

Funerals at Christ Church Parish Church



Funerals at Christ Church Parish Church are primarily an act of worship, which follow the form and practice of the Anglican Church as contained in the burial rites of **The Book of Common Prayer** (BCP, page 361 or 374). In constructing a funeral service, the following customs are observed at Christ Church:

MUSIC

Families may select seven hymns for the funeral service and burial, i.e., three hymns to be sung in the church and four hymns for the graveside. Please choose hymns from the **CPWI Hymnal** or **Mission Praise Hymnal**. The officiating priest can assist in the selection of hymns.

A selection of music by a soloist/duet/ chorale may be included as part of the service if there is musical accompaniment, and the selection reflects the fact that the service is an act of Christian worship. Consequently, secular music is seldom deemed appropriate for the church service.

An additional fee may be required if the soloist/duet/chorale needs to rehearse with the church organist. Recorded music may be used in the church to accompany a soloist etc.

BIBLE READINGS

The officiating priest usually selects the Bible readings for the funeral service. Relatives or close friends may read the two Bible readings. The version of the Bible used at Christ Church Parish Church is the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). Copies of the readings are provided at the lectern on the day of the funeral service. The Psalm is not read as a Bible reading. It is selected from the 1662 BCP psalter (Psalm 23, 46, 90, 121, 130) or the Scottish psalter (Psalm 23 Crimond).

If the presence of a visiting preacher is desired as one of the officiating ministers, the rector or the office must be informed as soon as possible.

The Word of God must be the primary emphasis at a Christian funeral service as we focus on God's love for us and Christ's victory over sin, death, and the grave. Therefore, lengthy eulogies are unsuitable for a Christian funeral liturgy. This however does not mean that remembrances about the deceased cannot be included in the funeral service if that is the desire of the family.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Words of Remembrance (eulogies) are therefore permitted at Christ Church Parish Church with the following conditions:

- Only one person designated by the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased person. Therefore, if other acquaintances, for example, former work colleagues, wish to have words spoken about the deceased within the service, they should meet with the family beforehand so that such remembrances may be included in the one presentation.
- Any additional tributes to the Words of Remembrance will only be accommodated prior to the start of the service.
- The Words of Remembrance should be well prepared and shall not exceed the time stated by the officiating priest (Usually 8 minutes).
- A typed copy of the Words of Remembrance should be given to the officiating priest in time for it to be reviewed before the funeral service. It may be e-mailed to office@christchurchpc.com or placed in an envelope and delivered to the church office.

Please do not hesitate to contact the clergy or office with any questions about our funeral services. You may call 428-8087 from Tuesdays to Fridays between 9:30 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. or visit the church office during opening hours (Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays from 12 noon to 2 p.m.).