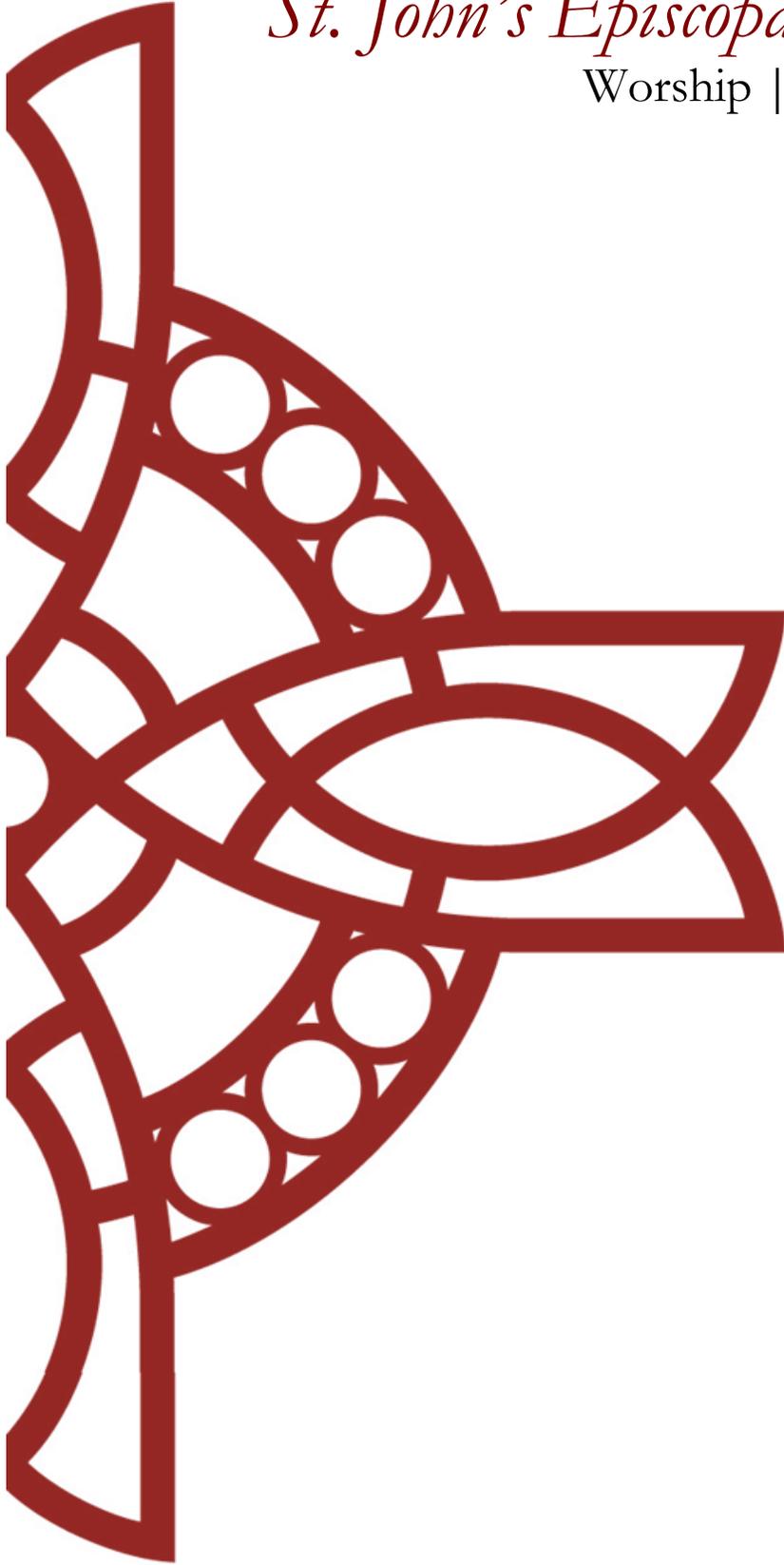


St. John's Episcopal Church | Lafayette
Worship | Share | Make Christ Known



Funeral Planner

For _____

I am the resurrection and the life...

I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live

-John 11:25

Funeral Planner

The Christian faith calls us to witness, even in death, the new life that God gives in Christ through his death and resurrection.

We have prepared this booklet to help you and your family prepare in advance. It will enable your family and the parish clergy to understand your wishes and preferences. The clergy will help plan the service and will stand ready to assist in any way.

