

St. John's Episcopal Church

We are gathered to celebrate God's gifts and sent to respond to the needs of the world.



Funeral Planning

▶ _____
Name

▶ _____
Date



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We are gathered to celebrate God's gifts and sent to respond to the needs of the world.

Dear Friend:

Planning your funeral liturgy need not be a morbid task to be avoided but the joyful work of planning the celebration of your life. The *Book of Common Prayer* reminds us that the funeral is an Easter liturgy, finding its meaning in Christ's resurrection and 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 letter and accompanying planning sheets are meant to serve as a guide as you begin the planning process. The best liturgies are the result of the collaboration of the priest, the musician, and the family working together to create a celebration which will commend the person to God and give hope to those who mourn.

It is important that the priest be informed whenever there is serious illness or death. We wish to be present with you and your family whenever possible throughout the dying and grieving process.

A Funeral Eucharist is the preferred service, with the body present. The physical presence of the casket or urn is helpful for mourners to recognize the reality of their loss. Simple flowers are welcome, and a white pall is provided for the casket. In lieu of flowers memorial offerings may be designated for the church or a favorite charity. The services of the priest are part of the office and no remuneration is required. If you wish to have music, arrangements will be made with our Director of Music.

The liturgy is a witness to your Christian life, and should reflect your way of worship. Music appropriate to the liturgy should be chosen in collaboration with the ministers. A homily will be preached. A service of committal at the graveside or wherever the ashes are interred is recommended as another ritual which is helpful in the grieving process.

Whatever the individual choices, the intention is always to treat the body and the memory of the departed person with all the respect and love due a child of God. May the planning of your funeral be a meaningful time of prayer and reflection.

Please return your completed packet to the Parish Office. We will make a copy and return the original to you.

God's Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kara Wagner Sherer" followed by a small cross symbol.

The Rev. Kara Wagner Sherer, Rector

Funeral Service Planning Sheet

General Information

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____ email: _____

Please fill in the following dates and locations:

	Date:	Location:
Born:	_____	_____
Baptized:	_____	_____
Confirmed:	_____	_____

I have made a will: _____ Yes _____ No

If Yes, a copy of my will may be found: _____

Disposition of my body:

I wish to donate my body for medical use: _____ Yes _____ No

I wish to donate the following organs for medical use: _____

My preference is ___ burial ___ cremation ___ body present at funeral, cremation following.

If cremation, my ashes are to be disposed of as follows: _____

If burial, my burial plot is located at: _____

If no burial plot is owned, I wish to be buried in the following cemetery: _____

I am attaching a copy of my preferred Obituary: _____ Yes _____ No

Service Planning Details:

I prefer Visitation: _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, I prefer Visitation be in _____ the Church _____ in the funeral home.

I prefer (*choose one*)

_____ Funeral Eucharist (said) (sung)

_____ Memorial Service with Eucharist

_____ Evensong

_____ Memorial Service without Eucharist

I prefer the service be in ___ the Church _____ in the funeral home

I prefer (*choose one*)

_____ *Book of Common Prayer* Rite I

_____ *Book of Common Prayer* Rite II

_____ *Enriching Our Worship* (Contemporary)

Committal at graveside following: _____ Yes _____ No

Participants in the Service:

I prefer the following people serve at my funeral/memorial service:

Officiant/Presider: _____

Homilist: _____

Lectors: _____

Eulogist: _____

Prayer Leader: _____

Chalice Ministers: _____

Acolytes: _____

Organist: _____

Soloist(s): _____

Ushers: _____

Pallbearers: _____

Liturgical Choices

If no preference is indicated the ministers will make appropriate choices.

Prelude:

Opening hymn (See Appendix B for option):

Burial Sentences and Opening Rite (*BCP* 491)

Old Testament Reading (See Appendix A for options):

Psalm or hymn:

New Testament Reading (optional):

Eulogy (optional): _____ Yes _____ No

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel Reading:

Homily

Apostles' Creed (optional) _____ Yes _____ No

(If there is no Communion the Lord's Prayer is said here.)

