



Funerals/Memorial Services
at
Davidson College
Presbyterian Church

Davidson College Presbyterian Church
PO Box 337
Davidson, NC 28036
704-892-5641
www.dcpc.org

John 11:17-27
John 14:1-6, 25-27
Mathew 18:1-5, 10

I am the resurrection and the life
Let not your hearts be troubled
The greatest in the kingdom of
heaven
Let the children come to me

Mark 10:13-16

The above are only suggestions. Favorite scripture passages, which have been meaningful during the life of the deceased, may be used.

Hymns

Hymns should be chosen which affirm the goodness and grace of God, and which give comfort and support to those who grieve. The minister and the Director of Music will guide the selection of appropriate hymns.

Hymn Suggestions

Amazing Grace
Our God, Our Help in Ages Past
How Great Thou Art
Be Thou My Vision
For the Beauty of the Earth
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need, or The Lord's My Shepherd
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Now Thank We All Our God
Lift High the Cross
For All the Saints
How Firm a Foundation

Other Music

The pastor, in consultation with the Director of Music, will ensure suitable sacred music. Instrumentalists or vocalists may also be employed, but must be approved and contracted by the Music Director. The family is expected to cover the cost of hiring any musician other than the church's organist.

Suggestions for Scripture

Old Testament

Job 19:23-27

Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31

Isaiah 40:28-31

Isaiah 65:17-25

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

I know that my redeemer lives

Comfort my people

Those who wait for the Lord
shall renew their strength

I create a new heaven and a
new earth

For everything there is a season

Psalms

Psalms 23

Psalm 46:1-15, 10-11

Psalm 90:1-10, 12

Psalm 103

Psalm 121

Psalm 130

The Lord is my shepherd

A very present help in trouble

Teach us to number our days

Bless the Lord, O my soul

I lift up my eyes to the hills

Out of the depths I cry to the

Lord

Epistles

Romans 8:14-23, 31-39

Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12

Corinthians 15:20-26

35-38, 42-44, 50, 53-58

II Corinthians 4:18-5:1

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Revelation 21:1-4, 22-25

Nothing can separate us

Whether we live or die we are
the Lord's

Death is swallowed in victory

Visible things are transitory,
invisible things permanent

The comfort of Christ's
coming

A new heaven and a new
earth

Gospels

Luke 23:33, 39-43

Today you will be with me in
paradise

Introduction

Christians recognize death as an inevitable part of life on earth, but in the presence of death, "We grieve," says the apostle Paul, "but we do not grieve without hope." In the midst of our grieving, we profess that, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has overcome the power death. Christians commend to God's care those who die, trusting that, by God's grace, nothing – not even death – can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Spirit and the community of faith. The church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve.

Our pastors and congregation desire to be present to church members and families who need comfort and counsel as they grieve the loss of a loved one or face their own passing. Pastors may provide spiritual care as well as help with the practical considerations required at such a time.

The funeral or memorial service is the beginning – and only a part of a much longer process – of grief. Because it is difficult for survivors to make decisions when dealing with emotional stress and grief after the loss of family members, the Session encourages all of its members to plan their funeral arrangements in advance. These decisions include location and options for burial, selections of scripture and music and preparing one's estate. Documents to assist in this process are available in this booklet.

The Session also encourages everyone to prepare a legal will as well as an advanced directive for medical care known as a "living will." These documents are to be shared with family members.

Providing guidelines for funerals held in our family of faith is one of the responsibilities of the Session of Davidson College Presbyterian Church. This document seeks to assist anyone planning a funeral in our sanctuary, or at another location, using the services of our pastors as well as members of the congregation. If you have any questions regarding how Davidson College Presbyterian Church may assist you in a time of grief, please call the church office at 704-892-5641 to speak with one of our pastors.

When Someone Dies

In the event of a death in your family, one of the pastors of Davidson College Presbyterian Church should be notified immediately at 704-892-5641, in addition to the licensed funeral home of your choice. The pastor will visit with the family to offer condolences on behalf of the congregation and to begin to plan A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION, taking into consideration the desires of the deceased and surviving family members.

Funeral or Memorial Service?

The service of worship witnessing to the resurrection is, first and foremost, a service of worship to God. It shall be conducted with dignity and simplicity and will emphasize the love and grace of God as well as hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The service may be performed before or after the committal of the body.

The *funeral* service is one in which the remains of the deceased are present in a casket. The casket shall be closed when moved into the sanctuary for worship so as not to distract from the purpose of giving witness to the resurrection.

A *memorial* service may or may not include the remains of the deceased. If not previously interred, the cremated remains, or ashes, may be displayed tastefully somewhere in the sanctuary somewhere other than on the communion table.

Ordinarily, at least one pastor presently serving Davidson College Presbyterian Church will preside. The church's Director or Associate Director of Music shall serve as organist for all funerals when one is requested unless she/he is unavailable or unless she/he approves a request for someone else to play.

The family may request a guest pastor to participate in the service with the consent of the presiding pastor. Ordinarily, the visiting pastor shall assume a supportive role to the presiding pastor.

Music

The final authority determining the suitability of any music for worship rests with the presiding minister in consultation with the Director of Music. Instrumentalists or vocalists may also be employed, but only with the approval of the Director of Music.

Reflections on Scripture

A pastor will deliver the meditation which will reflect your loved one's unique story as it is a part of God's story. The meditation will share the promises of scripture and a witness of God's grace as reflected in the life of your loved one.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

A pastor will offer a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession. The Lord's Prayer may be recited by the congregation or sung as a solo.

Music

The congregation may sing a hymn or other special music may be arranged.