Christian burial is marked by three characteristics. First and foremost, it is an act of worship wherein we glorify God for the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Second, it is a time when members of the Body of Christ gather to comfort one another and to offer mutual assurance of God's abiding love. Third, it is a liturgy of celebration whereby we give thanks for a deceased loved one and commend that person to the care of Almighty God.

The earliest records of Christian burial tell us that the following elements were included:

- Prayer in the home before the burial
- A gathering of the community for a burial service, consisting of thanksgivings, psalms, hymns, readings from Scripture, and prayers for the departed and those who mourn
- Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
- A procession of lights and torches to the place of burial
- The interment of the remains

As part of preparation for Christian burial, it is suggested that you talk with your clergy. It is also of great benefit to read about the service in *the Book of Common Prayer* (468–507). The rubrics on these pages are of particular interest. It is also recommended that people familiarize themselves with prayers for “Ministration at the Time of Death” (*the Book of Common Prayer* 462–467).

-From “Faithful stewards of your good gifts.” Episcopal Church Foundation.

About Funerals in the Episcopal Church

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 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 liturgy of the Episcopal Church allows for a number of choices in the celebration of a funeral. It is not necessary to make a choice for every option at this time. If you do not have a preference, the clergy and Director of Music are happy to make suggestions or to make choices for any of the following.

Location

It is the practice of the Episcopal Church that the Burial Rite take place in a church and that the body be present. This may not always be the case. If you would like your service to take place somewhere other than the church, please indicate that decision. It is the rector's discretion whether or not to preside at a funeral outside of the church. In addition, if the service is to be held at a church other than *St. John's Episcopal Church | Lafayette*, the practice of that parish must be followed. All liturgical decisions including order of service and music will be at the discretion of the rector or priest-in-charge of that congregation.

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 and 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 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. If the ashes are present and are to be buried in St. John's Memorial Garden, the service will conclude in the Garden with a service of Committal. If you would like more information about interment in St. John's Memorial Garden, see the information included in this planner or call the church office at 765.742.4079.

The Order of Service

The Order of Service may be from Rite I (which is characterized by traditional language), Rite II, or another resource authorized by the Episcopal Church.

Under normal circumstances, a member of the St. John's clergy will preside and preach at the service. If you would like to have other clergy or lay persons involved in the service, please indicate their names and provide contact information when possible. We will do the best we can to honor those requests; however, there may be circumstances where that is not possible.

Eulogies

The presider at the funeral service or another member of the clergy 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 a short (no longer than 5 minutes) eulogy. If a eulogy is planned, it will come at the beginning of the service before the burial rite.

The Holy Eucharist

In the Episcopal Church, the Holy Eucharist—sometimes 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.

Readings from Scripture

Lessons from Holy Scripture are always 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, always including one reading from the Gospel, are usually read.

Short readings from other texts may be included at the discretion of the rector. Readings that do not come from Scripture will be read at the beginning of the service before the burial rite.

Music

The music at funerals must be sacred in nature. Because funerals are Easter celebrations, music should be confident and strong, expressing the hope and faith that Christians affirm in the presence of death. The congregation should participate fully by praying, singing the hymns, and joining the responses. Easter music is particularly appropriate. In the *Hymnal 1982*, the Easter hymns are (#174–213). Also suggested are the hymns for Holy Communion (#300–347), the burial (#354–358), and #287, 376, 410, 556, 613-625, 637, 671, 680, and 688.

Hymnody is usually drawn from one of the Episcopal Church's Hymnals. Other hymns may on occasion be used if the music can be secured and if copyright permission is granted. We do not play recorded music during funeral services.

The Director of Music of *St. John's Episcopal Church | Lafayette* has the right of first refusal to play at all funerals. Vocal and instrumental soloists must also be approved by the Director of

Music. If other musicians are requested, we will do our best to secure the musicians you choose. However, this may not be possible in some circumstances.

The clergy and Director of Music may choose supplemental music; however, the rector has final authority over worship and music in the Episcopal Church. We will attempt to honor your wishes within the confines of the worship and music traditions of the Episcopal Church. However, this may not be possible in some circumstances.

Flowers

Flowers may be placed on the table behind the altar, on the floor in front of the altar with the Rector's permission, and in other places as space allows. Large bouquets may be placed in St. John's Commons. Please be aware that we only use fresh flowers in the sanctuary of the church (beyond the altar rail).

Gathering after the Service

If you like, you are welcome to provide refreshments to be shared with guests in St. John's Commons. Some families choose to hold a reception at their home or another location. An invitation can be printed in the service bulletin. Please note, because of the busy life of this parish community, St. John's Commons may already be booked at the time you would like to use it. We will do our best to make St. Commons available, but that may not be possible under certain circumstances.

