

## **Funeral Guidelines for St. Anne's Episcopal Parish**

Christ Church, a part of St. Anne's

We welcome your inquiry concerning funeral services at St. Anne's Episcopal Church. The information below presents our policies and procedures for a funeral in the Episcopal tradition. If you have questions or are interested in arranging a funeral at St. Anne's, please contact the parish office at [stannes1745@gmail.com](mailto:stannes1745@gmail.com).

### **When Death Occurs**

If at all possible, a clergy person should be notified when a person is near death in order that the ministrations of the Church may be provided if desired. When death occurs, the parish office should be notified. All arrangements for the funeral must be made in consultation with the Rector.

### **The Funeral Service**

The funeral service is an Easter liturgy and finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised. It does not matter whether the deceased was a member of the Church or not, or whether the survivors are members. The Church and its services are available to all. St. Anne's uses the Book of Common Prayer for its funeral services. The Holy Eucharist may be celebrated at funerals.

Although eulogies, or remembrances, are not a part of our funeral liturgy, we understand that they can play an important role in comforting those who are grieving. Therefore we do allow up to 2 people to deliver brief remembrances of the deceased. Each should be no more than 3-5 minutes. This will be followed by a brief homily delivered by the officiating priest.

### **Funeral Policies**

No funeral services will be conducted at the church when the Rector is unavailable or out of town, or if it conflicts with other previously scheduled church events. Permission to use another Episcopal priest to conduct the service in the absence of the Rector is granted solely by the Rector.

The church will provide printed programs to aid the congregants in following the service. The seating capacity in the church is around 100 with overflow in the balcony.

### **Pall for the Coffin**

The coffin is to be closed before the service and it remains closed thereafter. A white pall to cover the coffin during the service in the church is provided by the church. This reminds us of the equality of all people before God. Military funeral ceremonies are appropriately conducted outside the church or at the burial site.

### **Cremation**

Cremation may take place after the service or beforehand. The ashes may be present at the service, and blessed during the Commendation, if desired.

### **Cemetery**

The Christ Church cemetery is open to all members of our parish family as a final resting place. The cost of a plot is \$500. Please be in touch with the parish office if you wish to purchase a plot.

### **Music**

The selection of all music for the service is done in consultation with the clergy. One of the St. Anne's organists will play at all funerals or memorials with music. There is a fee for their services. Musicians requested by the family, in addition to the Organist, are welcome to participate in the service. However, they and their music selections must be approved by the Rector.

### **Flowers and Memorial Table**

Inside the church, flowers at a church funeral are usually displayed as on Sundays, on the vase stands behind the Altar. Flowers are not to be placed on the coffin. A small memorial table may be set in the front of the church, when there is no coffin or cremated remains present. The items in the church are limited to pictures and appropriate items of remembrance. The Altar Guild will take care of the flower arrangements (a suggested offering is \$100), or you may provide your own. We recommend We Grow Florist in Scottsville.

## **Funeral Service Honorariums & Fees (Suggested)**

There is no fee for use of the church or Parish Hall. The priest's honorarium (typically \$200-\$500) should be paid in cash or check payable to the priest. The honorarium for the Organist (\$250) should be paid directly to them.

## **Lessons for Burial of the Dead**

*Appropriate lessons are suggested as follows (from the BCP, pp 494-495). Choose one or two readings from the Old and/or New Testaments, a psalm, and a gospel reading.*

- At the burial of a child, the passages from Lamentations, 1 John, and John 6, together with Psalm 23, are recommended.

### *From the Old Testament*

- Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever)
- Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort those who mourn)
- Lamentations 3:22-26,31-33 (The Lord is good to those who wait for him) Wisdom 3:1-5,9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God)
- Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)

### *From the New Testament*

- Revelation 7:9-17 (God will wipe away every tear)
- Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)

*A suitable psalm, hymn, or canticle may follow. The following Psalms are appropriate: 23, 27, 106:1-5, 116, 42:1-7, 46, 90:1-12, 121, 130, 139:1-11.*

### *The Gospel*

- John 5:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life)
- John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to you) John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd)
- John 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life)
- John 14:1-6 (In my Father's house are many rooms)

### **Suggested Hymns for the Burial of the Dead (from the Hymnal 1982)**

- 671 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
- 688 A mighty fortress is our God
- 665 All my hope on God is founded
- 208 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The strife is o'er
- 287 For all the saints, who from their labors rest
- 379 God is Love, let heaven adore him
- 690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah
- 637 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord – also 636
- 517 How lovely is thy dwelling place
- 620 Jerusalem, my happy home
- 680 O God, our help in ages past
- 448 O love, how deep, how broad, how high
- 455 O Love of God, how strong and true
- 388 O worship the King, all glorious above!
- 373 Praise the Lord! Ye heavens adore him
- 685 Rock of ages, cleft for me
- 492 Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness
- 645 The King of love my shepherd is
- 618 Ye watchers and ye holy ones

### **Reception**

A reception may follow at the Parish Hall, if desired. Please contact the Parish Office for details.