

*Funeral & Memorial  
Service  
Arrangements*



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## INTRODUCTION

*The resurrection of Jesus Christ is at the heart of Christian faith, and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. Christians do not bear death and loss in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Spirit and the community of faith. The church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve.*

*The funeral/memorial service, also called a Service of Witness to the Resurrection, is a service of worship in which we give thanks to God for the gift of the life of the one who has died. It is also a service in which we give witness to our faith in God's continuing gift of life through Jesus Christ. Both the reality of death, and the reality of our hope in Jesus Christ are at the heart of the funeral/memorial service*

*Music in the funeral/memorial service may serve to present, respond to and interpret scripture. It may also be a form of prayer. It is appropriate that all music selected for the funeral/memorial service affirm God's power over death, provide a belief in the resurrection of life everlasting and the assurance of the communion of saints.*

*The service of committal is that which takes place either at the graveside during burial, or at the disposition of the ashes, if cremation is chosen. This service may be conducted either before or after the Service of Witness to the Resurrection.*

*Whatever choices and decisions you may make with regard to the funeral/memorial of your loved one, it is our prayerful hope and desire to be a true family of faith with you and for you during this difficult time. When a death occurs, families are often left with the difficult task of tending to the details of funeral/memorial arrangements in a time when shock, grief, and sorrow make thinking most difficult. It is the hope of the Congregational Care Committee that this booklet will make it easier to work through those details during your time of loss and sorrow. We hope you will find the following statements and questions helpful, as you and we, work together to plan a fitting service for your loved one.*

—Approved by Session February 16, 2003

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE FUNERAL/MEMORIAL SERVICE**

The pastors and staff at First Presbyterian Church will work very closely with the family to help in planning the funeral/memorial service. The funeral/memorial service generally has priority over other, possible conflicting, events in the church's life.

There are two exceptions to the priority given to a funeral/memorial service. First, funeral/memorial services will not be conducted in conflict with scheduled worship services. Second, it has proven prudent to avoid scheduling service on weekdays between the hours of 11:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m. due to the traffic congestion of the Preschool and Children's Day Out carpool lines.

There are no fees for the use of the church for the funeral/memorial service. Childcare, in the church nursery, during the funeral/memorial service may be arranged through the Church Office at no charge, with 48 hours advance notice.

Fraternal or civic ceremonies will be conducted at the funeral home, or after the Christian committal service at the graveside.

First Presbyterian Church has a white pall to cover the casket while it is in the sanctuary. Use of this covering symbolized that there is no distinction between persons at death. It also symbolizes the protecting love of God that surrounds and embraces God's children in the time of need. Other alternatives are a flower arrangement, the United States flag (when appropriate), and an uncovered casket. When in the church, caskets will remain closed at all times.

## SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE LESSONS

The following are selections of Scripture that have brought comfort, hope, and reassurance to Christians for several centuries, in the face of death. By no means are any of these readings required for the funeral you are planning. Rather, they are offered only as suggestions.

### From the Old Testament:

Job 19:23-27	I know that my redeemer lives
Isaiah 25:6-9	God will swallow up death forever
Isaiah 26:1-4, 19	God will keep them in peace
Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31	Comfort my people
Isaiah 43:1-3a, 18-19, 25	When you pass through the waters, I will be with you
Isaiah 44:6-8	I am the first and the last
Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13	Ho, everyone who thirsts
Isaiah. 61:1-4, 10-11	The spirit of the Lord is upon me
Isaiah 65:17-25	I create new heavens and a new earth
Lamentations 3:19-26, 31b-32	The Lord's steadfast love
Daniel 12:1-3	Many of those who sleep in the dust shall awake
Joel 2:12-13, 23-24, 26-29	Return to the Lord with all your heart
Psalm 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 46:1-5, 10-11	A very present help in trouble
Psalm 90:1-10, 12	Teach us to number our days
Psalm 121	I lift up my eyes to the hills
Psalm 130	Out of the depths I cry to the Lord
Psalm 139:1-12	Where shall I go from your spirit?

