

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
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PLANNING FOR THE END OF LIFE

The best possible person to plan your funeral is you.

This outline is an effort to help parishioners of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity to understand the choices available to them. It has been designed in two parts to guide you through a process. We recommend that you give the Church one copy to keep on file; another to your family; a third to your attorney; and keep a fourth with your will.

PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION

This part of the checklist is provided in order to make finding all your important documents, knowing your preferred arrangements, and locating important contact information easy for your friends and family. The church does not require a copy of this information, but we will be glad to keep it on file for you if you wish.

PART B: PLANNING THE FUNERAL

Each of us will die. When we die, it falls to members of our family, friends, distant relatives, or total strangers to plan our services and burials.

Planning such things when you are grieving is both hard and time-consuming. Often members of the surviving family live far apart and have never discussed these matters. When the time for planning comes they can have very different ideas about what the deceased person would have preferred or about what would be appropriate. The best way to avoid all this struggle, and even disagreement about what should be done, is to make your own plans. It is a very thoughtful gift both to your family and to yourself. You simply leave written instructions saying, "This is what I prefer."

About Funerals

The funeral service is a celebration of the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We believe that baptized Christians share with Christ in his Resurrection and victory over death. This means that the funeral liturgy is an Easter liturgy and is, therefore characterized by joy. This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend Lazarus. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

The Holy Eucharist

In the Episcopal Church, the Holy Eucharist -- also called the Mass, Holy Communion, or the Lord's Supper -- is frequently celebrated as part of funeral and memorial services. The Holy Eucharist is our central sacrament, celebrating Christ's death and resurrection. A celebration of the Holy Eucharist as part of a funeral or memorial service reminds us that we also share with Christ in his death and resurrection. In the Eucharist, we also share in the heavenly banquet with the deceased and with those who have gone before.

Scripture Lessons

Lessons from Holy Scripture are read at funeral services. You will be asked to choose two or three to be read at the funeral. At funerals without Holy Eucharist, two lessons are usually read, with a psalm read between them. At a funeral service in which the Holy Eucharist is celebrated two or three lessons, including one from the gospel, are usually read.

Eulogies

The officiant at the funeral service will preach a sermon. The purpose of the sermon is to relate the life and death of the deceased to the hope we have, even in the midst of sorrow, in the Resurrection of Christ. You may ask one or two family members to share short (5 minute) eulogies.

Music

The music at funerals must be sacred in nature. Hymns are normally drawn from an Episcopal Hymnal. Hymns not found in a Hymnal may on occasion be used if the music can be secured and if copyright permission is granted. The organist of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity plays at all funerals unless she gives permission for another organist to play. Vocal and instrumental solos must be approved by the Director of Music of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity.

Flowers

Flowers may be placed on the flower table behind the altar, and on the floor in front of the altar with the Rector's permission, space allowing. Other flowers may be placed in Christopher Hall (the entrance of the church).

The Body

The body of the deceased, as the temple of the Holy Spirit, is always treated with dignity and respect. When the body is present for the funeral, the casket is closed prior to the funeral. Prior to the funeral the casket is covered with a white cloth called a pall. The pall reminds us of the white garment of baptism and that the promises of baptism are fulfilled at our death. During the service the casket is placed in front of the altar and next to the paschal candle. At the conclusion of the service, special prayers of commendation are offered around the casket and the clergy precedes the casket out of the church with the family following.

Cremation

Cremation is an acceptable and dignified way of treating the deceased's body. In a sense, cremation merely hastens the natural process of returning a body to ashes and dust. When the ashes, sometimes called "cremains," are present during the service, they are treated the same way as a body in a casket. They are placed on a table at the front of the church and covered with a small pall. They may be processed in and out of the church or they may be placed on a table before the service begins. The ashes may be interred before or after the funeral service or at a later date.

Reception

If you like, you are welcome to provide refreshments to be shared with guests in Christopher Hall following the service. Some families choose to hold a reception at their home or another location.

Fee Schedule

Organist \$200

Sexton (if a reception is held in the parish hall) \$100

Priest No fee is asked; if you wish you may make a contribution to the church.

