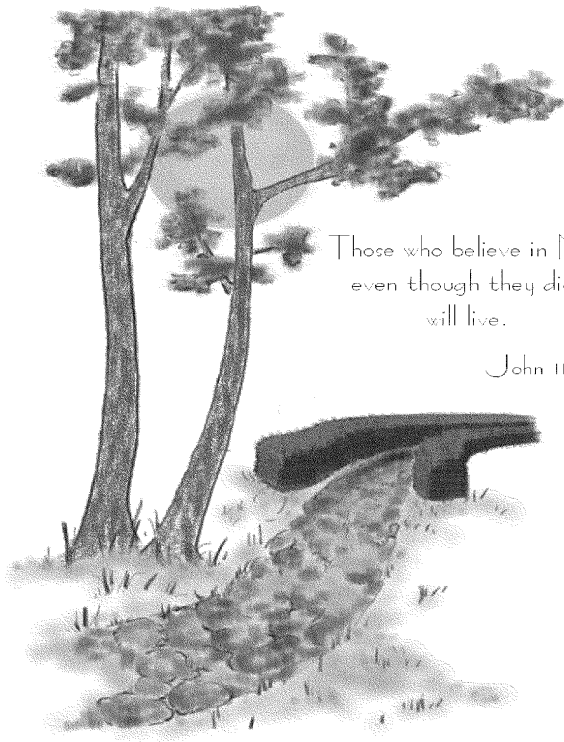


# THE MEMORIAL/FUNERAL: A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

## THE MEMORIAL/FUNERAL: A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION



(U.S.A.)

Those who believe in Me,  
even though they die,  
will live.

John 11:25

*Jesus said ..., "I am the  
resurrection and the life.  
Those who believe in me,  
even though they die,  
will live, and everyone  
who lives and believes in me  
will never die."*

*John 11:25-26*

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## **THE MEMORIAL/FUNERAL: A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION**

*The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Spirit and the community of faith. The church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve. (W-6.3006)*

### **PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS**

It is difficult under emotional stress to plan wisely. The session encourages members to discuss and plan in advance when possible. The arrangements which will be necessary at the time of death; include decisions about the Christian options of burial, cremation, or donation for medical purposes. These plans should provide for arrangements that are simple, bear witness to resurrection hope, and are central to the Christian community.

### **THE EVENT OF DEATH**

When death occurs, the pastor and other officers of the congregation should be informed as soon as possible. They will provide appropriate consolation and support to the family and friends, and assist them in making arrangements for the funeral.

### **SETTING OF THE SERVICE**

The memorial/funeral service will ordinarily be held in the Grace First Presbyterian Church sanctuary. This worship service will offer witness to the community's continuing life and to the Resurrection. The memorial/funeral shall be under the direction of the pastor. Others may be invited to participate as leaders in the service at the discretion of the pastor. When there are important reasons not to hold the service in the sanctuary, it may be held in another suitable place such as a home, a funeral home, a crematorium, or at the graveside. No memorials/funerals should take place on the Lord's Day except in cases of absolute necessity and with session approval. The service shall be complete in itself, and any fraternal, civic, or military rites should be conducted separately.

### **FORM AND ORDER**

The service may be observed before or after the committal of the body. A memorial service (without the casket present) is appropriate. Family, friends and fellow communicants will participate in affirming God's power over death, a belief in the resurrection to life everlasting, and the assurance of the communion of the saints. Thanksgiving should be given for the life of the one who has died and for their presence in the Church Triumphant. If a casket is to be present, it will remain closed at all times while in the church. The use of a pall, furnished by the church, is encouraged to cover the casket in order that attention in the service be directed to God.

## **MUSIC**

Music for the memorial/funeral service shall affirm our belief in the Resurrection and the Church Triumphant. Any music that is appropriate for a service for the Lord's Day, will be appropriate for a memorial/funeral at Grace First. The singing of hymns which declare belief in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting; express the common faith of those present. The selection of hymns will be taken from *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 1990 (blue book), and *The Hymnbook*, 1955 (red book). Easter and Resurrection hymns are especially appropriate.

