

# A GUIDE TO FUNERALS

at

## CHRIST CHURCH, PRINCE GEORGE'S PARISH



FOR

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*(Print Full Name)*

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*Date of Birth*

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*Date of Death*

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*Service Date*

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*Service Time*

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*Location (Parish Church, City State)*

# CHRIST CHURCH



EPISCOPAL  
PRINCE GEORGE'S PARISH 1726  
107 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850  
TELEPHONE  
301-762-2191

Jesus Christ is the foundation on which our faith is built. In Baptism, we confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share in his eternal priesthood. And, when we breathe our last, we enter into eternal life. As such, we celebrate the life of the deceased. The liturgy of the dead is an Easter liturgy, finding its meaning in the resurrection. Jesus was raised from the dead, and so shall we be.

Yet, that does not mean that we cannot grieve our loss. For, as we know, Jesus wept when he learned of the death of his friend Lazarus. How fortunate we are to have loved and been loved so deeply that we grieve the death of loved ones.

If you are planning your service in advance, or planning a funeral for a loved one, please be in touch with us so we can assist you.

## AT THE TIME OF DEATH

### ***Contact Your Parish Priest***

When there is a death in your family or a family member is near death, please call the church. We want to support you and share with you at your time of loss.

### ***Prayers and Readings: Near death or at the time of death***

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) provides prayers for the time when a person is near death (p.462), and at the time of death (p.462-463). When possible, the family and friends join together in the Litany (p.462) led by the parish priest or by a lay person if the priest cannot be present.

### ***Prior to the Funeral or Memorial Service***

Prior to the funeral it is appropriate that family and friends come together for prayers. The Prayers for a Vigil (BCP pp.465-466) may be used. The psalms found on in BCP p.471-479 may be used with these prayers or they may be used for prayer and meditation. You may also find it helpful to read and meditate on the Scripture passages suggested in BCP pp.494-495.

While it sometimes makes sense for those closest to the deceased to see the body, general “viewings” are not a necessary part of Christian burial and may be an unnecessary emotional strain and financial burden. Please know they are not permitted in the church prior to a service. Bereaved persons may wish to have hours at home or at the funeral home to receive visits of love and condolence from family and friends. Time and place may be announced in the newspaper notice.

## FOR YOUR REFLECTION FROM THE CATECHISM

(BCP pp.861-862)

### ***What is the Christian hope?***

The Christian hope is to live with confidence in the newness and fullness of life, and to await the coming of Christ in glory, and the completion of God's purpose for the world.

### ***What do we mean by the coming of Christ in glory?***

By the coming of Christ in glory, we mean that Christ will come, not in weakness but in power, and will make all things new.

### ***What do we mean by heaven and hell?***

By heaven, we mean eternal life in our enjoyment of God; by hell, we mean eternal death in our rejection of God.

### ***Why do we pray for the dead?***

We pray for them, because we still hold them in our love, and because we trust that in God's presence those who have chosen to serve will grow in his love, until they see him as he is.

### ***What do we mean by the last judgment?***

We believe that Christ will come in glory and judge the living and the dead.

### ***What do we mean by the resurrection of the body?***

We mean that God will raise us from death in the fullness of our being, that we may live with Christ in the communion of the saints.

### ***What is the communion of the saints?***

The communion of saints is the whole family of God, the living and the dead, those whom we love and those whom we hurt, bound together in Christ by sacrament, prayer, and praise.

### ***What do we mean by everlasting life?***

By everlasting life, we mean a new existence, in which we are united with all the people of God, and in the joy of fully knowing and loving God and each other.

### ***What, then, is our assurance as Christians?***

Our assurance as Christians is that nothing, not even death, shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Life. Amen.

## **FUNERAL/MEMORIAL SERVICE**

*“Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has opportunity to be present.” (BCP, p. 490)*

*“The coffin is to be closed before the service, and it remains closed thereafter.” (BCP p.490)*

### ***Planning the Service***

The parish priest will be in charge of the service and all related arrangements. Funeral directors should be so informed and given the priest’s phone number. The services will be conducted as instructed by the parish priest and as provided in the Book of Common Prayer. The priest will make selections when no preference is expressed below.

Suggested scripture readings for the service are listed on pages 494 & 495 of the Book of Common Prayer as well as in this document. Two or three readings are customary with at least one Psalm. Normally, members of the family or friends read the lessons.

There is a short homily after the Gospel reading in which the priest thanks God for the gifts God has given us through the life of the deceased. We generally do not do eulogies in the burial service, although stories and memories may be appropriately shared by family and friends at the reception.

The norm of Episcopal practice, as reflected in the Prayer Book, is to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. The principal act of Christian worship and our chief means of offering thanks to God, the Holy Eucharist is especially appropriate at funerals, as at all major events or passages in life. The celebration of the Eucharist at a funeral emphasizes the joy of Resurrection, the New Life we share in Christ, and the presence of the whole communion of saints in which the living are united to the dead. However, services without the Eucharist can be celebrated as well.

