

***Funerals***  
***at***  
***Epiphany Episcopal Church***  
***2507 Del Prado Boulevard, S.***  
***Cape Coral, Florida 33904***  
***239-574-3200 (tel.)***  
***[www.epiphanyepiscopalchurch.org](http://www.epiphanyepiscopalchurch.org)***

**PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE**

*Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

*You only are immortal, the creator and maker of humanity; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

- *Book of Common Prayer, p. 499*

**CONCERNING THE SERVICE**

The death of a member of the Church should be reported as soon as possible to, and arrangements for the funeral should be made in consultation with the Minister of the Congregation.

Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has opportunity to be present.

The coffin is to be closed before the service, and it remains closed thereafter. It is appropriate that it be covered with a pall or other suitable covering.

If necessary, or if desired, all or part of the service of Committal may be said in the church. If preferred, the Committal service may take place before the service in the church. It may also be used prior to cremation.

A priest normally presides at the service. It is appropriate that the bishop, when present, preside at the Eucharist and pronounce the Commendation.

It is desirable that the Lesson from the Old Testament, and the Epistle, be read by lay persons. When the services of a priest cannot be obtained, a deacon or lay reader may preside at the service.

At the burial of a child, the passages from Lamentations, I John, and John 6, together with Psalm 23, are recommended.

It is customary that the celebrant meet the body and go before it into the church or towards the grave.

The anthems at the beginning of the service are sung or said as the body is borne into the church, or during the entrance of the ministers, or by the celebrant standing in the accustomed place.

- *Book of Common Prayer, p. 490*

**NOTES:**

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.

The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, not things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

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. 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.

- *Book of Common Prayer, p. 507*

## WHEN DEATH OCCURS

If a priest is not present at the time of death, please call the Church office as soon as possible. The office is open between 10 AM and 1 PM Tuesday through Friday, but you may leave a message and we will return your call. In an emergency, the number to reach the Rector is 239-877-1119.

## PLANNING YOUR END OF LIFE WISHES

### DISPOSITION OF THE BODY

There are three basic options for the disposition of the body, all fully acceptable in the tradition of the Episcopal Church:

1. Donation of the body to science and/or parts of the body for transplant.
2. Burial or entombment of the body.
3. Cremation, with several options for the disposition of ashes.

**Donation** – ask your physician for arrangement for donation of the body or donation of organs for transplant. This must be arranged **prior to death**. You can obtain further information on Florida's organ donation program at: [www.donatelifeflorida.org](http://www.donatelifeflorida.org)

**Burial** – The body may be buried in a cemetery or entombed in a mausoleum. Funeral homes can provide all of the information needed, as well as the costs for each.

**Cremation** – Cremation reduces the body to ashes. The ashes may be disposed of in a number of ways, including burial or placement in a columbarium.

**Epiphany** has a **Memorial Garden** for the burial of ashes. A brass plate commemorating those buried in the Garden is engraved and placed on a plaque inside the church, at the western entrance to the Memorial Garden. Each plate is uniform and is purchased and engraved by the church.

It is not necessary to purchase an urn for the ashes. The container is covered by a pall during the service and the Memorial Garden at Epiphany does not allow urns to be interred along with the ashes. Only the ashes themselves are ever placed into the ground. Flowers (artificial, cut, or otherwise), flags, and other items are not permitted to be placed anywhere within the Memorial Garden.

### WILLS

An important aspect of planning for death is a **will**, which directs what will happen to one's estate upon death. It is important to have a will, so that an individual has a clear say on who receives the estate, rather than allowing the state to make the determination. When making out a will, please remember Epiphany Episcopal Church.

An Advance Directive is a written document that states how we wish to be treated if we become incapacitated by illness, injury, or old age. It is extremely important that one's health care providers and family members know of your living will and have copies available in the event of sudden illness.

A Medical Power of Attorney is a written instrument by which one person appoints another as an agent, and gives that agent the authority to act in the person's place for matters related to health care.

### VISITATION

It is important that family members and friends have the opportunity to visit the immediate family after a death. This may be done by an **open house** after the death and before the funeral, by a **formal visitation time** in a funeral home, or by **time before the funeral** when family members are present. The gift of visitation is that extended family members, parishioners, and friends can express their sympathy personally and have the time to grieve and reflect with others. It also helps to grasp better the reality of death.

## **FUNERAL SERVICE**

There are several options for burial:

1. Burial service from the funeral home, which is strongly discouraged for parish members.
2. Burial service from the sanctuary, the preferred option for Church members.
3. Simple burial service said at the graveside or in the Memorial Garden.