The music and text must be approved by the Director of Music/Organist, if the Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary Handbells or a soloist is used. Musical texts taken from the scriptures are encouraged. The Director of Music maintains a list of appropriate selections.

The organ will be played by our Director of Music/Organist or an organist approved by the Director of Music/Organist for services held at Grace First Presbyterian Church. SECULAR MUSIC, RECORDED MUSIC AND RECORDED ACCOMPANIMENT TAPES ARE NOT PERMITTED.

## **FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS**

A memorial/funeral service is a service of worship and therefore the emphasis should be to the glory of God. One floral arrangement may be put in the sanctuary, providing it does not rest upon or obscure the baptismal font, the pulpit or the communion table. All other floral tributes, pictures, or memorabilia shall be placed in the narthex, parlor or Great Hall.

## **FAMILY MEAL**

The Pastoral Care Ministry is in charge of providing a meal for the family, usually served at the church immediately before or after the funeral/memorial service. Sandwich trays and other food may be taken to the home, if the family prefers. Contact will be made with the family as soon as possible to determine how many will be fed.

## **FAMILY VISITATION**

The family may use the church parlor or the great hall for a time of visitation either before or after the memorial/funeral service.

## **FEEES**

An honorarium of \$150 is required for our Director of Music/Organist. Soloists will receive \$100. A donation to the Music Maintenance Fund is appropriate, if the Sanctuary Choir or Handbells participate. There are no fees for the services of the office staff or use of the building. Honorariums for the pastor will be left to the decision of the family. Donations to the Pastoral Care Ministry is encouraged when a meal for over 25 people is provided. Please make checks out to the appropriate individual for their service.

**SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR FUNERALS**  
 From the new Presbyterian Hymnal, *Glory To God*

| <b>Number</b> | <b>Title</b>                          | <b>Tune</b>        |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 275           | A Mighty Fortress Is Our God          | Ein Feste Burg     |
| 276           | Abide With Me                         | Eventide           |
| 15            | All Creatures of Our God and Kings    | Lasst Uns Erfreuen |
| 385           | All People That On Earth Do Dwell     | Old Hundredth      |
| 260           | Alleluia! Sing To Jesus               | Hyfrydol           |
| 649           | Amazing Grace                         | Amazing Grace      |
| 819           | Be Still, My Soul                     | Finlandia          |
| 820           | Be Thou My Vision                     | Terra Beata        |
| 216           | Beneath the Cross of Jesus            | St. Christopher    |
| 839           | Blessed Assurance Jesus Is Mine       | Assurance          |
| 306           | Blest Be the Tie That Binds           | Dennis             |
| 286           | Breathe on Me, Breath of God          | Trentham           |
| 394           | Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation    | Regent Square      |
| 719           | Come, Labor On                        | Ora Labora         |
| 475           | Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing    | Nettleton          |
| 169           | Dear Lord and Father of Mankind       | Rest               |
| 8             | Eternal Father, Strong to Save        | Melita             |
| 630           | Fairest Lord Jesus                    | Crusader's Hymn    |
| 846           | Fight the Good Fight                  | Duke Street        |
| 326           | For All the Saints                    | Sine Nomine        |
| 14            | For the Beauty of the Earth           | Dix                |
| 327           | From All that Dwell Below the Skies   | Lasst Uns Erfreuen |
| 81            | Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken    | Austria            |
| 541           | God Be with You Till We Meet Again    | Randolph           |
| 542           | God Be with You Till We Meet Again    | God Be with You    |
| 686           | God of Our Life                       | Sandon             |
| 239           | Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing | Gelobt Sei Gott    |
| 39            | Great Is Thy Faithfulness             | Faithfulness       |
| 65            | Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah        | Cwm Rhondda        |
| 441           | Hear the Good News of Salvation       | Nettleton          |
| 661           | His Eye Is on the Sparrow             | Sparrow            |
| 1             | Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty   | Nicaea             |
| 463           | How Firm A Foundation                 | Foundation         |
| 625           | How Great Thou Art                    | How Great Thou Art |

