

The following is taken directly from the Directory for Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

### **Christians and Death**

The resurrection is a central doctrine of the 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 bereavement 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. (W-6.3006)

### **Setting of the Service**

The service on the occasion of death ordinarily should be held in the usual place of worship in order to join this service to the community's continuing life and witness to the resurrection. The service shall be under the direction of the pastor. Others may be invited to participate as leaders in the service at the discretion of the pastor. This service may be observed on any day. A request to observe such a service as a part of the Lord's Day service or to celebrate the Lord's Supper as a part of the service on the occasion of death requires the approval of the Session. (W-4.10003)

### **Form and Order**

The service begins with scriptural sentences. It is appropriate for worshipers to sing hymns, psalms, spirituals, or spiritual songs which affirm God's power over death, a belief in the resurrection of life everlasting, and the assurance of the communion of the saints. Scripture shall be read; a sermon or other exposition of the Word may be proclaimed; an affirmation of faith may be made by the people. Aspects of the life of the one who has died may be recalled. Prayers shall be offered, giving thanks to God

(1) for life in Jesus Christ and the promise of the gospel, (2) for the gift of the life of the one who has died, (3) for the comfort of the Holy Spirit, (4) for the community of faith; making intercessions (5) for family members and loved ones who grieve, (6) for those who minister to and support the bereaved, (7) for all who suffer loss; lifting supplications (8) for faith and grace for all who are present; concluding with the Lord's Prayer. The service ends by

commending the one who has died to the care of the eternal God and sending the people forth with a benediction. (W-4.10004)

### **Alternatives and Options**

The service may be observed before or after the committal of the body. In order that attention in the service be directed to God, when a casket is present it ordinarily is closed. It may be covered with a funeral pall. Starmount has a pall, created by the Women of the Church, available for use, should the family desire. The service may include other actions common to the community of faith and its cultures when these

actions do not detract from or diminish the Christian understanding of death and resurrection. (W-4.10005)

### **Service of Committal**

Members and friends of the family of the one who has died should gather at the graveside or crematorium for a service of farewell, which is to be conducted with simplicity, dignity, and brevity. The service includes readings from Scripture, prayers, words of committal, and a blessing, reflecting the reality of death, entrusting the one who has died to the care of God, and bearing witness to faith in the resurrection from the dead. (W-4.10005)

### **Memorial Garden & Columbarium**

Trinity Presbyterian Church offers a Memorial Garden for your loved one's remains if you should so choose. Further information about the Memorial Garden is available from the church office. Note that only direct cremains or cremains placed in biodegradable containers may be buried in the garden.

*Planning a funeral or memorial service is a time-consuming, detail-oriented process. Preparing for it beforehand will make the process much easier and cheaper for everyone involved. Here are a number of considerations you might wish to think about.*

- Do you have a prepaid funeral?

- Is there a family member or someone else who is designated to notify the church? Who is to notify other family members and friends?
- Do you have a folder of preferences where your family knows?
- Do you have a folder for financial information where your family knows? Have you made arrangements for paying for the funeral and burial expenses, if applicable?
- Do you prefer burial or cremation? Have you selected a final resting place? If there is to be a cemetery marker, do you wish input?
- Have you and family discussed music, scripture?
- Do you have a list of potential pallbearers or honorary pallbearers?
- Do you have a will/executor? Will this person also make arrangements for copies of the death certificate?

## The Funeral Service Plan

*This may be done in consultation with the funeral director and/or clergy. A copy of this should be on file in the church office.*

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname(s)/Goes By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse/Domestic partner: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Dates in armed services and branch(es) served (if applicable):

Other Organizations that need to be noted (i.e. Masons, Rotary, etc.):

Immediate family contact(s):

Name of preferred funeral home: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Planned method of interment (circle one):      Cremation      Casket

Planned place of interment: \_\_\_\_\_

While it is helpful to state your preferences, it can also be helpful to remain flexible to accommodate family needs, resources, and circumstances. If there are selections that are especially important to you to include in the service, please indicate by underlining or circling those selections.

Scripture selections:

Hymn selections:

Other music choices:

Liturgical choices (prayers, poems, confessions, affirmations of faith):

Other requests:

Will there be others to speak at the service? If so, who?

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to:

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## Suggested Texts and Hymns

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

*The following readings are particularly appropriate for use in the funeral service, and in ministry with the dying and bereaved.*

#### **Old Testament**

Job 19:23-27	I know that my redeemer lives
Isa. 25:6-9	God will swallow up death forever
Isa. 26:1-4, 19	God will keep them in peace
Isa. 40:1-11	Comfort my people
Isa. 40:28-31	Those who wait for the Lord
Isa. 43:1-3a, 18-19, 25	Through the waters, I will be with you
Isa. 44:6-8	I am the first and the last
Isa. 55:1-3, 6-13	Ho, everyone who thirsts
Isa. 61:1-4, 10-11	The spirit of the Lord is upon me
Isa. 65:17-25	I create new heavens and a new earth
Lam. 3:19-26, 31-33	The Lord's steadfast love
Dan. 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

*Some have found these passages from an apocryphal book useful in certain circumstances:*

Wis. 3:1-7, 9; 5:15-16	The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God
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#### *At the loss of a child:*

Zech. 8:1-8	Children playing in the streets of the city
Isa. 65:17-25	I create new heavens and a new earth

#### *For those whose faith is unknown:*

Eccl. 3:1-15	For everything there is a season
Lam. 3:1-9, 19-23	The Lord's steadfast love

#### **Psalms**

*The following psalms are appropriate for singing or reading in the service.*

Ps. 16:5-11	The Lord is my chosen portion
Ps. 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Ps. 27:1, 4-9a, 13-14	The Lord is my light and my salvation
Ps. 39: 4-5, 12	Lord, let me know my end
Ps. 42:1-6a	As a deer longs for flowing streams
Ps. 43	Give judgment for me, O God
Ps. 46:1-5, 10-11	A very present help in trouble
Ps. 90:1-10, 12	Teach us to number our days
Ps. 91	In the shelter of the Most High
Ps. 103	Bless the Lord, O my soul
Ps. 106:1-5	O give thanks to the Lord
Ps. 116:1-9, 15	The Lord has heard my voice
Ps. 118	Open the gates of righteousness
Ps. 121	I lift up my eyes to the hills
Ps. 130	Out of the depths I cry to the Lord
Ps. 139:1-12	Where shall I go from your spirit?

Ps. 145 I will extol you, O God my King  
Ps. 146 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul

### ***Epistles***

Acts 2:22-28 God raised him up, having freed him from death  
Rom. 5:1-11 Hope does not disappoint  
Rom. 6:3-9 Baptized into Christ's death, raised with him  
Rom. 8:14-23, 31-39 Nothing can separate us from the love of God  
Rom. 14:7-9, 10b-12 Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's  
1 Cor. 15:3-8, 12-20a Christ raised from the dead  
1 Cor. 15:20-24a In Christ shall all be made alive  
1 Cor. 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 50, 53-58 Death is swallowed in victory  
1. Cor. 15:35-44 The natural body and the spiritual body  
1 Cor. 15:50-57 We shall all be changed  
2 Cor. 4:16-5:1 Visible things and invisible things  
2 Cor. 5:1-10 We have a house not made with hands  
Eph. 1:11-2:1, 4-10 Saved by grace through faith  
Phil. 3:7-11 Knowing him and the power of his resurrection  
Phil. 3:20-21 Our citizenship is in heaven  
Col. 3:1-17 Set your minds on the things that are above  
1 Thess. 4:13-18 The comfort of Christ's coming  
2 Tim. 2:8-13 If we died with him, we shall also live with him  
Heb. 2:14-18 Christ was tested in every way  
Heb. 11:1-3, 13-16; 12:1-2 Faith, the pilgrimage, the cloud of witnesses  
1 Pet. 1:3-9 Without seeing Christ, you love him  
1 Pet. 3:18-22; 4:6 Christ's ministry to the spirits in prison  
1 John 3:1-3 We are children of God  
Rev. 7:2-3, 9-17 They have come out of the great ordeal  
Rev. 14:1-3, 6-7, 12-13 Rest for the saints  
Rev. 21:1-4, 22-25; 22:3-5 A new heaven and a new earth  
Rev. 22:1-5 The Lord God will be their light

### ***For those whose faith is unknown***

Rom. 2:12-16 The law written on the heart  
Rom. 14:7-9, 10c-12 None of us live to ourselves

### ***Gospels***

Matt. 5:1-12a The Beatitudes  
Matt. 11:25-30 Hidden from the wise, revealed to infants  
Matt. 25:1-13 Wise and foolish bridesmaids  
Matt. 25:31-46 The Last Judgment  
Matt. 28:1-10 Go quickly and tell his disciples  
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  
Luke 24:5-9 He is not here, but has risen  
Luke 24:13-23 A vision of angels said he was alive  
John 3:16-21 God so loved the world  
John 5:24-29 Whoever hears and believes has eternal life  
John 6:37-40 Those who come to me I will not 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

*At the loss of a child*

Matt. 18:1-5, 10       The greatest in the kingdom of heaven  
Mark 10:13-16         Let the children come to me

*For those whose faith is unknown*

Matt. 25:31-46         As you did it to one of the least of these

**HYMNS, PSALMS, AND SPIRITUAL SONGS**

***Opening Hymns of Praise***

GTG 275; PH 260       A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (Ps. 46)  
GTG 4; PH 460         Holy God, We Praise Your Name  
GTG 806; PH 253       I'll Praise My Maker (Ps. 146)  
GTG 804; PH 145/146   Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart  
GTG 321; PH 442       The Church's One Foundation

***Resurrection to Eternal Life***

GTG 264; PH 108       Christ Is Alive!  
GTG 237; PH 110       Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands  
GTG 245; PH 113       Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!  
GTG 841; PH 179       God Is My Strong Salvation (solo)  
GTG 826; PH 371       Lift High the Cross  
GTG 825                 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot  
GTG 233; PH 118       The Day of Resurrection!  
GTG 236; PH 119       The Strife Is O'er  
GTG 485; PH 495       We Know That Christ Is Raised

***Saints Who Have Gone Before***

GTG 325                 By All Your Saints Still Striving  
GTG 324                 For All the Faithful Women  
GTG 326; PH 526       For All the Saints  
GTG 731                 Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm  
GTG 730; PH 364       I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

***God's Presence and Comfort***

GTG 836; PH 543       Abide with Me  
GTG 649; PH 280       Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound  
GTG 626                 As the Deer  
GTG 819                 Be Still, My Soul  
GTG 394; PH 416, 417   Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation  
GTG 676; PH 544       Day Is Done  
GTG 815; PH 286       Give to the Winds Thy Fears  
GTG 841; PH 179       God Is My Strong Salvation (Ps. 27)  
GTG 329; PH 191       God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength (Ps. 46)  
GTG 436; PH 261       God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us  
GTG 686; PH 275       God of Our Life  
GTG 331; PH 262       God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand  
GTG 787                 God Weeps with Us Who Weep and Mourn  
GTG 813                 God, My Help and Hiding Place  
GTG 750                 Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil



GTG 39; PH 276	Great Is Thy Faithfulness
GTG 832	Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand
GTG 463; PH 361	How Firm a Foundation
GTG 624; PH 457	I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art
GTG 799; PH 362	I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry
GTG 45; PH 234	I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes (Ps. 121)
GTG 816; PH 282	If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee
GTG 785	In Deepest Night
GTG 830; PH 365	Jesus, Priceless Treasure
GTG 835	Just a Closer Walk with Thee
GTG 79	Light Dawns on a Weary World
GTG 772; PH 332	Live Into Hope
GTG 737	Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song
GTG 811	Make Your Face to Shine/ <i>Haz resplandecer tu rostro</i>
GTG 828; PH 359	More Love to Thee, O Christ
GTG 829; PH 383	My Faith Looks Up to Thee
GTG 803; PH 172	My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (Ps. 23)
GTG 53	O God, Who Gives Us Life
GTG 743; PH 198	O God, You are My God (Ps. 63)
GTG 270; PH 252	O Lord, You Are My God and King (Ps. 145)
GTG 833; PH 384	O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go
GTG 687; PH 210	Our God, Our Help in Ages Past (Ps. 90)
GTG 424; PH 240	Out of the Depths (Ps. 130)
GTG 834; PH 404	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
GTG 823	Shall Tribulation or Distress
GTG 321; PH 442	The Church's One Foundation
GTG 802; PH 171	The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Ps. 23)
GTG 801; PH 170, 174, 175	The Lord Is My Shepherd (Ps. 23)
GTG 808	When Memory Fades
GTG 822; PH 400	When We are Living
GTG 807	When We Must Bear Persistent Pain
GTG 661	Why Should I Feel Discouraged?

***The Lord's Supper***

GTG 499; PH 502	Bread of the World in Mercy Broken
GTG 818; PH 342	By Gracious Powers
GTG 516; PH 508, 509	For the Bread Which You Have Broken
GTG 517; PH 520	Here, O Our Lord, We See You
GTG 522	I Am the Bread of Life
GTG 515; PH 507	I Come with Joy
GTG 494; PH 510, 511 PH 515	Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts
GTG 514	Now to Your Table Spread
GTG 495; PH 519	Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness
GTG 797	Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior, Thee
GTG 510	We Cannot Measure How You Heal
GTG 817; PH 399	We Gather Here in Jesus' Name
GTG 502	We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight
	We Who Once Were Dead