

Trinity Presbyterian Church Funeral Planning Form

While Death is something with which everyone eventually deals, there are practical and spiritual aspects. As we come to that difficult and confusing time, we must deal with both parts. While there are many practical considerations that will fall to those we leave behind, by planning ahead, we can give the gift of alleviating some of the details and planning for grieving loved ones.

While this document specifically pertains to sharing your spiritual wishes and planning for funeral or memorial services, other important forms or documents, including but not limited to an Advanced Medical Directive, Living Will, Last Will and Testament, and Powers of Attorney can be completed and filed elsewhere. Arrangements for burial, inurnment, cremation, etc can be made with local funeral homes and pre-paid as an additional pre-planning gift to loved ones. Copies of any of these documents can be shared with the church, as well.

Planning your own funeral with the assistance of your loved ones and the pastoral staff and care team, and having these plans ready in a file accessible to your family, is a deeply faithful and meaningful act. It helps your family members know exactly what you want and how you want to be remembered.

This file has information and questions for your thoughts and possible scripture and hymns to help you. While sharing specific plans and hopes is helpful, allowing some flexibility for the wishes of loved ones and various practical constraints is also wise.

You may use this document as a worksheet to make notes, complete it on paper and send it to the church, or complete the online form:

<https://forms.gle/WEpW6L2VfCQkpNrm9>

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,

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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. 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 cremains 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.

Questions to Consider

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

- Do you have a prepaid funeral? If so, where?
- 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? If so, where are copies stored?
- Do you have a folder for financial information, including important login and passwords? Where are copies stored? 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 your loved ones 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?

Spiritual Reflections

What are your core values or life mission statement? Where have you found inspiration and fulfillment in the callings of your life? What would you like to communicate to your loved ones when you are gone? How would you like to be remembered?

When you approach your final days, what would be your ideal circumstances? Where would you like to be? Who would you like to see? What would you like to be called? Would you like music played, and if so, what? What other measures of comfort do you hope for in your final days?

As you think about your wishes for a funeral or memorial service reflect on these questions: are there particular hymns or passages of Scripture that have been meaningful to you, or that have brought you comfort? When you have attended funerals, what have you appreciated? Are there elements you do not want in your service?

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.

Date of completing or updating this form: _____

Full name: _____

Pronouns: _____ Nickname: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Full names of Parents: _____

Name of Spouse/Domestic partner: _____

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

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

Preceded in death by:

Other Biographical information:

What are your wishes for your obituary - contents, publication, etc?

Surviving Family Members, loved ones, next of kin:

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email: _____

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email: _____

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email: _____

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email: _____

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email: _____

Name of preferred funeral home: _____

Contact person: _____

Contact information: _____

Instructions for disposition of the body:

Planned place of interment (if applicable):

Worship Service Plans

While it is helpful to state your preferences, it can also be good 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):

Would you like the Eucharist (communion) to be celebrated?

Other requests:

Are there others who you would like to speak at the funeral? If so, who?

Where can memorial gifts be shared?

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

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/

Haz resplandecer tu rostro

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, The Lord Is My Shepherd (Ps. 23)
 174, 175
 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 Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts
PH 515 Now to Your Table Spread
GTG 514 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness
GTG 495; PH 519 Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior, Thee
GTG 797 We Cannot Measure How You Heal
GTG 510 We Gather Here in Jesus' Name
GTG 817, PH 399 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight
GTG 502 We Who Once Were Dead