### ***Music***

The Organist/Choirmaster plays for funerals and assists in choosing appropriate music for the service. The music at a funeral expresses the hope and faith that Christians manifest in the face of death. If desired, hymns may be chosen to be sung by the congregation (hymn suggestions are listed in this document). A vocal soloist or instrumentalist can also give special meaning to the service. Secular music is best used during a reception.

### ***Burial Rituals***

The burial rituals of fraternal orders, military organizations, or other such associations, if used, are generally held at some time prior to the Church’s burial service. Please discuss military honors with the clergy prior to making arrangements.

### ***The Body***

The body may be honored in ways other than traditional burial. It is commended as good stewardship to donate one's body or organs for medical, teaching, or research purposes. Cremation is also acceptable, and the church provides a columbaria for the burial of the ashes. All the funeral rites of the Church may be held in the church with the body or ashes present or not present. A pall is used over the casket or ashes. At the graveside, earth often is cast upon the coffin or the ashes.

### ***Flowers***

Requests for additional flowers or special arrangements may be made in consultation with the Altar Guild (Anna von Arx, advonarx742@gmail.com, 301-922-3991) The Altar Guild will assist you in choosing flowers for the Nave or Chapel. The customary vases of flowers used in the church are often desired (but are not required). A local florist, All Seasons Florist (301-251-4161) is familiar with Christ Church. You may contact them directly or order from another florist if you wish. The customary color for funeral flowers is white, but special colors may be requested. Flowers for any church reception can be handled by the Fellowship Committee.

### ***Memorials***

Money which would otherwise be spent on flowers may be given in the person's memory to the Church or to an appropriate charitable organization. In the newspaper notice, "In lieu of flowers; memorial gifts may be sent to..." will help relatives and friends. Large numbers of floral pieces are not used in the church.

### ***Reception***

A reception can be held in the Murdock Room and/or Dining Room downstairs. The Fellowship Committee (Christie Carrico, christie.carrico@verizon.net, 301-340-9096) can provide a simple reception for a fee that will include food and any flowers that you may desire. Choosing an outside caterer is an option. Please let the Church Office know if you wish to have a reception at the church.

### ***Fees***

The parish has no fee for the worship service for members in good standing. There is a fee for non-members. Fees for music, flowers and facilities are listed later in this document. Burial in the Columbarium have an additional charge.

### ***Clergy***

There is no fee for the services of the clergy of Christ Church. If desired, a gift of appreciation for ministry may be made, although it is entirely optional. A customary gift amount would be \$300.00. Checks may be made payable directly to the officiating clergy. If other clergy are involved, a larger gift might be considered. There is a mandatory \$300.00 fee for an officiating clergy person who is not on the Christ Church staff.

# PLANNING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

*These pages below are to assist and guide the family and parish in planning a service of resurrection for yourself or for a loved one.*

## SERVICE CHOICES:

- The Burial of the Dead: Rite I (BCP, p. 469)  
 with Eucharist
- The Burial of the Dead: Rite II (BCP, p. 491)  
 with Eucharist

*(We recommend the use of Rite II as most Christians are familiar with the congregational responses in that service, and hence, are more comfortable with the liturgy).*

## SERVICE READING CHOICES

*(Choose at least one Old or New Testament, one Psalm, and one Gospel reading. Alternatively, the Psalm could be sung as a hymn):*

### 1. Old Testament

- Isaiah 25:6-9  
 Isaiah 61:1-3  
 Lamentations 3:22-26,31-33  
 Wisdom 3:1-5, 9  
 Job 19:21-27a

#### Reader:

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*He will swallow up death forever*  
*To comfort those who mourn*  
*The Lord is good to those who wait for him*  
*The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God*  
*I know that my redeemer lives*

### 2. Psalm

- Psalm 23  
 Psalm 27  
 Psalm 42:1-7  
 Psalm 46  
 Psalm 90:1-12  
 Psalm 106:1-5  
 Psalm 116  
 Psalm 121  
 Psalm 130  
 Psalm 139:1-11

#### Reader:

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*The Lord is my shepherd*  
*The Lord is my light and salvation*  
*As the deer longs for the water*  
*God is our refuge and strength*  
*Lord, you have been our refuge*  
*Hallelujah! Give thanks to the Lord for he is good*  
*I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice*  
*I lift up my eyes to the hills*  
*Out of the depths have I called*  
*Lord, you have searched me out*

### 3. New Testament

- Romans 8:14-19,34-35,37-39  
 I Corinthians 15:20-26,35-38,42-44,53-58  
 II Corinthians 4:16-5:9  
 I John 3:1-2  
 Revelation 7:9-17  
 Revelation 21:2-7

#### Reader:

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*The glory that shall be revealed*  
*The imperishable body*  
*Things that are unseen are eternal*  
*We shall be like him*  
*God will wipe away every tear*  
*Behold, I make all things new*

#### 4. Gospel

- John 5:24-27
- John 6:37-40
- John 10:11-16
- John 11:21-27
- John 14:1-6

#### Reader: Clergy

*He who believes has everlasting life*  
*All that the Father gives will come to me*  
*I am the good shepherd*  
*I am the resurrection and the life*  
*In my Father's house are many rooms*

#### HOLY EUCHARIST

If a Eucharist service is chosen, presenters of the bread and wine can be members of the family or friends. These would be brought forward (from the back of the church) and given to the Deacon or Priest as an Offertory Hymn is sung.

