *Ministry at the Time of Death* and the detailed document *Important Information for My Family* contained in the *Being Prepared* folder, please visit our website or call one of the clergy at St. Paul's.

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

When Death Occurs at Home

- If Hospice is part of the care, call the service worker to certify death, otherwise call 911 and the primary physician to certify death.
- Call the clergy at St. Paul's: 723-4391.
- Call the funeral home or crematorium.

When Death Occurs in the Hospital

- The hospital is responsible for certifying death.
- Call the clergy at St. Paul's: 723-4391.
- The hospital staff will call the crematorium or the funeral home.

THINGS TO DO WHEN PLANNING AHEAD

- Complete *Important Information for My Family* document and other documents in the *Being Prepared* folder.
- Make liturgical choices.
- Write the obituary.
- Make interment arrangements (contact the Rector's Administrative Assistant for details about interment at St. Paul's, or your funeral director for details about interment elsewhere).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q.** How is the time and date of the funeral decided?
- A.** The clergy of St. Paul's will work with the family in making this decision, and will then work with the funeral home of your choosing (if there is one) to organize the arrangements.
- Q.** Who do I contact at the church to discuss flowers, reception, etc.?
- A.** There are a number of ministries at St. Paul's working together to bring comfort to family and friends at the time of death. After the clergy has met with the family to discuss arrangements, these ministries are contacted and set in motion.
- Q.** What costs are associated with a funeral at St. Paul's?
- A.** There are fees associated with things like catering for the reception, having a soloist sing during the liturgy, etc., but the only required fees are those involving interment in Dalton Memorial Garden. Honorariums to the clergy and/or organist are permitted but not expected, and gifts to the church are always appreciated.

RESOURCES MOVING FORWARD

Stephen Ministers are equipped to provide confidential, one-on-one Christian care to individuals experiencing difficulties in their lives, such as adjusting to the death of a loved one. For more information, contact one of the clergy.

Along with caring for those who are near death, Hospice is also well-known for offering quality grief counseling and support groups for loved ones left behind. For more information, contact one of the clergy, or visit www.hospicecarecenter.org.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS



These confidential arrangements should be kept on file with the Rector's Administrative Assistant, to be returned or revised at your request.

Full name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Name of spouse: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Family contact(s): _____ Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Address: _____

Funeral home: _____

Contact person: _____ Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Liturgical Details

See the Book of Common Prayer Rite I, p. 469; Rite II, p. 491. See back for suggestions on Readings and Hymns.

Nave or Chapel Casket or Cremation Rite I or Rite II Communion Yes or No

Place of interment: Dalton Memorial Garden: Ground Columbarium Scattered

Other: _____

Military honors: Yes or No (Please discuss special instructions with St. Pauls clergy)

Readings: OT _____ Psalm _____ NT _____ Gospel _____

Hymns: Processional (in) _____ (out) _____ Sequence _____ Communion _____

Other details: _____

Obituary attached? Yes or No (St. Paul's clergy would like to help with the liturgical wording.)

Memorials made to St. Paul's? Yes or No Other _____

RECEPTION AT THE CHURCH? Yes or No

Receptions take place in the Colhoun Room, which can be set up to accommodate small or large gatherings. This is an inviting space with the audio-visual capabilities for those who would like to give eulogies, or have a DVD slide show going on in the background. Others may prefer to simply display family photos. Either way, we try to provide an opportunity to emphasize and celebrate the life of the individual, while keeping our worship focused on Almighty God, and anchored in our Christian hope. Families are welcome to provide refreshments; light refreshments are provided by the church. Other catering options may be discussed with the Funeral Reception Committee.

Signed (or completed by): _____ Date completed: _____

SUGGESTED READINGS AND HYMNS

Suggested Old Testament Readings:

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)

Psalms:

23, 27, 42, 46, 90, 106, 116, 121, 130, 139

Suggested New Testament Readings:

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)

Suggested Gospel Readings:

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)

Processional Hymns:

208 The strife is o'er
287 For all the saints
362 Holy, holy, holy!
376 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee
388 O worship the king
390 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
397 Now thank we all our God
410 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven
436 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates
473 Lift high the cross
525 The Church's own foundation
608 Eternal Father, strong to save
680 O God, our help in ages past
685 Rock of ages
688 A mighty fortress is our God

Sequence Hymns:

293 I sing a song of the saints of God
405 All things bright and beautiful
439 What wondrous love is this
558 Faith of our fathers!
645 The King of love my shepherd is
671 Amazing grace!
679 Surely it is God who saves me

Communion Hymns:

304 I come with joy to meet my Lord
325 Let us break bread together
335 I am the bread of life
336 Come with us, O blessed Jesus
344 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing