FIFTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

Planning a Funeral, Memorial Service or Committal Service

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord;
So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. Romans 14:8

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4

We hold funerals, memorial and committal services for members, immediate family and friends of our faith community. These services praise God for the gift of life, witness to our trust in God's gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ, remember and celebrate the life of the departed, and minister to the bereaved.

Advance Planning

Christians understand death to be a natural part of life. Because it is difficult to plan or act wisely in a time of grief, we encourage our members to make calm appraisal of your intents and desires concerning an end-of-life service and final resting place before death is imminent. The pastors at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church are available to discuss your wishes and help with planning. The church can maintain a record of your preferences, as well as any other documents related to end-of-life planning, so that you or your family and friends can reference them when needed. *An end-of-life service planning form is available on page 5 of this document.*

Ministry at Time of Death

When a death has occurred or is imminent, please contact the church as soon as possible so that we may provide pastoral care to the dying and to family and friends. If the church office is closed, please leave a message for the pastor on call.

Arranging a Funeral, Memorial Service or Committal Service

A *funeral* takes place within days following death, with a closed casket or urn present. A *memorial service*, in which remains are not present, may take place at any time suitable for the bereaved. A *committal service* takes place at a cemetery or columbarium, and may follow a funeral or take place separately. Please notify the church as soon as possible so that we can schedule a day, time and place for the service (the Sanctuary, Kirkland Chapel, the Columbarium, a funeral home or cemetery).

Depending on which clergy are available, you may choose the pastor to conduct the service. The pastor will arrange a meeting for family and friends to discuss the outline of the service, and select scriptures, hymns and additional music, as well as participants. This will be an opportunity for the bereaved to share memories and pray over how best to honor and celebrate the life of the departed.

Information Specific to Funerals

Funeral Homes

You may work with a funeral home of your choosing. The church can provide a list of local funeral homes upon request.

Viewings

A viewing, if desired, should be arranged to take place prior to the service. Coffins will be carried into and from the church through the 55th Street entrance, and taken directly to the Sanctuary or Kirkland Chapel. Following the viewing, the casket will be closed.

Placement of the Coffin or Urn

The closed casket, covered by a pall, should be placed in a position perpendicular to the communion table. A cremation urn should be placed on a stand in view of the congregation.

Parking of Hearse and Limousines

The church does not have reserved parking or any parking permits for this purpose. However, the church staff will place cones alongside the 55th Street entrance to try to reserve spaces.

Music Ministry

The music for a funeral, memorial or committal service—like the music for all services of worship—is never an end in itself, but a means to glorify God and edify humankind. Our music director will be available to meet with the bereaved. The director must approve and coordinate music for the service and approve any guest musicians (vocal or instrumental) who will perform. We discourage the use of taped music.

Worship Space

Our Sanctuary accommodates 1,800 people. Kirkland Chapel accommodates 250. The Columbarium can accommodate a service of committal for a small group of family and friends. The Vestry will be set aside as a place for family to gather and pray prior to the service.

Flowers and Guest Book

One or two floral displays are sufficient. The church can provide a guest book, or you may provide your own.

Bulletins

Bulletins may be prepared by the church staff after the pastor and family have planned the service. You may also prepare your own program in consultation with the officiating clergy.

Ushers

If needed, the church will arrange for ushers to participate in the service. Responsibilities of the ushers include reserving the front pews for family; directing family members to the Vestry if they wish to gather privately; welcoming guests and distributing bulletins; and remaining until all guests have departed.

Recording the Service

The service may be audio-recorded upon request, with a complimentary CD given to the family.

Reception

If you wish to host a reception following the service, Bonnell Hall or one of our other meeting spaces will be provided, if available. The church has a professional relationship with Roxo Events for on-site catering. (Contact Rodrigo Rosas, 212.247.0490 ext. 3011, *rodrigo@roxoevents.com*). You may also make other arrangements if you prefer.

Fees, Honoraria and Donations

For members of the church, Fifth Avenue provides worship and reception space free of charge. Traditionally the family will offer an honorarium to the officiating clergy. The organist fee is $400. There will be fees for any additional professional participants in the service (such as a soloist or instrumentalist).

