

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, 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. (Romans 8:38-39)

When the Time Comes



*A guide for funerals,
memorial services, and
related matters*

Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church

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Dear Beloved of God,

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. 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). As Christians, we believe this promise to be true, and we proclaim this good news even in the face of death.

In the Presbyterian tradition, funerals and memorial services are described as services of Witness to the Resurrection. After the death of a loved one, we gather to worship to remind each other of the power of God, trusting God’s love and grace and seeking peace through Jesus Christ, who grieves alongside us.

One of the privileges as a pastor is to journey with families in times of pain and loss. I hope that the information in this booklet will help to provide answers to many of your questions about the decisions you are making during this time. Please know that you are not in this alone. I, along with our church family, are here to support you however we can spiritually, emotionally, and tangibly through physical presence and expressions of care. This is one of the primary roles of our deacons as well.

This booklet can also serve as a planning booklet for those who wish to discuss their wishes with me or their family in advance. When preparations are made and discussed with others, survivors are relieved of some of the difficult questions as to what is right and have the satisfaction of knowing that they are doing what their loved one would have wanted.

May God hold you and your family in love during this time.

Peace,

Peggy

The Reverend Dr. Peggy C. Hinds
Transitional Pastor

Suggested Order of Worship

Gathering Music

The pastor leads the family into the sanctuary.

Opening Sentences

Call to Worship

Hymn

Prayer

Readings from Scripture

Homily

[Hymn, if desired]

Eulogy

Prayers of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn

Blessing

Postlude

The pastor leads the family out of the sanctuary.

*This is simply a starting point for worship planning.
The pastor will guide you through selecting different elements
and making decisions about any omissions or additions you wish to make.*

Scripture Readings

The following are suggestions of passages that proclaim the hope of the resurrection and love of God through Jesus Christ. The family is also welcome to select other favorite Bible texts. The pastor is also happy to select appropriate scripture readings for the day.

Job 19:23-27	<i>I know that my redeemer lives</i>
Isaiah 40:1-11	<i>Comfort my people</i>
Isaiah 40:28-31	<i>Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength</i>
Isaiah 65:17-25	<i>I create new heavens and a new earth</i>
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15	<i>For everything there is a season</i>
Psalms 23	<i>The Lord is my shepherd</i>
Psalms 46:1-5, 10-11	<i>The Lord is a very present help in trouble</i>
Psalms 121	<i>I lift up my eyes to the hills</i>
Psalms 130	<i>Out of the depths I cry to the Lord</i>
Psalms 139:1-12	<i>Where shall I go from your spirit?</i>
Matthew 5:1-12a	<i>The Beatitudes</i>
Matthew 18:1-5, 10	<i>The greatest in the kingdom of heaven</i>
Matthew 25:31-46	<i>As you did it to one of the least of these</i>
Mark 10:13-16	<i>Let the children come to me</i>
Luke 23:33, 39-43	<i>Today you will be with me in paradise</i>
John 3:16-21	<i>God so loved the world</i>
John 11:17-27	<i>I am the resurrection and the life</i>
John 14:1-6, 25-27	<i>Let not your hearts be troubled</i>
Romans 8:14-23, 31-39	<i>Nothing can separate us from the love of God</i>
Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12	<i>Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's</i>
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 42-44, 50, 53-58	<i>Death is swallowed in victory</i>
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1	<i>Visible things are temporary, invisible things eternal</i>
Philippians 3:20-21	<i>Our citizenship is in heaven</i>
Colossians 3:1-17	<i>Set your minds on things that are above</i>
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	<i>The comfort of Christ's coming</i>
Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-2	<i>Faith and the cloud of witnesses</i>
Revelation 21:1-2, 22:3-5	<i>A new heaven and a new earth</i>

Hymns

Congregational singing may or may not be included in the service. This congregation uses the *Glory to God* hymnal published by Westminster John Knox Press.

