
Part 1 – Advance Planning

You are encouraged to print Part One, fill it out, and give it to the pastor for safe keeping in your file at church. If needed, they will use it when working with your family. You will also find a .pdf version of this information at www.mountcross.com/hope.pdf

Name: _____

Date prepared: _____

The Hope That Is In You

Some of my thoughts about preparing for my funeral.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1st Peter 3:15

This worksheet is a place for you to share with your church and family thoughts and ideas about your funeral service. The things you write here will be received as a wonderful gift by your family and those who will make arrangements for your memorial service. When you complete this form, leave it with your other important papers. Also, please make a copy and give it to the pastor and it will be placed in your file until it is needed.

1. What thought would you like people to have clearly in mind as they leave your memorial service?

2a. What are some favorite or meaningful scripture passages or Bible stories or themes: (see below for some ideas)

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2b. Did you have a Confirmation verse?

2c. If you had to pick only one verse to be read at your service, which one would it be, and why?

3a. What are some of your favorite hymns? (see below for some ideas)

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3b. If only one hymn or song was sung at your service, which one would it be and why?

4. What are some of the highlights from your “God Story,” that is, the ways you’ve seen God at work in your life and in the lives of those around you and in the world around you. This can include memories and stories connected to your baptism and your confirmation.

5. What would you write on your grave marker?

6. What would you want to make sure was included in your obituary?

7. Do you want to be buried or cremated?

8. Where would you like to be buried or have your ashes placed?

9. Do you desire that Holy Communion be celebrated at your funeral?

10. Do you understand the use of the Pall as a symbol of your baptism?

11. Are there people you would like to serve as pall bearers?

Hymns for Funeral Services – Some Ideas

A Multitude Comes

Alabare

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

Arise, My Soul, Arise!

Blessed Assurance

Blessed Spring

Christ The Same

Come Away To The Skies

Come, We That Love The Lord

Even As We Live Each Day

For All The Saints

God Loved The World

God, Our Help In Ages Past

God, Whose Will Is Life And Good

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!

I Am The Bread Of Life

I Know Of A Sleep In Jesus' Name

I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light

In Heaven Above

In The Morning When I Rise

Jerusalem, My Happy Home

Jerusalem, Whose Towers

Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won!

Jesus, Remember Me

Kyrie, God Father

Let Me Be Yours Forever

O Morning Star, How Fair And Bright!

Lord, Now Let Your Servant

My Faith Looks Up To Thee

O Holy Spirit, Enter In

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand

Oh, What Their Joy

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Shall We Gather At The River

Sing With All The Saints In Glory

Soon And Very Soon

The God Of Abraham Praise

The King Of Love My Shepherd Is

The Lord's My Shepherd

Thine The Amen, Thine The Praise

This Joyful Eastertide

Thy Holy Wings

We Are The Lord's

We Walk By Faith And Not By Sight

What Wondrous Love Is This

Who Is This Host Arrayed In White

You Have Come Down To The Lakeshore

You Who Dwell In The Shelter Of The Lord

(Eagles Wings)

Bible Passages for Funeral Services – Some Ideas

OLD TESTAMENT

Job 19:23-27 I know that my redeemer lives
Psalm 16:5-11 The Lord is my chosen portion
Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 27:1, 4-9a, 13-14 The Lord is my light and my salvation
Psalm 39:4-5, 12 Lord, let me know my end
Psalm 42:1-6a As a hart longs for flowing streams
Psalm 43 Give judgment for me, O God
Psalm 46:1-5, 10-11 A very present help in trouble
Psalm 90:1-10, 12 Teach us to number our days
Psalm 91 The one who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
Psalm 103 Bless, the Lord, O my soul
Psalm 106:1-5 O give thanks to the Lord
Psalm 116:1-9, 15 My delight is in the Lord
Psalm 118 Open the gates of righteousness
Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Psalm 130 Out of the depths I cry to the Lord
Psalm 139:1-12 Whither shall I go from thy Spirit?
Psalm 145 I will exalt you, O God my King
Psalm 146 Hallelujah! praise the Lord, O my soul
Isaiah 25:6-9 God will swallow up death forever
Isaiah 26:1-4, 19 God will keep them in perfect peace
Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31 Comfort my people
Isaiah 40:28-31 Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength
Isaiah 43:1-3a, 18-19, 25 When you pass through the waters
Isaiah 44:6-8 I am the first and the last
Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13 Ho, everyone who thirsts
Isaiah 61:1-4, 10-11 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me
Isaiah 65:17-25 I create new heavens and a new earth
Lamentations 3:19-26, 31-36 My affliction and roaming
Daniel 12:1-3 Many of those who sleep in the dust shall awake
Joel 2:12-13, 23-24, 26-29 Turn to me with all your heart

At the loss of a child:

Zech. 8:1-8 Children playing in the streets of the city
Isaiah 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, 19-26 The Lord's steadfast love