Prayers of the People (*BCP* 497)

The Peace

Offertory (A hymn or solo may be sung here):

Eucharistic Prayer: *BCPA* _____ *B* _____ *C* _____ *D* _____ *EOW* 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

Sanctus (sung):

Communion hymn or solo:

Closing Hymn

Postlude:

Appendix A: Readings

1. Selections for appropriate readings for the first reading (from the Hebrew Scriptures):

Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever)

Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort those who mourn)

Daniel 12:1-3 (Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake)

Maccabees 12:43-46 (It is good and holy to think of the dead rising again)

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)

Wisdom 4:7-15 (A blameless life is a ripe old age)

Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)

2. Selections for appropriate Psalms:

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

3. Selections for appropriate readings for the second reading (from the Christian Scriptures)

Acts 10:34-43 (God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive and dead)

Romans 5:5-11 (Having been justified by his blood, we will be saved)

Romans 5:17-21 (Where sin increased, there grace abounded)

Romans 6:3-9 (Let us walk in newness of life)

Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12 (Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord)

Romans 8:14-19,34-35,37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)

1Corinthians 15:2-26,35-38,42-44,53-58 (The imperishable body)

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)

Philippians 3:20-21 (Jesus will transfigure our bodies)

Thessalonians 4:13-18 (We shall stay with the Lord for ever)

2 Timothy 2:8-13 (If we have died with him, we shall live with him)

1 John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)

1 John 3:14-16 (We have passed from death to life)

Revelation 7:9-17 (God will wipe away every tear)

Revelation 14:13 (Happy are those who die in the Lord)

Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)

4. *Selections for appropriate readings for the gospel reading (from the Christian Scriptures):*

Matthew 5:1-12a (The Beatitudes)

Matthew 11:25-30 (Come to me and I will give you rest)

Matthew 25:1-13 (The bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him)

Matthew 25:31-46 (Come, you whom my Father has blessed)

Luke 7:11-17 (The raising of a young man)

Luke 23:33,39-43 (Today you will be with me in paradise)

John 5:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life)

John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to you)

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)

5. *A selection from secular writings or poetry may be used as a first or second reading, at the discretion of the priest.*

Please list other reading selections here:

Appendix B: Music

These suggestions are only intended as a guide of appropriate music. There are many other hymns from many different hymnals and traditions that are suitable for the funeral liturgy.

Entrance Hymn:

680	“O God, our help in ages past”
429	“I’ll praise my Maker while I’ve breath”
526	“Let saints on earth in concert sing”
636,637	“How firm a foundation”
388	“O worship the King”
287	“For all the saints”
671	“Amazing grace!”
207	“Jesus Christ is risen today”
LEVAS 12	“Come, we that love the Lord”
LEVAS 40	<i>He ‘Rose</i>
LEVAS 29	“Jesus, keep me near the Cross”

Metrical Psalms:

These or other psalms could also be sung to a responsorial setting when a cantor is available.

LEVAS 104	“The Lord is my Shepherd” (Psalm 23)
645, 646	“The King of love” (Psalm 23)
663	“The Lord my God” (Psalm 23)
664	“My Shepherd will supply” (Psalm 23)
658	“As longs the deer” (Psalm 42)
687,688	“A mighty fortress” (Psalm 46)
680	“O God, our help in ages past” (Psalm 90)
668	“I to the hills” (Psalm 121)
151	“From deepest woe” (Psalm 130)
666	“Out of the depths” (Psalm 130)
702	“Lord, thou hast searched me” (Psalm 139)

Offertory:

- 208 "Alleluia! The strife is o'er"
379 "God is Love"
455 "O love of God"
690 "Guide me, O thou great Jehovah"
LEVAS 185 *Blessed Quietness*
LEVAS 91 *Give me Jesus*
LEVAS 190 *He'll Understand and Say "Well Done"*
LEVAS 201 "I've got peace like a river"
LEVAS 197 *Leave It There*

Communion:

Any hymn found in the Holy Eucharist section of most hymnals would be appropriate.

- 662 "Abide with me"
676 "There is a balm in Gilead"
LEVAS 72 *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*
LEVAS 88 "My faith looks up to thee"
LEVAS 106 "Precious Lord, take my hand"

Recessional Hymn:

- 356 "May choirs of angels lead you"
410 "Praise, my soul, the king of heaven"
618 "Ye watchers and ye holy ones"
623 "O what their joy"
620 "Jerusalem, my happy home"
623 "Jerusalem the golden"
625 "Ye holy angels bright"
LEVAS 130 *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah*
LEVAS 60 *How Great Thou Art*
LEVAS 54 "Nearer, my God, to Thee"
LEVAS 14 "Soon and very soon"