Traditional hymns for presbyterian funerals:

Abide With Me, #836

Amazing Grace, #649

Be Thou My Vision, #450

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine, #839

Fairest Lord Jesus, #630

For All the Saints, #326

Great Is Thy Faithfulness, #39

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, #1

How Great Thou Art, #625

It Is Well With My Soul, #840

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, #366

My Faith Looks Up to Thee, #829

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need, #803

On Eagle's Wings, #43

Our God, Our Help In Ages Past, #687

The Day Thou Gavest, Lord Has Ended, #677

Special Music

All music—hymns, solos, and instrumental pieces—should bring glory and honor to God. The pastor will guide you in discerning and making decisions on music.

The pastor will also facilitate communication between the family and the choir director regarding any requests for instrumental music before, during, or after the service. The music director may be also available for accompaniment, if needed, and will discern necessary rehearsal.

Any musicians using church instruments must be approved in advance by the CHPC music director. Pre-recorded music must fall within copyright licensing (music staff will advise).

Arrangements

The pastor will work with the family on all aspects of the worship service. The pastor will also help coordinate conversations with the funeral home director and any additional church members and groups providing support to the family. A deacon may accompany the family as well, providing care and assisting with plans surrounding the service.

Timing

In most cases a service takes place within a few days of death, but a memorial service later is also appropriate. The pastor will advise the family of the availability of the church and will arrange a time to meet with the family to plan the service.

COVID-19

Considering the ongoing global pandemic, Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church is committed to the best practices of care for our congregation and community, reflected in planning worship and other activities with appropriate precautions so that all may be welcomed and participate with the lowest level of risk.

Gathering before the Service

The pastor will arrange for a private gathering space for the family approximately 30 minutes prior to the service and will meet with the family before the service for prayer and to lead them to the sanctuary.

Committal Service

A brief committal service at the burial site may take place prior to or following the Witness to the Resurrection service. The committal may also be included as part of the service if no burial is planned. It may also occur at another date and time. Typically, members of the family and close friends are the only ones to attend the committal service.

Reception

CHPC deacons may provide and serve cookies, coffee, tea, and punch in Henry Young Fellowship Hall after the service. Deacons will also serve any additional refreshments provided by the family (including catered food arranged and paid for by the family). Alcoholic beverages are not permitted.”

Arrangements (Continued)

Flowers

Flowers for the service or reception are welcome and can be delivered to the church during normal office hours, within one hour of the service, or as arranged with the church office or pastor. All flowers should be removed by the funeral home or family after the service unless other arrangements have been made.

Memorial Gifts

The church appreciates any memorial gifts that family or friends wish to make. Contributions to the general operating budget allow the church to use funds for the area of greatest needs.

Honoraria

Providing space and services for families is a ministry of compassion on behalf of our congregation. Our annual operating budget includes the expenses for these services, including facilities costs and additional pay for our choir director. Families wishing to contribute to these expenses for the service are welcome to make an extra gift but are under no obligation to do so. Any honorarium for the pastor and the choir director is at the family's discretion and should be given to them directly.

Planning Guide

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Death: _____

Scripture Readings (usually 2, but can include others)

Hymns (usually 2 or 3)

Special Music (optionall sung or instrumental)

Family Members or Friends to Speak (optional)

Other Wishes (note if military honors or other special ceremony)

Advanced Planning Information

The pastor would be happy to meet with you further to discuss your wishes. In addition to the reverse side, please also complete the information below. Then, provide copies to several close family or friends as well as the pastor.

Name: _____

I would like to have the following relative(s)/friend(s) oversee the arrangements for my memorial service:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I have made the following arrangements in advance: (If marked, please include additional information of where to find details).

Living Will (file with your physician, too)

Last Will and Testament

Funeral Home _____

Donation of body for medical purposes

Organ Donation

Burial Arrangements

Cremation

Cemetery or Mausoleum

Memorial gifts