

STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR LAST RITES

Funeral Planning Guide

The Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock

**“Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.”**

“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 church should be notified immediately when a member is near death or has died. The clergy, in coordination with the family, will plan the funeral service. Services available include the following:

AT THE TIME OF DEATH

Book of Alternative Services, page 560

When a person is near death, the minister of the congregation should be notified and, when possible, the family and friends should come together with the minister to join in prayer. A litany and other suitable prayers are provided for Ministry at the Time of Death in The Book of Alternative Services. Please note, these prayers may be offered by family and friends in the absence of a clergy person.

BEFORE THE FUNERAL

Book of Alternative Services, page 571

After preparations have been completed, prayers may be offered at the home or at the funeral home. This brief service consists of suitable psalms, readings, and prayers. Alternatively, an abbreviated form of this service may be offered as the body is received in the church prior to the funeral liturgy. If desired, the body may remain in the nave of the church or the narthex where family member may receive visitors.

THE FUNERAL

Book of Alternative Services, page 576 or page 589

The Funeral Liturgy is an Anglican worship service with suitable psalms, hymns, readings, and prayers for the departed. The worship service is customarily a Celebration of Holy Eucharist at which it is appropriate for Baptized Christians in the congregation to join the family in receiving Holy Communion. Members of the family of the deceased and close friends can take an active part in the service by reading the lessons, the psalms, leading the prayers, and by presenting the bread and wine at the offertory. The family and friends of the deceased may elect to omit the celebration Holy Communion.

THE COMMITTAL

Book of Alternative Services, page 587

A brief service of Committal usually follows the Resurrection Liturgy. This may be at the grave when interment follows, or in the memorial garden where the ashes find their final resting place. If cremation follows the funeral the Committal will take place at a time after the funeral liturgy.

FUNERAL SERVICE INFORMATION AND REQUESTS

In order that by my death I may make effective Christian witness, and that others may know my wishes in these matters, I, _____, do on this date, _____, make the following requests:

1. Final rites are to be conducted at the Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock, British Columbia, or at _____ in _____. The Rector, Vicar, or Priest in Charge of said congregation shall oversee the services.
2. I wish
___ My body or ashes to be placed in the church prior to the funeral for a brief prayer service for family and friends prior to the funeral liturgy.
___ My body or ashes to be placed in the church as part of the funeral liturgy.
3. At the funeral Liturgy, I request the use of:
___ Funeral Liturgy Form I (Book of Alternative Services, page 576)
___ Funeral Liturgy Form II (Book of Alternative Services, page 589)
___ The Order for Burial of the Dead (Book of Common Prayer, 1962 page 591)
4. This liturgy (will/will not) include the celebration of Holy Eucharist
___ Spoken
___ Sung

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The funeral service usually includes one or more readings and psalms from Holy Scripture. When the service includes Holy Communion, a reading from the Gospels is required. A typical service will include an Old Testament reading, a Psalm, a New Testament reading, and a Gospel. Readings and Psalms suitable for the liturgies are listed below. One non-biblical reading is permissible in addition to the scripture reading(s), subject to the approval of the clergy.

5. At the liturgy, I request the following psalm(s) and reading(s)

Old Testament Readings

- ___ Job 19.1, 21-27a (I know that my redeemer lives)
- ___ Isaiah 25.6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever)
- ___ Isaiah 61.1-3 (To comfort all who mourn)
- ___ Lamentations 3.17-26, 31-33 (The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases)
- ___ Daniel 12.1-3 (Everyone whose name shall be found written in the book)
- ___ Wisdom 3.1-6, (7-9) (The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God)
- ___ Other _____

Psalms and Suitable Refrains

- ___ Psalm 23 (I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever)
- ___ Psalm 25 (Remember me according to your love, O Lord)
- ___ Psalm 42 (I will give thanks to him who is my help and my God)
- ___ Psalm 51 (Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness)
- ___ Psalm 90 (From age to age you are God)
- ___ Psalm 121 (My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth)
- ___ Psalm 122 (May they prosper who love Jerusalem)
- ___ Psalm 126 (Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy)
- ___ Psalm 130 (My soul waits for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy)
- ___ Psalm 134 (Bless the Lord who made heaven and earth)
- ___ Psalm 139 (Lead me in the way that is everlasting)
- ___ Other _____

New Testament Readings

- ___ Romans 6.3–9 (All who have been baptized into Christ were baptized into his death)
- ___ Romans 8.14–19(34–35, 37–39) (The glory that is to be revealed)
- ___ Romans 14.7–9 (Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s)
- ___ 1 Corinthians 15.20–28(35–44a) (In Christ shall all be made alive)
- ___ 1 Corinthians 15.51–57 (Death is swallowed up in victory)
- ___ 2 Corinthians 4.7–18 (The things that are unseen are eternal)
- ___ 2 Corinthians 5.1–9 (What is mortal may be swallowed up by life)
- ___ Philippians 3.20–21 (To be like his glorious body)
- ___ 1 Thessalonians 4.13–18 (So we shall always be with the Lord)
- ___ 2 Timothy 2.8–12a (If we have died with him, we shall also live with him)
- ___ 1 Peter 1.3–9 (We have been born anew to a living hope)
- ___ 1 John 3.1–2 (We shall be like him)
- ___ 1 John 4.7–18a (We may have confidence for the day of judgement)
- ___ Revelation 21.1–7 (Behold I make all things new)
- ___ Other _____

