

IN WITNESS TO

the Resurrection



FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Contact Information

Church Office 602-996-4245

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Blake, Pastor

jenni.blake@epcchurch.org

Susan Blease, Administrative Assistant

susan.blease@epcchurch.org

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Blake, Pastor

Susan Blease, Administrative Assistant

Carolyn Blackburn, Music Director

Michael Ellis, Organist/Pianist

Keith English, Custodian

The Purpose of a Memorial or Funeral Service

The Presbyterian funeral or memorial service is a Service of Witness to the Resurrection and also an integral part of our Christian worship. 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. We do this by celebrating the Resurrection and affirming the profound hope we have through the grace of our Risen Lord. Joining with others, we give our pain, our memories, our hopes, and our gratitude to God.

In this booklet you will find descriptions for planning a memorial service or funeral at Emmanuel. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

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Style of the Service

The term 'funeral' normally refers to a service at which a casket is present and followed by a graveside service to commit a body to the ground. A funeral is often more formal in order and tone and takes place within five days or so of a death. The term 'memorial service' is often used in reference to a service at which there are either cremains or no remainder of the deceased present. It may be further separated in time from a death, though we recommend that it be kept as close to the death in time as possible. Both are a Service of Witness to the Resurrection and includes scripture, a pastor's message, and music or readings that are appropriate to the occasion.

Format and Direction of the Service

Responsibility for planning and conducting the service resides with the pastor. The pastor will meet with the family of the deceased to offer prayer, support, and planning guidelines for the service. Most often the service will take place in the sanctuary. Others may be invited to assist in the service in consultation with the pastor. In all cases, the officiating pastor will have final decision on all aspects of the service.

Scheduling

We will seek to schedule services in a timely way that meets family and community needs. A funeral is usually scheduled, planned, and held within a week of a death. A memorial service may be scheduled soon after a death, and planned and held at a future date. Normally, we will work to avoid Sundays and church holidays. The pastor will work with you to set a date and time. As a funeral or memorial is a worship service of God's people, the date and time planned will be publicized to the congregation. You may also publish it in obituaries or through other forms of communication

Music

All music performed or sung during the service must be consistent with God's victory over death and our hope in Christ. The pastor, our Director of Music or Organist will assist in selecting and arranging for music. Outside musicians will require approval of the officiating musician, who will also orient them to Emmanuel church.

Reflections at the Service

Brief, prepared reflections about the deceased may be offered by family and friends during a service, as arranged with the pastor.

Flowers

Flowers beautify the service and remind us of our hope in Christ. The pastor may suggest that some flowers be placed in the narthex or reserved for a reception following the service if quantities become too great. At a family's discretion, appropriate arrangements may be left to beautify other worship services that week. All other flowers will be removed by the family following the service and reception.

Photos, Video, and Powerpoint Presentations

As this is a service of worship, the focus of our attention is on God's presence both during and beyond our lives. An appropriate portrait of the deceased is welcomed in the Sanctuary during the service. Video or slide presentations may be shown before, during or after the service in the sanctuary in consultation with the pastor.

Live Streaming and Video Service

This service will be provided upon the availability of trained individuals. For family and friends that are unable to attend the service in person, Zoom streaming may be requested. A Zoom link will be emailed to the family to send out to others directly. After the service, the family will be provided with a link to the recording of the service.

Fraternal, Civic, and Military Considerations

EPC affirms fraternal, civic, or military rites outside of the funeral or memorial service itself. In consultation with the pastor those rites may be either before or after the service, or in conjunction with a committal of remains. We follow Presbyterian guidelines in this regard, which state:

The service may be observed before or after the committal of the body [or ashes]. The service may include other actions common to the community of faith and its cultures when these actions do not detract from or diminish the Christian understanding of death and resurrection. The service shall be complete in itself, and any fraternal, civic, or military rites should be conducted separately. (Directory for Worship 4.10005)

Worship Bulletin and Slides

The church staff will assist in producing a worship bulletin or worship slides that include the order of service, participants, family information, suggestions for memorial gifts (if requested), and a brief biographical note about the deceased, if desired. A photo of the deceased may be provided for inclusion on the cover of the bulletin. If worship slides are desired, trained Audio-Visual personnel will be required to run the slide presentation.

