

FUNERAL GUIDELINES

In light of the Christian faith, the Christian funeral may be seen as a special occasion when the people of God are called together for worship. Just as worship is appropriate for such special occasions as baptism, Christmas, Easter and marriage, so also is death an important event which should be dignified by a service of worship. To be sure, a service of worship rightly conducted offers untold comfort and strength to the bereaved; nevertheless the main purpose of the funeral is not to be a time for grieving or comforting, but a time for worship of Almighty God.

With this in mind, three things should be present at every Christian funeral.

First, there should be thanksgiving to God for all life and gratitude expressed when one has finished his/her life on earth.

Second, there should be gratitude expressed for the privilege of knowing, and sharing in, and being influenced by the one who has died.

Third, the Christian funeral is a time for committing the care of the deceased to the Almighty One who cared for him/her during life.

These 3 things should be carried out by the following suggestions:

1. When death occurs, call your Minister regardless of time day or night. **He** will help you plan and organize the funeral service.
2. A Christian funeral should be held in a Church building. Occasionally circumstances may arise which make this impossible and the chapel at the Funeral Home will be utilized.
3. The casket should be closed during and after the service. The family and intimate friends should view the body at a time prior to the funeral service.
4. No one should feel that a beautiful and dignified Christian funeral requires a large expenditure of money. God is not impressed by outward array. It is recommended that only 2 spray of flowers be used in the church and some families may request the use of a Pall.
5. The music should be triumphant. The Minister or the Church Organist will have suggestions concerning music which is appropriate.
6. The service should be simple, dignified, and brief. it is customary to use passages of Scripture, prayers, and hymns. The sermon should hold up the Christian hope of the resurrection. One Minister is sufficient to conduct a proper service, however others may be invited to participate.
7. Sunday and Christmas Day are not convenient days for funerals. It is recommended that the family make very effort to avoid the scheduling of funerals on Sunday and Christmas Day.
8. If the family wishes to make a donation to the church, it may be accepted but it is not necessary.

The Minister's travel should be paid if long distances are involved in order to participate in the funeral.
