



GUIDE

RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL AT ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness

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THE SERVICE

The purpose of a funeral/memorial service at St. John in the Wilderness is to bring comfort to the family of the deceased within appropriate boundaries.

1. Service choices

- Funeral service (with body/ashes) or memorial service (without body/ashes) from Rite One or Rite Two in The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) (pp .469- 505).
- Funeral or memorial service with or without Eucharist.

2. Arrangements and timing of the service are made with the rector. Options are:

- Within days of the death.
- Any later time that is convenient for the family and the celebrant.

3. Celebrant for the service

- A priest from St. John in the Wilderness usually presides over the service.
- A celebrant from another church may participate in the service with the approval of the rector of St. John in the Wilderness.

4. Readings

- The family may select readings from the Old and New Testaments and Psalms to be part of the service. A list of suggested psalms and readings is included in the booklet, but the family may make personal choices of these readings with the approval of the celebrant.
- The family may choose to have family and/or friends of the deceased read the selections; otherwise they will be read by clergy or lay readers.
- The Gospel is read by one of the clergy.

5. The homily is given by the celebrant or other member of the clergy.

6. Non-scriptural comments, poems, and shared memories by family members and/or friends of the deceased may be included in the service with the approval of the celebrant. The number and length of these would be limited. Should the family desire more time for shared memories, time could be planned during a reception following the service, either at the parish hall or elsewhere.

7. Music

- The rector will put the family in touch with the Music Director for the church who will help the family with any arrangements regarding music during the service.
- The Music Director can provide a list of frequently requested hymns.
- The family may choose other hymns or music for the service, but the selections must be approved by the Music Director.
- If the family wishes a soloist or other musician(s) to participate in the service, they need to consult with the Music Director. He may have suggestions if the family does not already have someone in mind. He/she must approve any family selections.
- If the family wishes to have an organist other than the Music Director play at the service, that is possible after consultation with the Music Director.
- The organist has a fee to be paid directly to him. Fees for any other musicians should also be paid directly to them.

8. Pews in the front of the church are reserved for family members. The celebrant will bring in the family before the service begins and then lead them out of the church after the service. Let the clergy know how many pews should be reserved.

9. St. John in the Wilderness will provide golf cart service for guests between the parking lot and the carriage entrance to the church.

10. The family may wish to greet those who have attended the funeral/memorial service after the service is over. Weather permitting, this could be done outside the carriage entrance to the church. If arrangements have been made for a reception in the Parish Hall, the family could greet the guests there.

11. Flowers

- Flower arrangements can be planned for the altar. The selection and cost are the responsibility of the family. The top of any arrangements must be below the altar cross. Flowers should not be planned for other locations in the church.
- The chair person of the Flower Guild can provide guidance on local florists who are familiar with church guidelines for flower arrangements. They will also be familiar with our containers and supplies and what works well on the altar.
- If the service is on a Saturday afternoon, the flowers planned for the Sunday worship services may be used at no cost to the family.
- You may choose any florist, but be sure they understand the guidelines for arrangements in the church altar area.

12. Program for the service

- St. John in the Wilderness will provide a leaflet with the deceased's name and life dates on the cover, the order of service, and the names of participants in the service.
- If the family wishes to prepare their own leaflet, they may do so with the approval of the leaflet by the celebrant. The primary focus of the leaflet should be the service. If the family wishes to include poems, shared memories, etc., they should be on separate pages and follow the order of service.



THE BURIAL

Should the family desire to bury their loved one in the Historic Churchyard, there are three options available:

- The Memorial Garden
- A conventional terraced lot
- The Columbarium

Only designated plots are suitable for full casket burials. All sites are suitable for burial of cremains.

The purchaser of an easement for burial must have been a communicant of St. John in the Wilderness whose financial support is verifiable. No one may be buried in the cemetery except easement owners, their spouses, parents, grandparents, lineal descendants, or other persons designated by an easement owner. All funds from the purchase of easements are placed in an interest bearing account to be used for perpetual care, maintenance, and preparation for future burial sites.

With this booklet you will receive a brochure describing these options in more detail and a letter covering other details and cost. The rector can put you in touch with the head of the Churchyard Committee if you have further questions.



RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

The Care Ministry of St. John in the Wilderness offers to the deceased's family a reception in the Parish Hall immediately following the service. There is no cost to the family.

- Offerings include tea sandwiches, finger desserts and drinks, usually punch and coffee. Additional items can be added by the family after consultation with the Care Ministry, though there may be a cost to the family for them. A flower arrangement for the main table will be provided unless the family wishes to do so. The family will also need to provide a "guesstimate" of expected guests.

- The family may choose to have a reception in the Parish Hall with the food and/or service provided by an outside caterer. This alternative would be at the family's expense. Use of the Parish Hall would still be without cost to the family. This alternative should be cleared with the Care Ministry.



HONORARIUMS

- The clergy and Care Ministry of St. John in the Wilderness provide services at no cost to the deceased's family. However, if the family wishes to make a voluntary gift to the celebrant or the Care Ministry in the form of a check, the check should be made payable to the appropriate person(s) or to "St. John in the Wilderness Care Ministry."
- As noted, flowers and fees for the organist and any other musicians are the responsibility of the family. They should be paid directly by the family.
- While not expected, some families wish to remember their loved one with a gift to the church. The gift can be for the general church coffers or if the family wishes to designate a particular ministry as the recipient of their gift, they should so note on the check's memo line.

MEMORIALS

Some families wish to designate St. John in the Wilderness for memorial gifts in their loved one's name. These gifts can be without restrictions or designated for a specific purpose or church fund. Options can be explained by the rector.



AFTER THE SERVICE RESOURCES

- Once a year Deacon Joyce Beschta offers an eight-week support group called "Seasons of Grief." Anyone wishing to participate should call the church office to have his/her name added to the list for the next session.

- A Healing Service is held every Wednesday at 10:30 am in the Parish Hall.
- Should you wish other resources or books, both personal and financial, to help navigate the steps one needs to take following the death of a loved one, the clergy will try to direct you to those sources.



READINGS - Rite of Christian Burial Service

Old Testament:

Isaiah 25:6-9

Isaiah 61: 1-3

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

Wisdom 3: 1-5, 9

Job 19: 21-27a

Psalms:

42:1-7, 46, 90:1-12, 121, 130, 139: 1-11

New Testament:

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 51-58

2 Corinthians 4:16 – 5:9

1 John 3:1-2

Revelation 7:9-17, 21:2-7

Psalms:

23, 27, 106: 1-5, 116

The Gospel:

John 5: 24-27

John 6:37-40

John 10: 11-16

John 11: 21-27

John 14: 1-6



 **Notes** 