

FUNERAL SERVICES IN THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, WHITE ROCK

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INTRODUCTION

“It is entirely fitting that Christian funerals reflect the various dimensions of the experience of death. Faith is not only belief: faith embraces even its own shadow, which is doubt. Liturgical expressions of faith and hope in the face of death should consequently leave room for the radical sense of anxiety and loss which the mourners experience. They should also enable, rather than deny, the grief process about which so much has been learned in recent years. On the other hand, Christian funerals should not become unrelieved expressions of anguish and despair: there is a time for thanksgiving even in the midst of mourning.

“This note of thanksgiving even in a time of tears explains, in part, the ancient association of Christian funerals with celebrations of the eucharist. Thanksgiving for the death and victory of the Christ vibrates with different and more basic tones at the time of the death of a fellow disciple. Further, the bread and wine of holy communion, that foretaste of the messianic banquet, convey an experience of the solidarity of the Christian community which is particularly appropriate to the moment. All our experience of the kingdom of God takes place between the poles of ‘already’ and ‘not yet,’ a tension which is only temporarily resolved for us when we remember with thanks the basic Christian story, and in the case of a funeral, the story of this particular Christian as well.” (*The Book of Alternative Services*, pg. 566)

The Rector, clergy, and staff of the Church of the Holy Trinity are here for you in your time of need. We will journey with you through this difficult time and assist you in preparations for the funeral service and, if desired, for a reception in our parish hall. We will do our best to accommodate your wishes within the context of the liturgy and to ensure that those present experience the joy and hope of resurrection.

THE SERVICE

The most appropriate setting for a funeral service is the church. Here the community of faith expresses, with the family of their loved one, its life and worship through word, prayer, praise, and sacrament in a context of symbols that speak of hope, resurrection, and eternal life. Thanksgiving is offered and grief and mourning expressed.

It is recommended that the body or the ashes be present during the service so as not to avoid the reality of death. Burial or interment will follow as appropriate.

A table will be provided for a one photograph and a small flower arrangement provided by the family. If cremation will take place, the ashes will also be placed on this table.

No visual presentations are allowed in the church. However, the family may arrange with the Rector or the organist favourite sacred musical pieces of the deceased to be played or sung.

The intent of the liturgy is praise and thanksgiving to God for the resurrection we’ve received through Jesus Christ. The readings and music offered will be selected by the family in consultation with the clergy. The officiant of the funeral will offer a homily which will include some thoughts and memories of the deceased. In consultation with the rector, a family member or friend may offer a welcome and memories of the deceased before the liturgy begins. Others who would like to share thoughts and memories are invited to do so at the reception or gathering following the funeral service.

SERVICE BULLETINS

The congregation is encouraged to participate fully in the prayers, and in those portions of the service which traditionally belong to the laity. Such participation in the service gives an opportunity for people to surround those who mourn with their prayers and presence and gives occasion to ease tension and allow for expression of feelings.

To that end, the parish will provide a service bulletin including all readings, prayers, and hymns. The bulletin may also include a photo of the deceased as well as a brief biography, if desired. As the primary focus of the worship space is the altar, additional photographs are appropriately displayed at the reception.

FLOWERS

Usually, the only flowers in the church are those at the altar. These may be given by the family or may be those used for worship on Sunday. If the family wishes to provide floral arrangements for the altar, it is understood that these are an offering to God in thanksgiving for the life of the deceased, and they are not to be removed after the service. Any additional arrangements received at the church will be placed in the narthex. If, however, the funeral is on a Friday or Saturday, the Altar Guild can provide early arrangements of Sunday Morning flowers and may be able to accommodate color/flower requests of the family.

The church strongly discourages any lavish display of flowers and suggests funds instead be used to help the living. Flowers are symbols of the resurrection, and those on the altar are sufficient to remind the congregation of the joy of Christ’s resurrection.

MUSIC

Music is an integral part of the Christian faith and worship. Music should express the hope and faith that Christians manifest in the presence of death. The parish organist will normally be available to play at funeral services. If the organist is not available, a suitable substitute will be found. If a soloist is desired, this is arranged by the family with the Rector and the organist.

The funeral service will include only sacred music, any secular music desired must be reserved for use at the reception.

ASSISTING CLERGY

If the family requests that additional clergy be present, the Rector will invite and discuss their participation in the service with the proposed clergy member(s).

HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL GARDEN

For the use of members of the parish of Holy Trinity, a memorial garden has been created and is maintained by members of the parish. There are no fees levied for the ashes of parish members to be placed in the garden. The garden will be the final resting place of ashes only. No urns or plaques are permitted.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES AND MEMORIAL BOOK

A Memorial Board can be found at the main entrance to the Church. A small brass plaque bearing the name of the person and the date of their birth and death will be attached to the board for each person whose ashes have been placed in the Memorial Garden. The size of the plaque and style of the lettering will conform to the standard established by the Church. The cost of the plaque and its engraving will be borne by the Memorial Garden Fund. Donations to this fund will be gratefully received

For those of our loved ones that we wish to remember in our prayers, a Memorial Book is also placed at the entrance to the Church. The names of departed members of the parish are recorded here. For others who may wish to place names in the book, it is suggested that a donation to the Holy Trinity Memorial Fund would be appropriate. The names are included in prayers said during regular services on or near to the person's anniversary.

FEES FOR FUNERAL SERVICES

There are no specific fees for the services of the Rector and the holding of the service. However, the family of the deceased may, at their discretion, make a donation to the Church and/or the Rector's pastoral needs fund.

The fee for a funeral service is \$1500. This fee includes:

- Preparation of the liturgy
- Printing of funeral bulletins
- Organist
- Live Streaming of the Service (if desired)
- Support of office staff and Altar Guild

If additional services are required (soloists, choirs, *etc.*), the cost will be determined based upon need in conversation with the rector, organist, and the office staff.

FEES FOR RECEPTIONS

The fee for the use of Griffiths Hall and the kitchen for members of the Parish is waived. For non-members, the fee for the use of Griffiths Hall and the Kitchen is \$300. This fee includes set up, clean up, insurance costs, and coordination with caterers.

Please note:

- The kitchen is only available as a staging area for catering.
- The hall and kitchen are available after the service for a maximum of 2 hours.
- No alcohol may be served at any reception.

PLANNED GIVING

Christians are encouraged to remember their parish in their wills as a way of giving thanks for the ministry of the parish and supporting its work through succeeding generations. Bequests and/or various other trust arrangements are important ways to further the work of God's people at the Church of the Holy Trinity in White Rock. Bequests can be given for specific capital improvements, to build up the parish endowment, or for specific program support. Please consult your financial advisor for the most effective way to make such a gift.

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor 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."

Romans 8: 38-39



Situated on the ancestral and unceded land of our brothers and sisters of the Semiahmoo First Nation



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