| <b>Number</b> | <b>Title</b>                           | <b>Tune</b>          |
|---------------|--|----------------------|
| 624           | I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art | Toulon               |
| 462           | I Love to Tell the Story               | Hankey               |
| 730           | I Sing a Song of the Saints of God     | Grand Isle           |
| 32            | Sing the Mighty Power of God           | Ellacombe            |
| 45            | I to the Hills Will Lift Mine Eyes     | Dundee               |
| 377           | I Want to Walk as A Child of the Light | Houston              |
| 806           | I'll Praise My Maker                   | Old 113th            |
| 840           | It Is Well with My Soul                | Ville Du Havre       |
| 440           | Jesus, Lover of My Soul                | Aberystwyth          |
| 629           | Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee        | St. Agnes            |
| 703           | Jesus, Thou Boundless Love to Me       | St. Catherine        |
| 611           | Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee           | Ode To Joy           |
| 835           | Just a Closer Walk with Thee           | Closer Walk          |
| 366           | Love Divine, All Loves Excelling       | Hyfrydol             |
| 829           | My Faith Looks Up to Thee              | Olivet               |
| 352           | My Lord! What a Morning                | Spiritual            |
| 803           | My Shepherd Will Supply My Need        | Resignation          |
| 824           | Near to the Heart of God               | McAfee               |
| 643           | Now Thank We All Our God               | Nun Danket Alle Gott |
| 833           | O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go         | St. Margaret         |
| 687           | Our God, Our Help in Ages Past         | St. Anne             |
| 847           | Our Hope, Our Life                     | O Waly Waly          |
| 620           | Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven     | Lauda Anima          |
| 35            | Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty       | Lobe Den Herren      |
| 834           | Precious Lord, Take My Hand            | Precious Lord        |
| 363           | Rejoice, the Lord Is King              | Darwall's 148th      |
| 804           | Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart              | Marion               |
| 438           | Rock the Ages, Cleft for Me            | Toplady              |
| 187           | Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us        | Bradbury             |
| 375           | Shall We Gather at the River           | Hanson Place         |
| 645           | Sing Praise to God who Reigns Above    | Mit Freuden Zart     |
| 418           | Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling   | Softly and Tenderly  |
| 838           | Standing on the Promises               | Promises             |
| 358           | Steal Away                             | Spiritual            |
| 825           | Swing Low, Sweet Chariot               | Spiritual            |
| 321           | The Church's One Foundation            | Aurelia              |
| 233           | The Day of Resurrection                | Lancashire           |
| 802           | The King of Love My Shepherd Is        | St. Columba          |
| 801           | The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want  | Crimond              |

| Number | Title                                | Tune                |
|--------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 236    | The Strife Is O'er                   | Victory             |
| 824    | There Is a Place of Quiet Rest       | McAfee              |
| 238    | Thine Is the Glory                   | Judas Maccabeus     |
| 370    | This Is My Father's World            | Terra Beata         |
| 634    | To God Be the Glory                  | To God Be The Glory |
| 817    | We Walk By Faith and Not by Sight    | Dunlap's Creek      |
| 465    | What a Friend We Have in Jesus       | Converse            |
| 837    | What a Fellowship, What a Joy Devine | Showalter           |
| 852    | When the Lord Redeems the Very Least | I'll Fly Away       |

### MEMORIALS

If the family would like to request memorials to be made to Grace First Presbyterian Church, there are a variety of funds that would benefit from donations. Funds include, but are not limited to the following: Memorial, Kate Rieves Scholarship, Caroline Dickerson Scholarship, Music and Worthington Good Samaritan. You may contact the church office for a full listing of funds and descriptions of each.

*Grace First Presbyterian Church offers a ministry of love and hope to all in need during this difficult time. It is our intent that the family is surrounded by our community of faith. In death, as in life, the promise of the gospel affirms our joy even at time of sorrow. Our belief revolves around the central doctrine of the certainty of the resurrection of Christ and our own life eternal.*

***"... he [God] will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more..."***  
***Revelation 21:4***

(Approved and adopted by the session of  
Grace First Presbyterian Church, September 2015.)