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*Bread*

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*Wine*

#### Eucharistic Prayer

If Rite I: Prayer II, p. 340

If Rite II:

- Prayer A p.361    Prayer B p.367    Prayer C p.369    Prayer D p.372

#### SERVICE MUSIC CHOICES

##### Before and After the Service

Fifteen minutes of organ or other instrumental music is generally played before the service and a closing voluntary is played at the end. The music will be selected by the organist with any suggestions from the family. Hymns, not sung by the congregation during the service, can also be requested to be played during these times. If the service is a Eucharist, hymns can be played, rather than sung, during Communion.

To enhance the service beyond just organ music, a vocal soloist, an instrumental player or a quartet of singers can be contracted by the organist. The musicians can sing/play during any of the times appropriate when a hymn is suggested to be sung.

##### Hymn Suggestions

The choice congregational hymns at a funeral is appropriate. Suggested times when hymns can be sung during the service:

- At the beginning of the service
- Between the New Testament and Gospel
- At the end of the service

If a Eucharist service is chosen, hymns can be also sung:

- At the Offertory (when the bread and wine is being brought forward and the table is prepared by the Priest)
- During communion

A hymn can be sung instead of the reading of the Psalm (see \* notation for replacement hymn)

## Hymn suggestions from Hymnal 1982

CHOICE	TITLE	NUMBER
	A Mighty Fortress	688
	Abide with me	662
	All Creatures of our God and King	400
	All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine	477
	All Things Bright and Beautiful	405
	Alleluia! Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord	178
	Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!	460
	Amazing Grace	671
	As Longs the Deer* ( <i>Ps.42</i> )	658
	Be Thou My Vision	488
	Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing	686
	Faith of Our Fathers	558
	Fairest Lord Jesus	383
	For All the Saints (vv 1-4, 8)	287
	How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord	647
	Holy God, We Praise Thy Name	366
	How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place	517
	God is Love	379
	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah	690
	I am the Bread of Life	335
	I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord	304
	I sing a Song of the Saints	398
	Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise* ( <i>Ps.90</i> )	423
	Jerusalem, My Happy Home	620
	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	376
	Lift High the Cross	473
	Love Divine, All Love's Excelling	657
	Lord of All Hopefulness	482
	My Faith Looks Up to Thee	691
	Now Thank We All Our God	397
	O God Our Help in Ages Past* ( <i>Ps.90</i> )	680
	O Worship the King	388
	Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven	410
	Praise to the Lord	390
	Rock of Ages	685
	The King of Love, My Shepherd Is* ( <i>Ps.23</i> )	645
	The Lord My God My Shepherd Is* ( <i>Ps.23</i> )	663
	The Strife is O'er	208
	We Know that Christ is Raised	296
	Ye Holy, Angels Bright	635
	Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones	618

## Hymn suggestions from Wonder, Love & Praise

CHOICE	TITLE	NUMBER
	Be Not Afraid	811
	Eagle's Wings (with soloist singing verses) (WLP)	810
	O Lord, Hear My Prayer (Taizé)	827
	Precious Lord, Take My Hand	800
	Taste and See (with soloist singing verses)	764

## FEES

DETAIL OF FEE	AMOUNT	COMMENTS
Worship Service for CEC member	-	No charge
*Worship Service for CEC non-member	\$150	Suggested donation
Christ Church Clergy fee	Optional	Customary gift of appreciation - \$300 with check made out to the clergy. Fee of \$300 for an officiating clergy person who is not on the Christ Church staff.
*Organist	\$300	Includes playing service, consultation with family and hiring any additional musicians. Check can be made out to the organist
*Altar Flowers	\$75	Includes two standard arrangements for either Nave or Chapel. Check can be made out to Christ Episcopal Church with "Altar Flowers" on memo line
Vocal Soloist	\$150	Organist will contract singer and provide name for check
Instrumentalist	\$250	Organist will contract player and provide name for check
Quartet of Singers	\$500	Organist will contract singers and provide names for checks
Reception	TBD	Beverages, food, and flowers
Burial in Columbarium	TBD	Please contact the Church office

\* Required fees; all other fees are based on use

**NOTE:** Please place all fees in an envelope and give to the officiating clergy at the time of the service.

# FUNERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

## FAMILY CONTACT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## FUNERAL HOME CONTACT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

# SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

*Additional Clergy* \_\_\_\_\_

*Organist* \_\_\_\_\_

*Acolytes* \_\_\_\_\_

*LEMS* \_\_\_\_\_

*Ushers* \_\_\_\_\_

*Pallbearers* \_\_\_\_\_

*Additional Requests* \_\_\_\_\_

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## CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 S. WASHINGTON STREET, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

(301) 762-2191 [www.christchurchrockville.org](http://www.christchurchrockville.org)