

Planning a Service of Burial at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Offering prayer and support at the time of death of a loved one, while holding both grief and resurrection hope, is a profound part of our work here at St. Paul's. Our clergy, staff, and volunteers are here to walk with you through this process, and this packet is intended to provide some guidance during an uncertain time.

You may be reading this when a loved one is close to death or has just died. If that is the case, please reach out to the clergy at St. Paul's, if you haven't done so already. Please call the church at 336-723-4391 and ask for the priest-on-call. If you are calling outside of office hours, you can reach the priest-on-call by calling 336-723-4391 and following the prompts. Our clergy can offer Ministration at the Time of Death, which is a liturgy from *The Book of Common Prayer*, and provide support.

Alternatively, you may be reading this because you would like to go over the liturgy, music, and other choices for burial with a member of our clergy and keep those choices on file at the church for future use. If so, please see the section below called "Planning Ahead."

Planning Ahead

Death is an inevitable part of life, yet we tend to avoid talking about it. Our Christian hope, however, invites us to see death, when the time comes, not as an ending but as a transition. While we mourn the death of a loved one, we also find comfort in the resurrection: because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too shall be raised.

Planning your funeral with the assistance of the clergy and having these plans on file at the church office is a deeply faithful act, as well as an act of care for your loved ones. The death of a loved one comes with many decisions to be made, and these decisions are more difficult when made in the midst of grief and uncertainty. Having these conversations in advance reduces this stress and gives loved ones the peace of mind that comes with knowing they are honoring your wishes.

Options for interment or burial can be discussed with St. Paul's or a funeral home. In-ground plots and wall niches are available in Dalton Memorial Garden for the interment of ashes, and within the Dalton Memorial Garden there is an area set aside for the scattering of ashes. For more information about these options, please see our Burial Policies or contact Betsy Reiners in the church office.

Who to Contact

- A member of our clergy will be your primary contact in planning the service and knowing what to expect the day of the service- 336-723-4391
- Betsy Reiners provides administrative support and assists with reserving space in the memorial garden - 336-723-4391 or breiners@stpauls-ws.org

Choosing a Date and Time

- The following days and times are suggested for funerals:
 - Monday 10 am or 2 pm
 - Tuesday 2 pm
 - Wednesday 10 am or 2 pm
 - Thursday 10 am or 2 pm
 - Friday 10 am

We do our best to accommodate the needs of family and loved ones when scheduling a funeral. One of our clergy will work with you to determine the best time and date.

Planning the Liturgy & Music

A member of the St. Paul’s clergy will meet with the family to plan the service using the liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer. There are choices to discuss together, such as the location of the service, type of service, the readings, and whether or not to include communion.

Location: The service can take place in the historic Nave or in the Chapel. The Chapel seats up to 80 people, while the Nave can hold up to 600. Alternatively, a small service can take place at the burial ground for a simple graveside liturgy.

Holy Communion: In the church, the service can include communion. Including the Holy Eucharist is a beautiful reminder that all of the saints, past, present, and future, join us around the altar when we give thanks to God and come forward to receive communion. All baptized Christians of any denomination are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church, and our clergy will welcome all to come forward during the service, should communion be included.

Rite: There are two options for the service of Burial in *The Book of Common Prayer*:

- Rite I can be found on p. 469. The traditional language of this service (with “thee” and “thou”) will be more familiar to those who grew up with the 1928 *Book of Common Prayer*.
- The Rite II version can be found on p. 491 and is similar in structure to Rite I, though with more contemporary language. Rite II is the language we use more frequently on Sunday mornings.

Readings: One to four readings from scripture can be included in the service, and readings suggested by the *Book of Common Prayer* are listed at the end of this document. If there are other readings you have in mind, our clergy can talk through those options with you. Friends and family can serve as readers, or our clergy can read the lessons. Please note: if the service will include communion, one of the readings needs to be from the Gospel—Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John—and a clergyperson will read the Gospel.

Time of Interment: There is a separate, brief section of the liturgy to be said at the time of interment, also known as the Committal. These are prayers intended to be said when the remains are laid to rest in the ground or columbarium or when ashes are scattered. Our recommendation follows the order in *The Book of Common Prayer*, in which the interment takes place following the service in the church.

Music: Hymns and other music are decided in consultation with the St. Paul's Organist and officiating clergy. If you would like to include outside musicians, please coordinate that through the St. Paul's Organist, Dr. John Cummins.

Suggested hymns are listed below, and each of these may be found in the Hymnal 1982. One to four hymns can be included, and the clergy or organist will assist in placing hymns and determining how many are needed.

