**Presbyterian (USA) Funeral Planning:**

The following is taken directly from the Directory for Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

**Christians and Death**

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 no 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)

**Setting of the Service**

The service on the occasion of death ordinarily should be held in the usual place of worship in order to join this service to the community’s continuing life and witness to the resurrection. The service 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. This service may be observed on any day. A request to observe such a service as a part of the Lord’s Day service or to celebrate the Lord’s Supper as a part of the service on the occasion of death requires the approval of the Session. (W-4.10003)

**Form and Order**

The service begins with scriptural sentences. It is appropriate for worshipers to sing hymns, psalms, spirituals, or spiritual songs which affirm God’s power over death, a belief in the resurrection of life everlasting, and the assurance of the communion of the saints. Scripture shall be read; a sermon or other exposition of the Word may be proclaimed; an affirmation of faith may be made by the people. Aspects of the life of the one who has died may be recalled. Prayers shall be offered, giving thanks to God

(1) for life in Jesus Christ and the promise of the gospel, (2) for the gift of the life of the one who has died, (3) for the comfort of the Holy Spirit, (4) for the community of faith; making intercessions (5) for family members and loved ones who grieve, (6) for those who minister to and support the bereaved, (7) for all who suffer loss; lifting supplications (8) for faith and grace for all who are present; concluding with the Lord’s Prayer. The service ends by commending the one who has died to the care of the eternal God and sending the people forth with a benediction. (W-4.10004)

**Alternatives and Options**

The service may be observed before or after the committal of the body. In order that attention in the service be directed to God, when a casket is present it ordinarily is closed. It may be covered with a funeral pall. Starmount has a pall, created by the Women of the Church, available for use, should the family desire. 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. (W-4.10005)

**Service of Committal**

Members and friends of the family of the one who has died should gather at the graveside or crematorium for a service of farewell, which is to be conducted with simplicity, dignity, and brevity. The service includes readings from Scripture, prayers, words of committal, and a blessing, reflecting the reality of death, entrusting the one who has died to the care of God, and bearing witness to faith in the resurrection from the dead. (W-4.10005)

**Memorial Garden & Columbarium**

Trinity Presbyterian Church offers a Memorial Garden for your loved one’s cremains if you should so choose. Further information about the Memorial Garden is available from the church office. Note that only direct cremains or cremains placed in biodegradable containers may be buried in the garden.

*Planning a funeral or memorial service is a time- consuming, detail-oriented process. Preparing for it be- forehand will make the process much easier and cheaper for everyone involved. Here are a number of considerations you might wish to think about.*

• Do you have a prepaid funeral?

• Is there a family member or someone else who is designated to notify the church? Who is to notify other family members and friends?

• Do you have a folder of preferences where your family knows?

• Do you have a folder for financial information where your family knows? Have you made arrangements for paying for the funeral and burial expenses, if applicable?

• Do you prefer burial or cremation? Have you selected a final resting place? If there is to be a cemetery marker, do you wish input?

• Have you and family discussed music, scripture?

• Do you have a list of potential pallbearers or honorary pallbearers?

• Do you have a will/executor? Will this person also make arrangements for copies of the death certificate?

**The Funeral Service Plan**

*This may be done in consultation with the funeral director and/or clergy. A copy of this should be on file in the church office.*

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nickname(s)/Goes By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse/Domestic partner: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dates in armed services and branch(es) served (if applicable):

Other Organizations that need to be noted (i.e. Masons, Rotary, etc.):

Immediate family contact(s):

Name of preferred funeral home: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Planned method of interment (circle one): Cremation Casket

Planned place of interment: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

While it is helpful to state your preferences, it can also be helpful to remain flexible to accommodate family needs, resources, and circumstances. If there are selections that are especially important to you to include in the service, please indicate by underlining or circling those selections.

Scripture selections:

Hymn selections:

Other music choices:

Liturgical choices (prayers, poems, confessions, affirmations of faith):

Other requests:

Will there be others to speak at the service? If so, who?

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to:

**Suggested Texts and Hymns**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*The following readings are particularly appropriate for use in the funeral service,*

*and in ministry with the dying and bereaved.*

***Old Testament***

Job 19:23–27 I know that my redeemer lives

Isa. 25:6–9 God will swallow up death forever

Isa. 26:1–4, 19 God will keep them in peace

Isa. 40:1–11 Comfort my people

Isa. 40:28–31 Those who wait for the Lord

Isa. 43:1–3a, 18–19, 25 Through the waters, I will be with you

Isa. 44:6–8 I am the first and the last

Isa. 55:1–3, 6–13 Ho, everyone who thirsts

Isa. 61:1–4, 10–11 The spirit of the Lord is upon me

Isa. 65:17–25 I create new heavens and a new earth

Lam. 3:19–26, 31–33 The Lord’s steadfast love

Dan. 12:1–3 Many of those who sleep in the dust shall awake

Joel 2:12–13, 23–24, Return to the Lord with all your heart

26–29

*Some have found these passages from an apocryphal book useful in certain*

*circumstances:*

Wis. 3:1–7, 9; 5:15–16 The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God