Reception

Our Deacons can assist in arranging a reception at the church following the service. A coffee reception, or a light lunch can be provided in our Fireside Room. If the family desires additional food, they may have it catered at their own expense and arrangement, coordinated with our deacons. The reception is an appropriate location to provide a collection of photos, appropriate memorabilia and share stories about the deceased, provided that arrangements have been made ahead of time.

Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden plaque displayed in the church is expressly available for church members, and active participants in our community of faith. If you would like your loved one included on the plaque talk with the pastor for details. For the cost of the nameplate, \$25, your loved one may be added to our Memorial Garden plaque.

Fees and Honoraria

Members and Friends of Emmanuel may receive the ministry of the church, including pastoral services and space for this service, for a nominal fee as listed below.

For persons who do not regularly contribute to the ministry of the church, the recommended fees are noted below. However, no Christian funeral should be denied because of lack of financial resources. If you are unable to provide honoraria to worship leaders or space use fees to the church, please speak to the pastor.

Honoraria and fees should be remitted directly to the persons providing the service. These can be given through the church office, or through arrangement with the funeral home.

Fees and Honoraria

	Church Member	Non-Member
Clergy	\$200	\$400
Organist	\$100	\$125
Custodian	\$100	\$100
Audio Visual	\$50	\$75
Video	\$50	\$75
Use of Sanctuary	No Fee *	\$300
Reception	Optional *	\$100 up to 75 people

** A memorial gift to the church in honor of your loved one and in support of ongoing ministry is welcomed.*

Sample Order of Worship

This is a sample order for a Memorial Service. This may be revised and adapted in consultation with the pastor. A list of possible hymns and scripture appear below and on the following page.

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection in memory of...

Prelude Music
Entrance of the Family
Sentences of Scripture
Welcome and Prayer
Hymn (selected)
A Reading (scripture or poem)
Special Music (optional)
Memorial Reflections
Scripture
Homily (the pastor)
Memorial Prayer
Hymn (selected)
Commendation and Blessing
Benediction
Postlude Music

Suggested Hymns

Abide With Me
Amazing Grace
Be Thou My Vision
Blessed Assurance
Great is Thy Faithfulness
Holy, Holy, Holy
I Need Thee Every Hour
Morning Has Broken

Old Rugged Cross
On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand
Rock of Ages
Take My Hand, Precious Lord
There is a Balm in Gilead
The King of Love, My Shepherd Is (Psalm 23)
What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Suggested Scripture

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	A time for everything
Psalms 23	The Lord is my Shepherd
Psalms 27	The Lord is my Light and my Salvation
Psalms 42	My soul is thirsting for the living God
Psalms 90	Lord, you have been our refuge
Psalms 103	The Lord is kind and merciful
Psalms 121	My help comes from the Lord
Psalms 130	Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord
Matthew 11:25-30	Come to me and I will give you rest
John 11:17-27	I am the resurrection and the life
John 14:1-6, 27	Father's house has many rooms
Romans 8:31b-39	Nothing can come between us & the love of Christ
Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12	Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord
1 Corinthians 15:51-57	Death is swallowed up in victory
1 John 3:1-3	We are all Children of God
Revelation 7:9-17	God will wipe away every tear from our eyes
Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7	There will be no more death

Funeral and Memorial Service Planning

Sometimes it is helpful to plan ahead for a future memorial service with your loved one.

Please see the below suggested questions to begin thinking about what you might like the service to include.

Where do you want your service to be:

Hymns (select 3-4 favorites):

Scriptures you would like to be read:

Memorial reflections (list 2-3 people):

Special music you would like at the service:

Prayers or readings you would like at the service:

Memorabilia and/or photos you would like displayed:

Other people you want to be at the service:

What food you like at the reception:

Would you like interment or burial? Where?

Give a copy of these answers to family and church office to keep on file.

Personal Information

Here are some questions that will help the pastor get to know your loved one better. The information you provide will assist in creating a personalized service. This is a guide to begin having conversations and thinking about your loved one prior to meeting with the pastor.

Date and location of birth and death

Family of origin, parents/siblings

Childhood and youth: where raised, formal education, degrees earned

Spouse: where/how met, children, grandchildren

Work history, field of employment, locations

Memberships: service, fraternal, church, organizations, boards, military

Hobbies/interests

One word (or more) to describe your loved one

Special memories



EMMANUEL
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Following Christ. Sharing The Truth. Serving Others.

3839 East Shea Boulevard, Phoenix AZ 85028
602-996-4245 | www.epcchurch.org