Morning has broken	Hymn 8
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord	Hymn 178
Now the green blade riseth	Hymn 204
Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!	Hymn 207
The strife is o'er	Hymn 208
For all the saints	Hymn 287
I come with joy to meet my Lord	Hymn 304
Humbly I adore thee	Hymn 314
I am the Bread of Life	Hymn 335
Joyful, joyful we adore thee	Hymn 376
Praise to the Lord, the almighty	Hymn 390
All creatures of our God and King	Hymn 400
Praise, my soul, the king of heaven	Hymn 410
What wondrous love is this	Hymn 439
O Love how deep, how broad, how high	Hymn 448
Alleluia, sing to Jesus	Hymn 460
Lift high the cross	Hymn 473
Lord of all hopefulness	Hymn 482
Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart	Hymn 488
God of grace and God of glory	Hymn 594
Ye watchers and ye holy ones	Hymn 618
Ye holy angels bright	Hymn 625
How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord	Hymn 637
The King of love my shepherd is	Hymn 645
Love divine, all loves excelling	Hymn 657
Abide with me	Hymn 662
My Shepherd will supply my need	Hymn 664
Amazing grace	Hymn 671
Surely it is God who saves me	Hymn 679
O God, our help in ages past	Hymn 680
Come, thou fount of every blessing	Hymn 686

Other details for the service: St. Paul's volunteers are honored to serve as the acolytes, ushers, and chalice bearers as needed for the service. If close friends or family would like to serve in these roles, please let us know. St. Paul's volunteers also serve as "Agape Hosts" who will welcome and assist the family as they gather before the service. We invite family to gather in the Parlor, where the clergy will meet them to provide instruction and pray before the service.

Flowers

The Flower Guild of St. Paul's will create arrangements for the Altar in the Nave or Chapel. These altar arrangements are a ministry by volunteers at St. Paul's and are provided free of charge. The Flower Guild appreciate knowing any favorite flowers or colors they can incorporate when feasible.

If you would like flowers for the reception or elsewhere, we can recommend a local florist.

Flowers delivered to the church will be placed in the reception location, or if there is not to be a reception on campus, to the parlor where the family gathers before the service.

Having a Reception

Catering: St. Paul's can provide light refreshments, including lemonade, water, tea, and cookies. If the family wishes to have heavy hors d'oeuvres, we can suggest an outside caterer who is familiar with our facility. Outside caterers are asked to call Betsy Reiners (336-723-4391) in advance of the funeral to coordinate logistics for the reception.

We are not able to accommodate the serving of alcohol at receptions.

Location: St. Paul's has several options for the location of the reception, and the number of people expected can help determine the best fit:

- The Library can accommodate up to 50 people with 1-2 tables for refreshments
- The portion of our parish hall referred to as Colhoun B & C can hold up to 150 people and 2-3 tables for refreshments.
- We are also able to open all of Colhoun for over 150 people and several tables for refreshments.

AV/Tech: We can connect your laptop or one of our own to a screen to display a slideshow of photos or video. In the Colhoun Room we can also provide a microphone if family members would like to thank guests or offer a remembrance. Please let us know in advance so that we can set up accordingly.

Fees

There is no charge to hold a funeral at St. Paul's. Fees for the burial garden can be found in our Burial Policy. If you choose to incorporate additional musicians in the service, they should be paid directly, which the St. Paul's Organist can facilitate.

Some families request a livestream of the service, which we offer according to the availability of those trained on our livestream equipment. Please give us as much notice as possible if you would like the service to be livestreamed. The fee for this optional service is \$300.

Memorial Wishes

Our service leaflet can list memorial wishes should anyone wish to make a monetary gift in memory of their loved one. Memorial suggestions can be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church,

and these gifts are directed to a fund from which various ministries at St. Paul's can make requests.

Alternatively, memorial gifts can be directed to a specific ministry, such as Summer Enrichment or the St. Paul's Crisis Assistance Fund.

Suggested Readings for the Service of Burial

See also [The Lectionary Page](#)

Suggested Old Testament Readings

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself. Those who

trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

Job 19:21-27a

Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh?

O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

Suggested Psalms

[23](#), [27](#), [42:1-7](#), [46](#), [90:1-12](#), [106:1-5](#), [116](#), [121](#), [130](#), [139:1-11](#)

All of the psalms may be found in the *Book of Common Prayer*: <https://www.bcponline.org>

Suggested New Testament Readings

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor 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.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

I John 3:1-2

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels stood

around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Revelation 21:2-7

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Suggested Gospel Readings

John 5:24-27

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. “Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

John 6:37-40

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.

John 10:11-16

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

John 11:21-27

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “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. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

John 14:1-6

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Arrangements for Service & Burial at St. Paul’s

Please use this form as applicable for your planning.

Full Name:

Primary Family Contact:

Location of Service: Chapel ____ Nave ____ Dalton Garden ____

Offsite (please list where) _____

Have you made arrangements with a funeral home? If so, which? _____

Type of Service: Rite I _____ Rite II _____

Will the service include Holy Eucharist? _____

Will the service include interment? If so, where? _____

Scripture Choices- please choose 1 to 4 readings. A reading from the Gospel is needed for a service with Holy Eucharist.

First Reading _____

Psalm: _____

Second Reading: _____

Gospel: _____

Will you have family or friends serve as readers? If so, please list names as they should appear in the service leaflet:

Music:

Which hymns would you like included?

Are there additional musicians or instruments besides our organist you would like to be included?

Would you like any memorial wishes listed in the bulletin? (For example, to St. Paul's Memorial Fund or a specific ministry of St. Paul's)

If you direct memorials to St. Paul's, to whom should we send acknowledgements of those gifts? (Can be the same "Primary Family Contact" listed above)

Do you have special flower requests to pass along to the Flower Guild for the altar flowers?