Planning a Funeral at

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Christ Episcopal Church is available for funerals for all people - regardless of religious background. The clergy and staff of the church would be honored to assist you in preparing a memorial service for your loved one.

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A Message from Christ Episcopal Church

The death of a loved one can bring a host of emotions. Grief is natural, but an unexpected death can also bring many additional pressures, and stresses.

The clergy and staff at Christ Episcopal Church will work with you and do everything we can to help you plan the details of your loved one's memorial service.

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.

- Book of Common Prayer, p. 507

General Guidelines

Christ Episcopal Church is available for funerals for all people - regardless of religious background. Our church can seat over 200 people comfortably, and our chapel is ideal for services with under 25 in attendance.

If you decide you might like to have a funeral for a loved one at Christ Episcopal Church, please contact the church office as soon as possible, to find a date and time that will fit both your schedule and the church's. Sunday mornings do not generally work well for funerals.

All funerals at Christ Church must follow the format in the Book of Common Prayer, and be presided over by the rector of Christ Church or her designated representative. A member of the clergy or staff of Christ Episcopal Church would be honored to assist you in preparing a memorial service.

An Episcopal funeral generally follows the format set out in the Book of Common Prayer. The service has three parts: the liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Table, and the Committal (burial). The service may be either Rite I (more traditional language) or Rite II (more contemporary language).

Liturgy of the Word

This is what most people usually think of when they think of a funeral service. This part of the service usually takes place in the church, though it could also occur in the chapel, a funeral home, or graveside. It includes the reading of two or more readings from the Bible. The clergy person will preach the homily, which will speak the Gospel of hope in the resurrection, invoke prayer for the departed and his or her loved ones, encourage support for one another, and give courage for the days ahead.

Our clergy will be happy to assist you in selecting passages of Scripture for this occasion, and music (if desired).

Liturgy of the Table

Communion, or Eucharist, is optional, but often included in Episcopal funerals. In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Eucharist. If you are not sure about including this holy moment in the service, you can discuss this more with our clergy.

Committal (Burial)

In this brief conclusion to the service, the body or ashes are laid to rest in the grave, or columbarium niche, with appropriate prayers. This part of the service provides closure for family and friends.

Other Considerations:

Music

Music helps set the mood and communicates the faith of the Church during the service. This can include instrumental music, solo or choral anthems, and hymns sung together as a congregation. Favorite family hymns which affirm the faith may be included in the service, but music of a secular nature is not generally appropriate for a worship service. The clergy and music director will assist with selecting music and musicians, if desired.

Flowers

Flowers for the church or chapel are ordered by the family, using a florist of their choice. Two arrangements are usually provided for the church.

If the service will be held on a Friday or Saturday, the flower arrangements for the Sunday worship service may be used for the funeral. These flowers must be ordered by the altar guild with the normal contribution requested.

Reception

The Parish Hall or Guild Room are available to rent for a small reception after the service. Parish staff can assist with arrangements.

Fee Schedule

Musician/organist $200

Note: additional/alternate musicians can be arranged at additional cost.

Check should be made out to Christopher Durrenberger

Use of the church $100

(*free for members of the parish)*

Use of the parish hall/guild hall/kitchen $25

Additional Fees

Flowers ..... arranged directly with florist of your choice (we recommend Schneider's)

Clergy .....*It is customary to contribute to the Rector's Discretionary Fund in consideration of the priest's time. This may be an amount of your choosing. The check should be made out to Christ Episcopal Church, with Rector's Discretionary Fund in the memo line.*