*At the loss of a child:*

Zech. 8:1–8 Children playing in the streets of the city

Isa. 65:17–25 I create new heavens and a new earth

*For those whose faith is unknown:*

Eccl. 3:1–15 For everything there is a season

Lam. 3:1–9, 19–23 The Lord’s steadfast love

***Psalms***

*The following psalms are appropriate for singing or reading in the service.*

Ps. 16:5–11 The Lord is my chosen portion

Ps. 23 The Lord is my shepherd

Ps. 27:1, 4–9a, 13–14 The Lord is my light and my salvation

Ps. 39: 4–5, 12 Lord, let me know my end

Ps. 42:1–6a As a deer longs for flowing streams

Ps. 43 Give judgment for me, O God

Ps. 46:1–5, 10–11 A very present help in trouble

Ps. 90:1–10, 12 Teach us to number our days

Ps. 91 In the shelter of the Most High

Ps. 103 Bless the Lord, O my soul

Ps. 106:1–5 O give thanks to the Lord

Ps. 116:1–9, 15 The Lord has heard my voice

Ps. 118 Open the gates of righteousness

Ps. 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills

Ps. 130 Out of the depths I cry to the Lord

Ps. 139:1–12 Where shall I go from your spirit?

Ps. 145 I will extol you, O God my King

Ps. 146 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul

***Epistles***

Acts 2:22–28 God raised him up, having freed him from death

Rom. 5:1–11 Hope does not disappoint

Rom. 6:3–9 Baptized into Christ’s death, raised with him

Rom. 8:14–23, 31–39 Nothing can separate us from the love of God

Rom. 14:7–9, 10b–12 Whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s

1 Cor. 15:3–8, 12–20a Christ raised from the dead

1 Cor. 15:20–24a In Christ shall all be made alive

1 Cor. 15:20–26, 35–38, Death is swallowed in victory

42–44, 50, 53–58

1.Cor. 15:35–44 The natural body and the spiritual body

1 Cor. 15:50–57 We shall all be changed

2.Cor. 4:16–5:1 Visible things and invisible things

2 Cor. 5:1–10 We have a house not made with hands

Eph. 1:11–2:1, 4–10 Saved by grace through faith

Phil. 3:7–11 Knowing him and the power of his resurrection

Phil. 3:20–21 Our citizenship is in heaven

Col. 3:1–17 Set your minds on the things that are above

1 Thess. 4:13–18 The comfort of Christ’s coming

2 Tim. 2:8–13 If we died with him, we shall also live with him

Heb. 2:14–18 Christ was tested in every way

Heb. 11:1–3, 13–16; Faith, the pilgrimage, the cloud of witnesses

12:1–2

1 Pet. 1:3–9 Without seeing Christ, you love him

1 Pet. 3:18–22; 4:6 Christ’s ministry to the spirits in prison

1 John 3:1–3 We are children of God

Rev. 7:2–3, 9–17 They have come out of the great ordeal

Rev. 14:1–3, 6–7, Rest for the saints

12–13

Rev. 21:1–4, 22–25; A new heaven and a new earth

22:3–5

Rev. 22:1–5 The Lord God will be their light

*For those whose faith is unknown*

Rom. 2:12–16 The law written on the heart

Rom. 14:7–9, 10c–12 None of us live to ourselves

***Gospels***

Matt. 5:1–12a The Beatitudes

Matt. 11:25–30 Hidden from the wise, revealed to infants

Matt. 25:1–13 Wise and foolish bridesmaids

Matt. 25:31–46 The Last Judgment

Matt. 28:1–10 Go quickly and tell his disciples

Luke 7:11–17 Jesus raises the son of the widow of Nain

Luke 18:15–17 We enter the kingdom only as children

Luke 23:33, 39–43 Today you will be with me in Paradise

Luke 24:5–9 He is not here, but has risen

Luke 24:13–23 A vision of angels said he was alive

John 3:16–21 God so loved the world

John 5:24–29 Whoever hears and believes has eternal life

John 6:37–40 Those who come to me I will not drive away

John 6:47–58 Whoever believes in me has eternal life

John 11:17–27 I am the resurrection and the life

John 11:38–44 Lazarus raised from the dead

John 14:1–6, 25–27 Let not your hearts be troubled

*At the loss of a child*

Matt. 18:1–5, 10 The greatest in the kingdom of heaven

Mark 10:13–16 Let the children come to me

*For those whose faith is unknown*

Matt. 25:31–46 As you did it to one of the least of these

**HYMNS, PSALMS, AND SPIRITUAL SONGS**

***Opening Hymns of Praise***

*GTG* 275; *PH* 260 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (Ps. 46)

*GTG* 4; *PH* 460 Holy God, We Praise Your Name

*GTG* 806; *PH* 253 I’ll Praise My Maker (Ps. 146)

*GTG* 804; *PH* 145/146 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

*GTG* 321; *PH* 442 The Church’s One Foundation

***Resurrection to Eternal Life***

*GTG* 264; *PH* 108 Christ Is Alive!