Benediction

A pastor will close the service by pronouncing the benediction. The pastors will lead the family out of the sanctuary to the desired reception area.

Organ Postlude

The organist or pianist will play selected pieces as the family is escorted from the sanctuary as led by the pastors and as worshipers are dismissed.

Not everyone will wish to include all the elements listed here. The use of hymns, or solos for instance, will depend somewhat on the number of people expected for the service.

THE SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

Memorial, Funeral, and Committal Services are acts of worship within the Christian community. The purposes of such services of worship are to glorify God, to affirm our belief in the resurrection to eternal life, and to comfort the bereaved. Gratitude and honor are appropriately expressed to God for the life and witness of the deceased.

The enclosed funeral planning sheet, as well as scripture and music suggestions on the following pages, may be used in preparing for the service.

Suggested Outline for a Funeral or Memorial Service

Organ Prelude

The organist or pianist will normally play a collection of sacred pieces as worshippers arrive and as the family is seated. The pastors will lead the family to their seats.

Opening Sentences

The pastor will begin the service by reading several lines from scripture and calling the congregation to worship.

Music

The congregation may sing hymns and other special music may be arranged. (see attached suggestions)

Opening Prayer

The pastor will offer a brief opening prayer.

Scriptures

The Scriptures provide comfort and assurances in times of grief, and are the foundation for the Memorial, Funeral, and Committal Services. The minister will guide the selection of appropriate scripture passages (see additional pages for suggested scriptures), and would welcome suggestions of those with particular meaning for the deceased or the family.

Floral Arrangements

The use of flowers for the funeral or memorial service shall be kept within the guidelines of what is appropriate and customary for a service of worship on the Lord's Day (Sunday morning). All remaining floral arrangements are to be left in the Parlor, Jetton Hall or Congregation House or taken to the graveside for the committal. A casket spray may also be used in lieu of the pall.

Casket Adornments

When in the sanctuary, it is appropriate for the casket to be covered by our congregation's pall, which represents a baptismal garment symbolizing the faith professed by the deceased, or by fresh flowers. The casket, while in the sanctuary, may not be covered by other symbols – civic, national or fraternal – that might emphasize an allegiance held in higher esteem than one's Christian faith.

Funeral Director

The funeral director of a licensed funeral home usually makes all of the arrangements required throughout the funeral process, from the transfer of the deceased from the place of death to the ultimate place of burial or internment (if applicable). The director obtains the death certificate, prepares the remains for burial and works with the family to select caskets and burial garments if those have not already been chosen. The funeral director also prepares and places obituary notices as he or she coordinates arrangements for the funeral and burial. The pastors are available, if requested, to join the family when they meet with the funeral director since decisions during that time can be both emotionally and economically difficult to make.

Fraternal, Civil, and Military Rites

Because fraternal, civil and military rites are not a part of the worship service, these organizations should pay tribute to the deceased at another hour and place. If a flag is used to cover the casket en route to the place of burial, it shall be placed on the casket as it is taken out of the sanctuary at the conclusion of the worship service. The flag folding rite shall take place at the conclusion of the presiding pastor's words of committal before the casket is lowered into the vault.

Receptions and Visitations

Davidson College Presbyterian Church is pleased to serve as the host site for gatherings in the Congregation House, Parlor or Jetton Hall before or after a funeral or memorial service. Ordinarily, the time of the visitation or reception shall be up to two hours in length. Coffee, water, lemonade/punch and light food will be offered if the family desires.

DCPC Congregational Care Committee hostesses are charged with the responsibility and authority to oversee all arrangements for these events, working alongside the presiding pastors who care for the grieving family.

In the event of a death in our family of faith, we are called to provide Christian love and care. Therefore, all fellowship groups, circles and individuals in the congregation are encouraged to support the deacons in providing comfort and meals for the grieving family in the days, weeks and months that follow.

Graveside Services

Graveside services are offered for simplicity and convenience if desired by the deceased or those surviving. There are some issues you may want to consider when choosing an alternative graveside service. Inclement weather such as rain, wind or extreme temperatures may hinder the logistics of performing such a service. Terrain in cemeteries can be uneven and wet, causing difficult footing. Additionally, the service length must be brief as most attendees are standing behind the few chairs provided for the family.

Committal

Family and friends of the deceased may gather at the graveside or columbarium for a service of interment, which is to be conducted with simplicity, dignity and brevity. The committal, which can occur before or after a service of worship, includes readings from scripture, prayer, words of committal and a benediction. The service, led by the presiding pastor, will focus upon the reality of death, entrust the one who has died to the care of God and bear witness to faith in the resurrection.

Davidson College Presbyterian Church has a columbarium on its campus which is available to church members. Please refer to the DCPC Columbarium booklet for more information.

Cremation

Cremation is a matter of personal preference. It is not inconsistent with the Christian faith. One may also choose to donate his or her remains to be used in the study of medicine or science at medical schools and hospitals.

Gift Designations and Memorials

Undesignated gifts given in memory of loved ones to DCPC are welcome. The family will be notified of all donors by mail following the funeral.

Honoraria

Honoraria for pastors and musicians involved with a funeral service are usually handled by the funeral home in charge. When a funeral home is not used, such as with a memorial service involving no remains, honoraria are appropriate but not required for church members.

Fees for Non-members

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| Sanctuary Fee | \$400.00 |
| Chapel Fee | \$400.00 |
| Clergy | \$200.00 |
| Organist | \$200.00 |
| Soloist | \$100.00 |
| Sexton | \$125.00 |
| Sound Technician | \$ 75.00 |
| Live-stream | \$125.00 |