## **THE LITURGY**

The emphasis of the funeral liturgy is on the deceased's resurrected life with Christ. The order of service for funerals is according to the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, which has two funeral liturgies. The Rite I service uses traditional Elizabethan English, while the Rite II service uses a more contemporary idiom.

Lessons from Scripture are read, there is a homily, and prayers are said for the person who died and their family. **Eucharist** is strongly encouraged for members of the parish. **Hymns** may be sung and music played at the funeral service. A bulletin will be prepared by Church staff, so that the congregation may easily follow the order of service.

It is important that the family meet with the Rector prior to the funeral, so that the service can be planned; musicians contacted; bulletins printed; and persons who are part of the service invited to participate.

## **EULOGIES**

Some family members or friends may wish to speak briefly about the person. This may be permitted after the homily. Please discuss this with the Rector when planning the service.

## **TIME OF SERVICE**

It is best to schedule the funeral service when the greatest number of people can attend, when it works best in the parish calendar and in the clergy schedule. Funerals are public services of the Church, to which everyone is invited.

## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

Lessons from Holy Scripture are read at funeral services. You are 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, separated by a psalm and/or hymn, are usually read. At the Eucharist a Gospel lesson is always read by either a deacon or priest. When three lessons are used, the first is from the Old Testament and the second is from the New Testament, excluding the Gospel. When two lessons are used, the first may be from either the Old Testament or New Testament. The second lesson is from the New Testament, either an Epistle or Gospel. Family members may read the first two lessons and/or the psalm.

Options for appropriate readings may be found in Epiphany's Funeral Planning Packet.

## **MUSIC**

Music at funerals appropriately focuses on God. Hymns are normally drawn from the 1982 Hymnal. Suggestions of appropriate hymns may be found in Epiphany's Funeral Planning Packet. The organist of Epiphany Episcopal Church plays at all funerals unless permission is given for another organist to play. Vocal and instrumental solos must be approved by the Rector. Music from tapes, compact discs, or karaoke-style music is not permitted. The Rector will have final authority in the selection of music for the funeral.

## **FLOWERS**

Flowers for the altar are purchased by the Altar Guild of Epiphany Episcopal Church. They are placed in the two vases on the retable behind the altar. Other flowers may be placed in the narthex (entrance) of the church and in the Fellowship hall, although this is not recommended.

## **PALL**

A pall, provided by the Church, covers the casket or the container of ashes. The pall reminds us of the white garment of baptism and that the promises of baptism are fulfilled at our death. A flag or flowers may be placed on the casket once the casket leaves the church.

## **MILITARY OR OTHER HONORS**

Military or other honor services may be done at the end of the funeral service. In the event of military honors, the casket will be taken outside of the Church and the pall will be removed. The American or other national flag may be placed on the casket, and appropriate honors performed.

## **RECEPTION**

A reception for the family may be held in the parish hall of the Church, depending upon availability. Arrangements will be made by the Episcopal Church Women. No alcohol may be served unless the Rector has specifically approved its use. A small donation is requested to cover costs for food and beverages.

## **PARISHIONERS**

Persons considered ‘active parishioners’ are those who attend regularly (unless prevented because they are homebound) and contribute financially to the parish. This also includes their immediate family. Others are invited to have their funerals at Epiphany, with the understanding that there are expected expenses beyond those asked of active parishioners.

## **FEE GUIDELINES**

**No one will be excluded from the ministry of the church for financial reasons.** Fee guidelines may be adjusted or waived at the discretion of the Rector. All fees should be paid at the time of the funeral. Checks should be made out to “Epiphany Episcopal Church” and the memo line should indicate “Funeral donation”. The Rector will disburse the funds.

For parishioners, there is no fee for the use of the sanctuary, or for clergy. However, a contribution to the parish (for use and utilities) and the Rector’s Discretionary Fund (for Outreach use) would be appreciated.

## **QUESTIONS?**

Please contact the Rector or Parish Administrator if there are questions (239-574-3200).

### **FEE GUIDELINES**

	<b>PARISHIONERS</b>	<b>OTHERS</b>
Use of Church	Contribution	\$400.00
Clergy	Contribution	\$350.00
Altar Guild	\$ 50.00	\$100.00
Flowers	\$150.00	\$200.00
Organist	\$200.00	\$250.00
Reception	Contribution	\$100.00
Burial in Memorial Garden (Includes brass plate)	\$ 50.00	\$250.00