*GTG* 237; *PH* 110 Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands

*GTG* 245; *PH* 113 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

*GTG* 841; *PH* 179 God Is My Strong Salvation (solo)

*GTG* 826; *PH* 371 Lift High the Cross

*GTG* 825 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

*GTG* 233; *PH* 118 The Day of Resurrection!

*GTG* 236; *PH* 119 The Strife Is O’er

*GTG* 485; *PH* 495 We Know That Christ Is Raised

***Saints Who Have Gone Before***

*GTG* 325 By All Your Saints Still Striving

*GTG* 324 For All the Faithful Women

*GTG* 326; *PH* 526 For All the Saints

*GTG* 731 Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm

*GTG* 730; *PH* 364 I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

***God’s Presence and Comfort***

*GTG* 836; *PH* 543 Abide with Me

*GTG* 649; *PH* 280 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

*GTG* 626 As the Deer

*GTG* 819 Be Still, My Soul

*GTG* 394; *PH* 416, 417 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

*GTG* 676; *PH* 544 Day Is Done

*GTG* 815; *PH* 286 Give to the Winds Thy Fears

*GTG* 841; *PH* 179 God Is My Strong Salvation (Ps. 27)

*GTG* 329; *PH* 191 God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength (Ps. 46)

*GTG* 436; *PH* 261 God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

*GTG* 686; *PH* 275 God of Our Life

*GTG* 331; *PH* 262 God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

*GTG* 787 God Weeps with Us Who Weep and Mourn

*GTG* 813 God, My Help and Hiding Place

*GTG* 750 Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil

*GTG* 39; *PH* 276 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*GTG* 832 Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand

*GTG* 463; *PH* 361 How Firm a Foundation

*GTG* 624; *PH* 457 I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

*GTG* 799; *PH* 362 I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry

*GTG* 45; *PH* 234 I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes (Ps. 121)

*GTG* 816; *PH* 282 If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

*GTG* 785 In Deepest Night

*GTG* 830; *PH* 365 Jesus, Priceless Treasure

*GTG* 835 Just a Closer Walk with Thee

*GTG* 79 Light Dawns on a Weary World

*GTG* 772; *PH* 332 Live Into Hope

*GTG* 737 Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

*GTG* 811 Make Your Face to Shine/

*Haz resplandecer tu rostro*

*GTG* 828; *PH* 359 More Love to Thee, O Christ

*GTG* 829; *PH* 383 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

*GTG* 803; *PH* 172 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (Ps. 23)

*GTG* 53 O God, Who Gives Us Life

*GTG* 743; *PH* 198 O God, You are My God (Ps. 63)

*GTG* 270; *PH* 252 O Lord, You Are My God and King (Ps. 145)

*GTG* 833; *PH* 384 O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

*GTG* 687; *PH* 210 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past (Ps. 90)

*GTG* 424; *PH* 240 Out of the Depths (Ps. 130)

*GTG* 834; *PH* 404 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

*GTG* 823 Shall Tribulation or Distress

*GTG* 321; *PH* 442 The Church’s One Foundation

*GTG* 802; *PH* 171 The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Ps. 23)

*GTG* 801; *PH* 170, The Lord Is My Shepherd (Ps. 23)

174, 175

*GTG* 808 When Memory Fades

*GTG* 822; *PH* 400 When We are Living

*GTG* 807 When We Must Bear Persistent Pain

*GTG* 661 Why Should I Feel Discouraged?

***The Lord’s Supper***

*GTG* 499; *PH* 502 Bread of the World in Mercy Broken

*GTG* 818; *PH* 342 By Gracious Powers

*GTG* 516; *PH* 508, 509 For the Bread Which You Have Broken

*GTG* 517; *PH* 520 Here, O Our Lord, We See You

*GTG* 522 I Am the Bread of Life

*GTG* 515; *PH* 507 I Come with Joy

*GTG* 494; *PH* 510, 511 Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

*PH* 515 Now to Your Table Spread

*GTG* 514 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

*GTG* 495; *PH* 519 Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior, Thee

*GTG* 797 We Cannot Measure How You Heal

*GTG* 510 We Gather Here in Jesus’ Name

*GTG* 817, *PH* 399 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

*GTG* 502 We Who Once Were Dead