

Customary for a Funeral or Memorial Service

All Saints Episcopal Church, Southern Shores

*The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection.
Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too shall be raised.*

The liturgy, therefore, 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, or 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.”

Book of Common Prayer, Page 507

Advance Preparation

It is wise to make preparations before death occurs, including:

The selection of a burial lot, or other directions for the disposal of the body, such as donations or cremation. Spaces in the All Saints Columbarium are available for a modest fee. Please contact the Church office for information.

The making of a will. It is “the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provisions for the well being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in good health, arranging for the disposal for their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.” (BCP, p. 455)

A statement, in writing, of wishes regarding burial arrangements. This relieves loved ones, and can give them the time and space they need to grieve the loss knowing that the service will be as wished.

At or Near the Time of Death

When there is a death in your family or a family member is near death, please call the church and/or our Rector. We want to support you and share with you at your time of loss.

Funeral or Memorial Service

“Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has opportunity to be present.” (BCP, p. 490)

“The coffin is to be closed before the service, and it remains closed thereafter.” (BCP, p. 490)

Planning the Service

Scheduling a funeral or memorial service begins with a conversation with our Rector who will work with the family to provide a worshipful and meaningful service.

An Overview of the Liturgy

The funeral service principally follows one of two liturgies for the Burial of the Dead found in the Book of Common Prayer, Rite One (p. 469) or Rite Two, (p. 491).

Suggested scripture readings are listed on pages 494 and 495 of the Book of Common Prayer. Two or three readings are customary with at least one Psalm. Normally, members of the family or friends read the lessons. The Rector provides copies of these scriptures when planning with the family.

There is a short homily after the Gospel reading in which the priest thanks God for the gifts God has given us through the life of the deceased. A prepared eulogy (or eulogies) may be a part of the burial service. Additional stories and memories may be appropriately shared by family and friends at the reception following the service.

As the principal act of Christian worship and our chief means of offering thanks to God, the Eucharist is welcomed and appropriate at funerals. It emphasizes the joy of Resurrection, the New Life we share in Christ, and the presence of the whole communion of saints in which the living are connected with the dead.

A fabric pall is used over the casket or ashes.

The burial rituals of fraternal orders, military organizations, of other such associations, if used are generally held at some time prior to the Church's burial service. Please discuss military honors with Rev. Cindy prior to making arrangements.

The Body

The body may be honored in ways other than traditional burial. It is commended as good stewardship to donate one's body or organs for medical, teaching or research purposes. Cremation is also acceptable. The All Saints Columbarium is available for the burial of ashes. All funeral rites of the Church may be held in the church with the body or ashes present or not present.

At the graveside, earth is often cast upon the coffin or ashes.

Service Music

Music is an integral part of Episcopal worship. The All Saints Organist and Choirmaster, Steve Blackstock, plays for funerals and chooses an appropriate selection of pre-service music – music played while people are entering the church prior to the service. If desired, it is appropriate to have hymns sung by the congregation during the service. The

Rector or Organist can assist in the selection of such hymns. The music at a funeral expresses the hope and faith that Christians manifest in the face of death. Rarely is secular music permitted. The fee for the organist is \$200 and the check should be made payable directly to Steve Blackstock.

The fee for a Soloist, Soprano or Tenor, if requested and available is \$75. The check should be made payable to the Soloist.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers may be provided by the All Saints Flower Guild. Customarily, there are two arrangements, one on each side of the altar. There are also several commercial florists who may be contacted to provide flowers. If used, they should be told to contact the church for specific instructions and to arrange for delivery.

Service Bulletin

The parish administrator under the direction of the Rector may prepare a bulletin for the order of service as time permits. A picture of the deceased may be used on the cover if so wished by the family.

Memorial Gifts

Families often designate a specific use for memorial monetary contributions either to the Parish or other worthwhile organizations. This information may be included in the bulletin.

Summary of Fees

Fees for a funeral or memorial service vary if one is member in good standing of the parish or a non-member whose burial has been approved by the Rector. Please see below.

Use of the church

Member in good standing – no fee. Fee for the use of the church by a non-member is in accordance to the Schedule of Fees for rental of the facility which can be provided by the All Saints Parish Administrator.

Clergy

There are no fees for the services of our Rector for a funeral or memorial service. A gift of appreciation for ministry may be made. The customary amount is \$200. The check should be made payable to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

The Rector needs to be consulted about the participation in the service of clergy who are not on All Saints staff. There is a mandatory fee of \$ _____ for an officiating clergy person who is not on All Saints staff.

Organist

There is a fee of \$200 for the Organist whether one is a member of All Saints or a non-member. Checks should be made payable directly to Steve Blackstock, our parish Organist/Choirmaster.

If there are vocal or instrumental soloists, additional fees will be charged. Check should be made to the artist directly. Additional information may be provided by Steve Blackstock.

Altar Flowers

Member in good standing – no fee, although a donation to the Flower Guild may be made. Non-member - \$100 for two altar arrangements. Check payable to All Saints Church with notation of Funeral Flowers.

Reception

Depending on availability and the weather, receptions following a funeral or memorial service are held on the Gazebo or in the Gathering Space. It is customary for the Hospitality Committee to provide a simple reception without a fee for a member in good standing. However, the family may want to contribute monetarily or provide some food for the reception. The family provides wine if they want it to be served, and it is the only alcoholic beverage permitted.

For non-members, the Hospitality Committee will be glad to assist with a reception, however all food and beverages must be provided by the family. The Hospitality Committee Chairman will meet with the family concerning details and needs for the reception.

The Columbarium

There is a fee for anyone whose remains are buried in the All Saints Columbarium. Please refer to the Columbarium Customary.

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