



# PLANNING YOUR FUNERAL

***"I am the resurrection and the life, said the Lord;  
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,  
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."  
- John 11:25-26***

The Christian faith calls us to witness, even in death, the new life that God gives in Christ through his death and resurrection.

We have prepared this booklet to help you and your family prepare in advance. It will enable your family and parish clergy to understand your wishes and preferences. A member of the clergy should be notified immediately of a death. The clergy will help plan the service and will stand ready to assist in any way.

Christian burial is marked by three characteristics. First and foremost, it is an act of worship wherein we glorify God for the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Second, it is a time when members of the Body of Christ gather to comfort one another and to offer mutual assurance of God's abiding love. Third, it is a liturgy of celebration whereby we give thanks for a deceased loved one and commend that person to the care of Almighty God.

The earliest records of Christian burial tell us that the following elements were included:

- Prayer in the home before the burial took place
- A gathering of the community for a burial service, consisting of thanksgivings, psalms, hymns, readings from the scripture, and prayers for the departed and those who mourn\
- Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
- A procession of lights and torches to the place of burial
- The interment of remains

As part of the preparation for Christian burial, the faithful are urged to counsel with members of the clergy. It is also of great benefit to read the service in ***The Book of Common Prayer*** (BCP, 468-507). The rubrics on these pages are of particular interest. It is also recommended that people familiarize themselves with the prayers for "Ministration at the Time of Death" (BCP, 462-467).

# MY FUNERAL & BURIAL INSTRUCTIONS

\*\*File this information where it will be found easily upon your death. It is suggested that you file this with your local church or your attorney and notify your heirs that this form has been completed for their information.

## *Final directions and instructions upon the death of*

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Living \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Mother's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Living \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of living brothers and sisters:

Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of people to notify upon my death:

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last executed will \_\_\_\_\_

Location of will \_\_\_\_\_

Representative's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I request that my service be conducted at \_\_\_\_\_  
(NAME, CITY AND STATE OF CHURCH)

or at \_\_\_\_\_

The rector or clergy of said congregation shall be in charge of the services.

- The Burial of the Dead (funeral service) is a series of Psalms, lessons, prayers, Eucharist with special propers (i.e., Collect, Epistle, and Gospel) may be included.

I request (check one):

- Rite I with Eucharist
- Rite I without Eucharist
- Rite II with Eucharist
- Rite II without Eucharist

- Other arrangements as follows:  
(Contact parish secretary)

Altar flowers \_\_\_\_\_

Musicians \_\_\_\_\_

Ushers \_\_\_\_\_

Pall bearers \_\_\_\_\_

Speakers (if desired) \_\_\_\_\_

- I request that the following scriptures be read:

Reading 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Old Testament)

Reading 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
(New Testament)

Gospel \_\_\_\_\_

- I request that the following hymns be sung:

Hymn 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Opening Hymn)

Hymn 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Following the readings)

Communion Music (if applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hymn 3: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Closing Hymn)

- I prefer to be:

BURIED (location of cemetery plot deed, crypt deed, columbarium contract)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Coffin specifications:

Least expensive

Mid-range

Elaborate

CREMATED

Before Funeral

After Funeral

DONATE ENTIRE BODY OR CERTAIN ORGANS

Arrangements have been made

Please make appropriate arrangements

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Place of Interment/Burial

Trinity Memorial Garden

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- I prefer the following funeral home: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I do  I do not wish to have my coffin open at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, I request that donations be made in my name to:

\_\_\_\_\_

or for (SPECIFY):

\_\_\_\_\_

or to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(NAME OF INSTITUTION OR CHARITY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(FULL ADDRESS)

***“Knowing that all the gifts we have come from God, it is important for all parishioners to make prudent provisions for their families, to prepare wills while they are in good health and to arrange for the disposal of their temporal goods not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.”***

***-Book of Common Prayer, pg. 445***

\*We hope that parishioners will give serious consideration in the preparations of their wills to include a bequest to the church.

- Other information for my survivors:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Be sure to keep a copy of your completed form for your own records.