Memorial Gifts

Directions for memorial contributions are usually printed in the service bulletin, in the obituary, and elsewhere.

Any contributions made to *St. John's | Lafayette* will be used in accordance to the wishes of the deceased or of the family. A record for each memorial, gift, or bequest will be kept in the parish office of the corporation. Family members will be sent a list of all the names and addresses of donors. After one year, any memorial gifts that are not designated or restricted will be used for the mission and ministry of *St. John's | Lafayette*. You are encouraged to discuss any designations or restrictions with the rector.

Service Bulletin

Normally, the entire service (including readings, prayers, and music) is printed in the service bulletin. If it is available, the obituary may also be printed. Other things may be printed in the bulletin (space permitted) at the discretion of the rector.

Fees

There are no rental or use fees for holding a memorial service at St. John's. However, if there is music, there is a musician's fee of not less than \$100.00. It is also encouraged that a donation be made to the clergy's discretionary fund in an amount equal to that of the organist's fee.

Additional gifts to the on-going mission and ministry of *St. John's | Lafayette* are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

Funeral Planner

Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Date/Place of Baptism *if applicable* _____

Date/Place of Confirmation *if applicable* _____

Address _____

Family _____

Contact Person *Please provide as much contact information as possible* _____

Location

Have you made arrangements with a specific Funeral Home? If so, please include name and contact information.

Will you be buried in a casket or would you prefer cremation? Will the body or ashes be available for the Memorial service?

Do you wish to have a viewing at the funeral home prior to the service? *Please note: once the casket is closed at the Funeral Home, it will not be reopened at the Church.*

Where would you like your memorial service to be held (church, funeral home, elsewhere)?

Order of Service

Which Burial Office would you prefer (Rite I, Rite II, or other)? *Please note: worship services will be planned using the Book of Common Prayer or other worship resources approved by the Episcopal Church and at the discretion of the rector.*

Would you like there to be a celebration of Holy Eucharist?

If so, do you prefer a specific Eucharistic Prayer?

Who would you like to conduct your funeral? *Under normal circumstances, a member of the St. John's clergy will preside at the service.*

Should anyone be invited to speak about you? If so, whom?

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

Scripture

From the Old Testament (choose one)

- Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever)
- Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort those who mourn)
- Lamentations 3:22-26,31-33 (The Lord is good to those who wait for him)
- Wisdom 3:1-5,9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God)
- Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)
- Other _____

A suitable psalm, hymn, or canticle may follow. The following Psalms are especially appropriate:

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

From the New Testament (choose one)

- Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
- 1 Corinthians 15:2-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (The imperishable body)
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)
- 1 John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)
- Revelation 7:9-17 (God will wipe away every tear)
- Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)
- Other _____

A suitable psalm, hymn, or canticle may follow. The following Psalms are especially appropriate:

- Psalm 23 Psalm 27 Psalm 106:1-5 Psalm 116
- Other _____

The Gospel (choose one)

- John 5:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life)
- John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to you)
- John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd)
- John 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life)
- John 14:1-6 (In my Father's house are many rooms)
- Other _____

Music

Prelude _____

Processional _____

Suggested Hymns _____

Postlude _____

Please note, if the service concludes with burial in the Memorial Garden or with the procession of the body out of the church, there will not be a postlude.

Additional music _____

Organist _____

Soloist(s) or Instrumentalist(s) _____

Interment

Interment Location *if not in the St. John's Memorial Garden, please include address*

Will the interment follow immediately or at a later date?

Additional directions

Gathering after the service

Will there be a gathering after the service? If so, where?

Who should be invited?

Are there any other directions regarding the gathering?

Memorial Contributions

Would you like Memorial Contributions to be designated to a particular organization or purpose?

If any gifts are made to *St. John's | Lafayette*, would you like those gifts designated or restricted to any particular purpose?

Other Directions

Feel free to include additional notes here or add additional pages



ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LAFAYETTE

A ministry of **ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE**

The Rev. Dr. Bradley Pace, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Hilary Cooke, Associate Rector
The Very Rev. Robert L'Homme, Sunday Associate
Mr. Michael Bennett, Director of Music
Teresa Lohrman, Parish Administrator

St. John's Episcopal Church | Lafayette
600 Ferry Street | Lafayette, IN 47901-1142
765.742.4079 | 765.423.5507 (fax)
www.stjohns-laf.org | stjohns@stjohns-laf.org | @stjohnslaf

Adapted from documents created by the Rev. Susan Brown Snook and the Episcopal Church Foundation.