

A Service of Witness to the

Resurrection



Funeral & Memorial Services
Peace Presbyterian Church

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SERVICES OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

The Presbyterian funeral or memorial service is “A Service of Witness to the Resurrection” and an integral part of Christian worship. It is a service of worship of the congregation in which we seek to honor God and comfort those who mourn. We do this by celebrating the Resurrection and affirming the profound hope we have through the love and grace of our risen Lord. Joining with others, we give our pain, our memories, our hopes, and our gratitude to God.

The pastor, leaders and members of Peace Presbyterian Church extend their condolences to you if you are reading this brochure at a time of loss. We pray God’s peace for you and want to be in ministry to you as we are able. In this brochure, you will find descriptions for planning a memorial service or funeral at Peace. Don’t hesitate to contact our pastor if you have any questions.

STYLE OF A SERVICE

At Peace, we will use the term “Celebration of Life” in reference to either a funeral or a memorial worship service.

The term ‘funeral’ normally refers to a service at which a casket is present and followed by a graveside service to commit a body to the ground. A funeral is often more formal in order and tone and typically takes place within five days or so of a death.

The term ‘memorial service’ is often used in reference to a service at which there are either remains or no physical remainder of deceased present. It may be further separated in time from a death, though we recommend that it be kept as close to the death in time as possible. As a Service of Witness to the Resurrection, it includes scripture, a pastor’s message, and music or readings that are appropriate to the occasion. A memorial service may be less formal in tone.

FORMAT AND DIRECTION OF THE SERVICE

Responsibility for planning and conducting the service resides with the pastor, who normally meets with the family of the one who has died to offer prayer, support, and planning guidelines for the service. The pastor will work with the family to personalize the service in ways fitting to their desires. The service is normally held within our sanctuary, depending on scheduling, need, or appropriateness. Should the family desire others to assist in the service, please consult with the pastor who has the authority to extend the invitation. In all cases, our pastor will have final decision on all aspects of the service.

SCHEDULING

We will seek to schedule services in timely ways that meet family and community needs. While a funeral will be planned within a week of a death, as noted earlier, a memorial service may be planned a bit later. Normally, we will work to avoid Sundays and church holidays. Your pastor will work with you to set a date and time. As a funeral or memorial is a worship service of God's people, the date and time planned will be publicized to the congregation of Peace Presbyterian Church. You may also publish it in obituaries or through other forms of communication.

MUSIC

All music performed or sung during the service should be consistent with God's victory over death and our hope in Christ. The pastor, in consultation with our organist and Director of Music, will assist in selecting and arranging for music. Peace employs professional soloists who can be available. Outside musicians will require approval of the officiating musician, who will also orient them to Peace Church.

REFLECTIONS AT THE SERVICE

Brief, prepared reflections about the deceased may be offered by family and friends during a service as arranged with the pastor.

FLOWERS

Flowers beautify the service and remind us of our hope in Christ. Their quantity should enhance our worship. The pastor may suggest that some flowers be placed in the narthex or reserved for a reception following the service if quantities become too great. At a family's discretion, one appropriate arrangement may be left to beautify other worship services that week. All other flowers should be removed by the family following the service or onsite reception.

PHOTOS, VIDEO, AND POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS

As this is a service of worship, the focus of our attention is on God's presence both during and beyond our lives. A portrait of the deceased or video display may be welcomed in the narthex (lobby area) prior to the service. Video or slide presentations may also be shown during the reception following the service.

FRATERNAL, CIVIC AND MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS

Peace Presbyterian Church affirms fraternal, civic, or military services outside of the funeral or memorial service itself, either before or after, or in conjunction with a committal of remains. We follow Presbyterian guidelines in this regard, which state:

The service may be observed before or after the committal of the body [or ashes]. 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. The service shall be complete in itself, and any fraternal, civic, or military rites should be conducted separately.

(Directory for Worship 4.10005)

WORSHIP BULLETIN

If a worship bulletin is desired, members of the church staff will assist in producing one that includes the order of service, participants, family information, suggestions for memorial gifts (if requested), and a brief biographical note about the deceased if desired. A photo of the deceased may be provided for inclusion on the front cover of the bulletin. If the family desires a more elaborate bulletin, they are welcome to have one produced at their own expense and in consultation with the pastor.