Our clergy may also agree to perform a funeral, memorial or committal service for Christians who were not members of the church. In such cases, the following fees apply: Sanctuary, $5,000; Kirkland Chapel, $1,500; Clergy, $600; Organist, $400; Event Coordinator, $500. (Fees related to the Columbarium are available at *fapc.org/columbarium*.)

The church will graciously accept donations in memory of the deceased. If you choose, you may direct your donation to a particular ministry of the church.

Suggested Music for a Funeral, Memorial Service or Committal Service

Solos

Amazing Grace • *Traditional*

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life • *R. Vaughan Williams*

Deep River • *Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan or H.T. Burleigh*

Give Me Jesus • *Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan or H.T. Burleigh*

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands • *arr. Moses Hogan*

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth • *G.F. Handel*

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace • *Sebastian Temple*

O Rest in the Lord • *Felix Mendelssohn*

Pie Jesu • *Gabriel Fauré*

Pie Jesu • *Maurice Duruflé*

Steal Away • *Spiritual, arr. H.T. Burleigh*

The Lord's Prayer • *Albert Hay Malotte*

There Is a Balm in Gilead • *Spiritual, arr. H.T. Burleigh*

Hymns

275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
836 Abide With Me
649 Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound
819 Be Still, My Soul
450 Be Thou My Vision
839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine
306 Blest Be the Tie That Binds
630 Fairest Lord Jesus
326 For All the Saints
815 Give to the Winds Thy Fears
39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness
65 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
4 Holy God We Praise Your Name
594 Holy, Holy, Holy
625 How Great Thou Art
515 I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord
816 If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee
12 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
829 My Faith Looks Up to Thee
803 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
833 O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go
834 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
438 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
375 Shall We Gather at the River
801 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want
802 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Suggested Scriptures for a Funeral, Memorial Service or Committal Service

Wisdom and Prophets

Job 19:23-27

Isaiah 25:6-9; 26:1-4,19; 40:1-11; 43:1-3a, 18-19, 25; 61:1-4, 10-11; 65:17-25

Lamentations 3:19-26, 31-36

Daniel 12:1-3

Joel 2:12-13, 23-24, 26-27

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Psalms

Psalm 16:5-11; Psalm 23; Psalm 27:1, 4-9a, 13-14; Psalm 39:4-5, 12
Psalm 42:1-6a; Psalm 43; Psalm 46:1-5, 10-11; Psalm 90:1-10, 12; Psalm 98
Psalm 100; Psalm 103; Psalm 106:1-5; Psalm 116:1-9, 15; Psalm 121
Psalm 139:1-12; Psalm 145; Psalm 146

Epistles

Romans 5:1-11; 6:3-9; 8:14-25, 31-39; 14:7-9, 10b-12

I Corinthians 15:3-8, 12-20a 20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 50-58

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1-10

Ephesians 1:11-23; 2:4-10

Philippians 3:7-11, 20-21

Colossians 3:1-17

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

2 Timothy 2:8-13

Hebrews 2:14-18; 11:1-3, 13-16, 12:1-2

I Peter 1:3-12; 3:18-22; 4:6

I John 3:1-3

Revelation 7:2-3, 9-17; 14:1-3, 6-7, 12-13; 21:1-4, 22-25; 22:1-5

Gospels

Matthew 5:1-12a; 11:25-30; 25:1-13, 31-46

Luke 7:11-17; 18:15-17; 23:33, 39-43

John 3:16-21; 5:24-29; 6:37-40; 11:17-27; 14:1-6, 25-27

FIFTH AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

Planning a Funeral, Memorial Service or Committal Service

Advance Planning for End-of-Life Services

(The church will keep this information on file if you choose. You may revise this information at any time.)

Name _____

Date _____

Member(s) of Clergy Requested

- ☐ The Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston
- ☐ The Rev. Kate Dunn
- ☐ The Rev. Werner Ramirez
- ☐ The Rev. Dr. Patricia Kitchen

(*The clergy will make every effort to accommodate your request.*)

Selected Scriptures

_____

_____

Selected Hymns

_____

_____

Special Music

_____

_____

Additional Information

_____

_____

_____

☐ I have an arrangement with _____

Name of Funeral Home

☐ I have provided for Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in my will.