Gospel Readings

- ___ Matthew 5.1–12a (Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven)
- ___ Matthew 11.25–30 (Come to me ... and I will give you rest)
- ___ Mark 15.33–39; 16.1–7 (He has risen, he is not here)
- ___ Luke 24.13–16(17–27) 28–35 (He was known to them in the breaking of the bread)
- ___ John 5.24–27 (Who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life)
- ___ John 6.37–40 (All that the Father gives me will come to me)
- ___ John 10.11–16 (I am the good shepherd)
- ___ John 11.17–27 (I am the resurrection and the life)
- ___ John 14.1–6 (In my Father’s house are many rooms)
- ___ John 20.1–9 (The stone had been taken away from the tomb)
- ___ Other _____

Non-biblical Readings

- ___ A short, appropriate reading from a non-biblical source may be read instead of one of the readings before the Gospel, or at the time of the sermon, or another suitable point in the service.

It is desirable, whenever possible, for the family or friends of the deceased to participate in the service as lectors, who read the lessons and psalms or lead the prayers. If the service includes Holy Eucharist, family and friends may also present the bread and wine at the offertory.

6. If possible, I would like the following people to serve as lectors or to present the gifts at the offertory:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

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 funeral service will include only sacred music, any secular music desired must be reserved for use at the reception. Hymns should be strong and confident. Suitable hymns from Common Praise for a funeral liturgy include:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 24 Abide with Me | 239 Jesus Lives! Thy Terrors Now |
| 222 All Shall Be Well | 425 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee |
| 352 Amazing Grace | 550 Light's Abode, Celestial Salem |
| 207 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing | 506 Lord of All Hopefulness |
| 569 Come My Way, My Truth, My Life | 266 Lord, Let Your Servant Go in Peace |
| 276 For All the Saints | 486 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling |
| 489 From the Falter of Breath | 528 O God, Our Help in Ages Past |
| 30 God, that Madest Earth and Heaven | 525 The Church's One Foundation |
| 526 God is our Fortress and our Rock | 29 The Day Thou Gavest Lord Is Ended |
| 565 Guide me, O Through Great Jehovah | 212 The Strife is Over |
| 60 I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord | 542 Out of the Depths |
| 527 How Firm a Foundation | 543 Unto the Hills around Do I Lift Up |
| 280 How Bright These Glorious Spirits Shine | 80 We Hail Thee Now, O Jesus |
| 278 Jerusalem the Golden | 323 Ye Holy Angels Bright |

Two to three hymns are appropriate for a liturgy without Eucharist. Three to four hymns may be chosen for a liturgy with Eucharist. Hymns from other hymnals may be included, subject to approval of the clergy.

7. I Request the following Hymns

(1) _____
 (2) _____
 (3) _____
 (4) _____

8. (Optional) I request the following musicians

___ The choir of the Church of the Holy Trinity.
 ___ A soloist to sing _____
 ___ An instrumentalist to play _____

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 or in the narthex.

- 9. I would prefer that the service leaflet include
 - ___ a photograph (attached).
 - ___ a biography (attached – 250 words, maximum).
 - ___ a photo/biography prepared by my loved ones at a later time.
 - ___ no photo or biography.

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.

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.

- 10. I ask that, in lieu of flower donations, monetary memorial donations be given to:
 - ___ The Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock
 - ___ The Diocese of New Westminster
 - ___ The society engaged in research in the disease which caused my death
 - ___ Other _____

RECEPTION

Many people choose to hold a reception after the service so that members of the congregation may express their love and support to the family in person. The Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock can provide use of Griffiths Hall for such gatherings.

- 11. I wish
 - ___ to have a reception following the service in Griffiths Hall
 - ___ to have a reception following the service at _____
 - ___ that no reception follow the service

MEMORIAL GARDEN

For the use of members of the parish of the Church of the 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.

12. I wish

- for the memorial garden at the Church of the Holy Trinity to be my final resting place
- to be interred at _____
- to be inurned or scattered at _____
- to be entombed at _____
- Special Instructions _____

13. (Optional)

- Arrangements have been made by me for my body to be given to _____ for research
- Arrangements have been made by me for the following parts of my body _____ to be given to _____

The church approves the trend toward the utilization of parts of one's body to benefit the living after the death of the donor. It is a very practical expression of Christian love.

14. The Funeral Home may be selected by my family or attorney. However, I prefer the following firm: _____

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.

15. (Optional)

- I have included the Church of the Holy Trinity in my will or trust. The executor of my estate is _____
- The bequest is for the parish endowment
- The bequest is for _____
- The bequest is for the support of _____ program within the parish

Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____