

**Introduction** The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes our attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death we affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. We 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.

**Arrangements** Because it is difficult under emotional stress to plan wisely, church members are encouraged to discuss and plan in advance the arrangements which will be necessary at the time of death. A family or individual does well to make arrangements with a funeral director prior to the need for the director's services. The pastor is available for consultation and support at the time of these arrangements. A family or individual may also meet with the pastor to establish preliminary plans for the funeral or memorial service. All plans should provide for arrangements which are simple, which bear witness to resurrection hope, and in which the Christian community is central.

**Funeral or Memorial Service** The Christian funeral service (with remains present) or memorial service (without the remains present) is a service of worship. The service ordinarily should be held in the church sanctuary in order to join this service to the church's continuing life and witness to the resurrection. This service may be observed on any day.

The current pastor of Shelter Island Presbyterian Church will officiate at all services held in our sanctuary, when possible. If our pastor is not available, the clerk of session or attending elder will help the family secure the assistance of a neighboring clergy person to officiate. The service should be scheduled with the officiating pastor. Other clergy are welcomed to join in the service in consultation with the officiating pastor.

The service shall be under the direction of the pastor. Others may be invited to participate as leaders in the service at the request of the family and at the discretion of the pastor. The pastor will ordinarily meet with the family of the deceased prior to the funeral to speak together of the life of the deceased, to discuss plans for the service, and to pray.

The funeral liturgy seeks to meet the stark fact of death head-on while giving an undaunted witness to resurrection. The scripture, hymns, and other service elements will affirm God's power over death, our belief in the resurrection to life everlasting, and the assurance of the communion of the saints. Aspects of the life of the one who has died may be recalled, as appropriate.

**Committal** Members and friends of the family of the one who has died should gather at the graveside or crematorium for a service of farewell, which is to be conducted with simplicity, dignity, and brevity. The service includes readings from Scripture, prayers, words of committal, and a blessing, reflecting the reality of death, entrusting the one who has died to the care of God, and bearing witness to faith in the resurrection from the dead.

**Reception Following Services** The fellowship hall can be made available for a reception following the funeral, memorial service, or graveside committal at the request of the family with the concurrence of the pastor.

**All Are Welcome** Pastoral care and use of the sanctuary shall be made available to all, regardless of church affiliation or lack thereof.

**Fees**

|                       | Sanctuary | Pastor | Organist | Sexton | Fellowship Hall |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|-----------------|
| <b>Current Member</b> | \$0*      | \$0*   | \$200    | \$100  | \$0*            |
| <b>Non-Member</b>     | \$300     | \$300  | \$200    | \$100  | \$100           |

*\*honorarium appreciated but not required*

**Memorials** Memorial gifts in the name of the deceased will be gratefully received by the church. Gifts received will be acknowledged to both the donor and the family of the deceased.

*Adopted by the Session on Tuesday, August 18th, 2015.*