RECEPTIONS

Volunteers organized by our Care and Connection committee can assist in arranging a reception at the church following the service. Coffee, tea, punch, cake and/or cookies will be provided in the fellowship hall. If the family desires additional food, options can be discussed with the pastor. As noted earlier, the reception is an appropriate location to provide a collection of photos, appropriate memorabilia, or slideshow presentations about the deceased provided that arrangements have been made ahead of time.

FEES AND HONORARIA

Members of Peace Presbyterian Church may receive the ministry of the church, including pastoral services and space for a service, without specific charges. However, if you have the means to provide honoraria, we ask you to consider honoraria as indicated here.

For non-members we do ask fees as suggested here. However, no Christian funeral should be denied on the basis of financial resources. If you are unable to provide honoraria to worship leaders or space use fees to the church, these may be either reduced or waived by the pastor. Conversely, if you are able to provide more than is suggested, we encourage you to do so in order to enable the church's ministry to those who cannot.

Honoraria and fees should be remitted directly to the persons providing the service, individually through the church office, or through arrangement with the funeral home attendants acting on behalf of the family.

| | Church Members | Non-Member |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Pastor | None required, suggested \$300 | \$300 - \$500 |
| Organist | \$150 | \$150 |
| Soloist/Instrumentalist* | \$150 | \$150 |
| Sound Operator* | \$125 | \$125 |
| Use of Sanctuary | No fee** | \$150 |
| Reception | No fee** | \$100 |

* If desired/required

** A memorial gift to the church in honor of your loved one and in support of ongoing ministry is welcomed.

RECOMMENDED ORDER OF SERVICE

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection A Celebration of Life in Memory of...

We Gather as God's People

Prelude Music
Entrance of the Family
Opening Scriptural Sentences and Welcome
Opening Prayer
Hymn (selected)

We Listen to God's Word

First Reading (scripture or poem)
Special Music (optional)
Memorial Reflections from Family
Special Music (optional)
Second Reading (scripture)
Brief Meditation (the pastor)

We Respond to God's Grace and Call

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer
Hymn (selected)

We Are Sent in God's Name

Commendation
Benediction
Postlude Music



SUGGESTED HYMNS

Opening Hymns of Praise

A Mighty Fortress is our God
Come, Christians, Join to Sing
Rejoice, the Lord is King
The God of Abraham Praise

Hymn #275
Hymn #267
Hymn #363
Hymn #49

Hymns Focusing on the Resurrection

Christ the Lord is Risen Today!
Lead On, O King Eternal
Lift High the Cross
The Day of Resurrection!

Hymn #245
Hymn #269
Hymn #826
Hymn #233

Hymns with Reference to Saints

For all the Saints
I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Hymn #326
Hymn #730

Hymns Focusing on the Presence and Comfort of God

Abide with Me
O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
The Lord's My Shepherd
Christ is Made the Sure Foundation
Come Sing, O Church, in Joy

Hymn #836
Hymn #833
Hymn #802
Hymn #801
Hymn #394
Hymn #305



SUGGESTED READINGS

Old Testament

Job 19:1, 23-27 I know that my Redeemer lives
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 A time for everything

The Psalms

Psalm 23 The Lord is my Shepherd
Psalm 27 The Lord is my Light and my Salvation
Psalm 42 My soul is thirsting for the living God
Psalm 90 Lord, you have been our refuge
Psalm 103 The Lord is kind and merciful
Psalm 121 I look to the hills...where is my help to come from?
Psalm 130 Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord

New Testament

Romans 8:31b-39 Who can ever come between us and the love of Christ?
Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12 Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord
1 Corinthians 15:51-57 Death is swallowed up in victory
2 Corinthians 4:14- 5:1 What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal
Revelation 7:9-17 God will wipe away every tear from our eyes
Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 There will be no more death

Gospels

Matthew 5:1-12 Beatitudes; Rejoice for your reward will be great in heaven
Mathew 11:25-30 Come to me and I will give you rest
John 11:17-27 I am the resurrection and the life
John 14:1-6, 27 There are many rooms in my Father's house. Jesus promises peace



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