

Funeral/Memorial Service Customary

Hickory Neck Episcopal Church

"I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord." - BCP, p. 491

"...yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia." – BCP, p. 499.

The death of a loved one is a solemn and painful occasion with a myriad of emotions and details to navigate. This customary is intended to help ease the burden on those who must plan a funeral or memorial service by describing the normal practices of Hickory Neck Church. This is also a good tool for pre-planning a service.

When a baptized Christian dies, it is proper that the person is buried from the Church when possible. It is also helpful to schedule a service at a time when community members have the opportunity to be present.

It is generally advisable to work with a licensed funeral director, and when possible to make prearrangements with the funeral homes and the Church.

Notification

Families often have some warning that death is imminent. In these cases, the Rector should be contacted, when possible, to provide pastoral care for the dying, the family, and all others who are in need of such care.

When such notification is impossible, The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) states: "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." BCP, p.490

Timely notification not only helps in making the arrangements; it also allows the community to care for the bereaved through prayer and presence as appropriate. The Rector and staff can also provide support for the initial arrangements, from contacting family members to meeting with funeral directors.

At no time should any arrangement be made that involves Hickory Neck Church facilities or staff before consultation with the Rector or the Rector's designee. This is particularly crucial when preparing obituary listings, as service times and locations rely upon the availability of facilities and clergy. In most cases accommodations can be made for funerals and memorial service times as requested.

Arrangements

Once the Church has been contacted and the initial time and day of the service are planned, there are a number of details to be organized.

Location: Will the service take place at Hickory Neck Church, a funeral home, at a cemetery/memorial garden, etc.? While attendance at a funeral can be unpredictable,

please know that the New Chapel has a maximum capacity of 300 people. The Historic Chapel has a capacity of 50 people, and there is no capability for the presence of a coffin, though an urn may be present.

Music: Will there be music at the service? Hymns, solos, vocalists, special musicians? All arrangements for music are made through the Minister of Music in consultation with the Rector. Music selections are available from Hymnal 1982, The Hickory Neck Hymnal, Lift Every Voice and Sing, and Wonder, Love, and Praise.

Service Type: Will the service be memorial only, or will there be a local burial/interment? Will the Holy Eucharist, or Communion, be a part of the service?

Flowers: Will there be flowers for the service? Arrangements for flowers are made in consultation with a recommended outside florist. Flowers are to be placed on the two tables either side of and behind the Altar. No flowers are placed on the coffin or in front of the Altar.

Reception: Will there be a reception after the service? Will it be at Hickory Neck Church, at someone's home, or at a public venue? Receptions at Hickory Neck Church are arranged through Parish Life.

Planning the Service

The service for the Burial of the Dead is found on pages 469 (Rite I) and 491 (Rite II) of BCP 1979. The outline of the services may be found in Appendix A. While most of the service is just as it is lined out in the prayer book, there are several options for families to consider. Once decisions have been made about whether there will be a Eucharist or music, the next consideration is normally the readings.

Readings

The prayer book offers suggestions for both the Old and New Testaments, Psalms, and Gospel readings. Choice of these readings is purely up to the discretion of the family.

Some choose one of each, while others choose only one. If there is to be Communion, there must be a reading from the Gospel. If a family wishes to use a passage that holds particular importance for the deceased or other family members, it should be coordinated with the Rector.

Suggestions for readings from the BCP are found on pages 494-495 in the prayer book.

Family and friends are invited to read passages from the Psalms, and the Old and New Testaments, and those invitations are made by the family and coordinated with the Rector. If persons prepare ahead of time for reading at a service, The Episcopal Church uses the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the bible.

Eulogies

As a rule, lengthy eulogies are not a part of Anglican Burial services. It is, however, not uncommon and often helpful for a member of the family or a friend to say a few words about the deceased. This can happen before the service or at the reception. It is strongly recommended that comments be written down and limited to the equivalent of one typed page.

Other Things to Keep in Mind

Burial liturgies range in time from 25 minutes for the most basic service, to one hour, when music and Communion are included. Please feel free to discuss the particulars of the service you are planning with the Rector to estimate the availability of receptions, interments, or other temporal considerations.

When coffins and urns are brought into the Church for the service they are draped with a pall. This is to ensure that as each of us leaves this world, s/he does so as equals. There are no distinctions to be made in the Church through the choice of a casket or urn. Palls are not generally in place when there is a viewing; however, all caskets are closed before the service and remain closed thereafter, covered with the pall. The pall replaces even the American flag when it is draped on a casket, although the flag is replaced immediately after the service.

Use of color guards and inclusion of military honors is always welcome. Arrangements can be made with most funeral directors for such honors, and when they take place at the Church they are coordinated with the Rector.

Fees and Memorial Gifts

There are no fees for Burial of the Dead for active members of Hickory Neck Church. Some, however, choose to make gifts to the Church in honor of their loved one and in thanksgiving for the ministry of the community. The list of fees below is for nonmembers of Hickory Neck Church, and can be used as a model for members who also wish to make gifts. All fees are paid to Hickory Neck Church unless otherwise indicated. Accommodations can be made for pastoral and/or financial hardships through discussion with the Rector.

Basic funeral service in the Church with clergy: \$750

Graveside service only: \$300

Organist (fees paid directly to the Organist): \$250

Special Musicians at contracted rate through the Minister of Music.

Receptions are dependent upon the estimated number of persons: <150 people: \$300

150-300 people: \$500

Memorial gifts to Hickory Neck Episcopal Church, in memory of a loved one, are always appropriate. The gifts can be designated as general memorial funds or directed towards one of our established endowment funds. The Rector can assist in discussing this with you.

Interment

Hickory Neck Church maintains cemetery grounds for its members and offers several options for interment of loved ones. Arrangements can be made by contacting the Hickory Neck Church office.

Memorial Garden: direct interment of ashes into the ground	\$ 250
Cemetery: full casket, no burial vault is required	\$1,000
half plot suitable for 2 cremation containers	\$ 550

Of Special Note

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all 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, 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."

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. BCP, p. 507

The very fact that you are reading this Funeral/Memorial Service Customary calls to your side the prayers of the Hickory Neck Church community; may God bless you.

Grace and Peace,