Part A: General Information

Before planning the service, with its many options, it will be helpful to your family if you provide certain preliminary information:

1. Do you wish to be buried in a casket? _____
2. Do you prefer to be cremated? _____
3. Do you wish direct cremation? (i.e., immediate cremation without embalming) _____
4. Do you wish to have a viewing at the funeral home prior to the service? _____
(Once the casket is closed at the Funeral Home, it will not be reopened at the Church)
5. Who should be notified of your death?
(In addition to family and friends, list Social Security, pension funds, especially military pension funds, insurance companies, organizations, schools and colleges, professional and other associations known only to you. Please attach a separate sheet if necessary)

By Telephone: _____

By mail: _____

6. Are you entitled to military honors? _____

If so, where are your discharge papers? _____

7. If you own a burial plot, where is it located? _____

Where is the deed? _____

8. If you own a columbarium niche, where is it located? _____

Where is the deed? _____

9. Whom do you wish to conduct your funeral? _____

Where would you like the funeral to be held? _____

Note: Funeral services are normally held at the church.

10. Who should be invited to speak about you? _____

11. Are there others who should be invited to participate in the ceremony as readers, ushers, etc.?

12. Have you made a will or created a revocable trust? _____

13. Does your will make prudent provision for the well being of family, with clear directions about the guardianship of any minor children, and the arrangements for their nurture and education?

14. Does your will or trust leave bequests for charitable purposes, including The Episcopal Church of the Nativity? _____

15. Who will know where to find the following:

- Your will and other important papers?

- Your security box and key?

- Your passport and/or birth certificate?

- Any other papers that need to be kept?

- Bank books, stock certificates, titles and deeds of ownership?

- A list of valuable and/or treasured items and their proposed recipients apart from your will?

16. Who have you designated as your executor? _____

17. Does anyone have any outstanding obligations to you about which your family or executor should be aware? _____

18. Who has your Power of Attorney? _____

19. Have you made an "advanced directive/living will" and/or healthcare proxy? _____

Where is it? _____

Who has copies? _____

20. Who is your healthcare proxy? _____

What is that person's telephone number? _____

21. Do you own property of which others may not be aware? _____

Where is the information about the property? _____

22. Do you have death benefits of which others may not be aware? _____

Where is the information about these benefits? _____

PART B: PLANNING THE FUNERAL

The Rector would be happy to meet with you to assist in the planning of this Service. Burial Services at The Episcopal Church of the Nativity are from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979 utilizing Rite One found on page 469 or Rite Two beginning on page 491.

Your full name: _____

The date of your birth: _____

RITE I (traditional English): _____ or RITE II (modern English): _____

Music

Within the service there are opportunities to sing several hymns. If you have favorite hymns you would like the congregation to sing from the Episcopal Hymnal 1982, please list them.

Readings and Prayers

There are up to three readings from the Bible, which may be interspersed with Psalms. The suggested Psalms, listed below from the Book of Common Prayer, need not be used in the order that they appear. You need not select a reading from each list; however, if there is to be a Eucharist, you must select a Gospel reading (item 5).

1. The first reading is from the Old Testament or from the Apocrypha, choose from the following:

_____ Isaiah 25:6-9
_____ Isaiah 61:1-3
_____ Lamentations 3:22-26; 31-33
_____ Wisdom of Solomon (Apocrypha) 3:1-5, 9
_____ Job 19:21-27a (the "a" means the first phrase in that verse)

2. You may choose a Psalm:

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

3. The second reading is from the New Testament, chosen from:

_____ Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39
_____ I Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44
_____ II Corinthians 4:16-5:9
_____ I John 3:1-2
_____ Revelation 7:9-17
_____ Revelation 21:2-7

4. You may choose a second Psalm:

- Psalm 23 King James Version
- Psalm 23 Prayer Book Version
- Psalm 27
- Psalm 106:1-5
- Psalm 116

5. The Gospel. Choose one.

- John 5:24-27
- John 6:37-40
- John 10:11-16
- John 11:21-27
- John 14:1-6

6. The Homily/Sermon. The priest will preach on the Resurrection of the Dead.

Other speakers, if any: _____

7. The Apostle's Creed may be said.

8. The Prayers of the People.

9. Would you like Holy Communion? _____

10. Any additional readings in the Burial Office or at the grave site committal:

12. Additional requests:

13. It would be helpful if you would attach a finished obituary or the outline of an obituary, and the photograph that you would like to accompany your obituary, if you would like these items printed in your funeral bulletin.

Signature

Date

Copies of this form should be given to your family, your attorney, your designated Executor and the church office at The Episcopal Church of the Nativity, 22405 N. Miller Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85255.

If you need any assistance in completing this form, please do not hesitate to call the Rector.