**From the New Testament:**

Matthew 5:1-12a	The Beatitudes
Matthew 11:25-30	Hidden from the wise, revealed to infants
Matthew 25:1-13	Wise and foolish bridesmaids
Matthew 25:31-46	The Last Judgment
Luke 7:11-17	Jesus raises the son of the widow of Nain
Luke 18:15-17	We enter the kingdom only as children
Luke 23:33, 39-43	Today you will be with me in Paradise
John 3:16-21	God so loved the world
John 5:24-29	Whoever hears and believes has eternal life
John 6:37-40	Anyone who comes to me I will never drive away
John 6:47-58	Whoever believes in me has eternal life
John 11:17-27	I am the resurrection and the life
John 11:38-44	Lazarus raised from the dead
John 14:1-6, 25-27	Let not your hearts be troubled
Romans 8:14-23, 31-39	Nothing can separate us from the love of God
Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12	Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's
1 Corinthians 15	Christ raised from the dead (selected verses)
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1	Visible things are temporary, invisible things eternal
2 Corinthians 5:1-10	From God we have a house not made with hands
Ephesians 1:11-2:1, 4-10	Saved by grace through faith
Philippians 3:7-11	Knowing him and the power of his resurrection
Philippians 3:20-21	Our citizenship is in heaven
Colossians 3:1-17	Set your minds on the things that are above
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	The comfort of Christ's coming
2 Timothy 2:8-13	If we died with him, we shall also live with him
Hebrews 2:14-18	Christ was tested in every way
Hebrews 11 and Hebrews 12	Faith, the pilgrimage, the cloud of witnesses (selected verses)
1 Peter 1:3-9	Without seeing Christ, you love him
1 Peter 3:18-22; 4:6	Christ's ministry to the spirits in prison
1 John 3:1-3	We are children of God
Revelation 14	Rest for the saints (selected verses)
Revelation 21 & 22	A new heaven and a new earth (selected verses)
Revelation 22:1-5	The Lord God will be their light

## SUGGESTED HYMNS

As with the Scripture lessons above, none of these hymns are required. Rather, the experience of the Christian community has shown that many people find hope and comfort in these hymns.

<u>Opening Hymns of Praise</u>	<u>Hymn No.</u>
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	275
All Creatures of Our God and King	15
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	366
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing	610

<u>Hymns Focusing on the Resurrection</u>	<u>Hymn No.</u>
Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!	248
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!	245
Life High the Cross	826
Thine Is the Glory	238

<u>Hymns Focusing on Living and Dying In Christ</u>	<u>Hymn No.</u>
Abide with Me	836
Be Still, My Soul	819
For All the Saints	326
Just a Closer Walk with Thee	835
Lift High the Cross	826
O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go	833
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	834
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot	825

<u>Hymns Focusing on the Presence and Comfort of God</u>	<u>Hymn No.</u>
Blest Be the Tie That Binds	306
God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand	331
Great Is Thy Faithfulness	39
I Greet Thee, Who My Redeemer Art	624
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	366
O Christ the Great Foundation	361

**BASIC OUTLINE FOR  
A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION**

Prelude

Call to Worship

Prayer

Hymn or Musical Selection

Old Testament Lessons

New Testament Lessons

Hymn or Solo

Meditation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

Hymn or Musical Selection

Commendation

Benediction

Postlude

**HELPFUL QUESTIONS FOR FUNERAL PLANNING**

What is the full name of the deceased? (please print)

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What is his/her date of birth?

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What is his/her date of death?

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Which funeral home will be in charge of arrangements?

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Our family would like:

\_\_\_\_\_ a graveside/columbarium service followed by memorial service at church

\_\_\_\_\_ a graveside/columbarium service followed by memorial service at a different location

\_\_\_\_\_ a memorial service only

\_\_\_\_\_ a graveside/columbarium service only

I/We would like any memorial gifts to be designated to:

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I/We would like these two people to serve as ushers, if possible:

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I/We would like these family members to participate in leading the memorial service:

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I/We request the following hymns, or other service music:

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I/We would like the following Scripture lessons to be used:

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*First Presbyterian Church offers a reception in the church Fellowship Hall following the memorial service. If this will not work within your family's plans, please let us know.*