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 5:1-12a The Beatitudes

Matthew 11:25-30 Hidden from the wise, revealed to babes

Matthew 25:1-13 Wise and foolish virgins

Matthew 25:31-46 The Last Judgment

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

John 3:16-21 God so loved the world

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

John 6:37-40 Whoever comes to me I will by no means cast out

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

Romans 5:1-11 Hope does not disappoint

Romans 6:3-9 Baptized into Christ's death, raised to live with him

Romans 8:14-23, 31-39 Nothing can separate us

Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12 Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's

1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 12-20a Christ raised from the dead

1 Corinthians 15:20-24 In Christ shall all be made alive

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 50, 53-58 Death is swallowed in victory

1 Corinthians 15:35-44 The natural body and the spiritual body

1 Corinthians 15:50-57 We shall all be changed

2 Corinthians 4:16--5:1 Visible things are transitory, invisible things permanent

2 Corinthians 5:1-10 From God we have a house not made with hands

Ephesians 1:11--2:1, 4-10 Saved by grace through faith

Philippians 3:7-11 Knowing him and the power of his resurrection

Philippians 3:20-21 Our citizenship is in heaven

Colossians 3:1-17 Set your mind on the things above

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 The comfort of Christ's coming

2 Timothy 2:8-13 If we died with him, we shall also live with him

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Hebrews 2:14-18 Christ was tempted in every way

Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-16; 12:1-2 Faith, the pilgrimage, the cloud of witnesses

1 Peter 1:3-12 Without seeing Christ you love him

1 Peter 3:18-22; 4:6 Christ's ministry to the spirits in prison

1 John 3:1-3, We are children of God

Revelation 7:2-3, 9-17 These are they who have come out of the great tribulation

Revelation 14:1-3, 6-7, 12-13 Rest for the saints

Revelation 21:1-4, 22-25; 22:3-5 A new heaven and a new earth

Revelation 22:1-5 The Lord God will be their light

At the loss of a child:

Matthew 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:

Matthew 25:31-46 As you did it to one of the least of these

Romans 2:12-16 The law written on the heart

Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12 None of us live to ourselves

Part 2 – When A Death Has Occurred

Planning For A Funeral or Memorial Service

Here you will find some of the questions that your pastor will likely be asking as plans are made for a funeral or a memorial service.

This booklet does not have very much information about mortuary or cemetery services.

MORTUARY SERVICES

In Camarillo there are three mortuaries who can assist families in time of need:

Conejo Mountain Memorial Park
2052 Howard Road
Camarillo, CA 93012
Phone: 805-482-1959
Email: wecare@conejomountain.com
Web: www.conejomountain.com

Griffin Family Funeral Chapels
1075 E. Daily Drive
Camarillo, CA 93010
Phone: 805-482-1166
Email: info@griffinfamilyfuneral.com
Web: www.griffinfamilyfuneral.com

Perez Family Funeral Home
1347 Del Norte Road
Camarillo, CA 93010
Phone: 805-983-3457
Email: PerezFamily1913@me.com
Web: www.memorialsolutions.com/sitemaker/sites/rosepe0

CEMETERY

The only cemetery in Camarillo is located at Conejo Mountain Memorial Park (see above). But even if you make plans for burial at Conejo Mountain Memorial Park, any mortuary can assist with the other arrangements you may need to make. They can also assist you with arrangements for a burial at another cemetery. Your pastors can also assist you if you prefer to make arrangements with other service providers (Neptune Society, etc.).

A. PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of the person for whom we will be holding the service: _____.
2. Their date of birth: _____.
3. Their date of death: _____.

(More questions about the person's life are asked below.)

4. Who is the person making the arrangements who can be contacted if there are questions?

Name:

Relationship:

Phone:

E-mail:

5. What are your wishes for the service location and the kinds of services and their order. There are many possible choices:

a. Location for the funeral or memorial service (*Most people seem to expect that a funeral is a service where the casket or urn is present; a memorial service is a service where there are no remains present. The content of the service, however, is essentially the same*): Church, cemetery or mortuary chapel, cemetery graveside, other location.

b. Kinds of services and their order:

- Funeral in the church (or chapel) with the casket; burial following in the cemetery.
- Graveside burial service at the cemetery; memorial service following in the church (or chapel).
- Memorial service in the church (or chapel) with the placement of cremated remains to follow in the cemetery.
- Placement of cremated remains in the cemetery followed by a memorial service in the church (or chapel).

6. In the case of a cremation, will there be special arrangements for scattering of remains? Please be aware that state or local laws may restrict where cremated remains may be scattered. See_

<http://www.cfb.ca.gov/consumer/funeral.shtml#cremation>

7. Date of the funeral or memorial service: _____

8. Time of service _____

(NOTE: If the service is at Mount Cross, we try to arrange for the service to be at 4:00 PM or later if on a Monday and after 1:00 PM or later, Tuesday through Friday, because of limited restrooms. State law prohibits adults from sharing the bathrooms being used by our preschool children.)

9. Will there be a reception? If yes, where? If the reception will be at the church, the pastor or someone from *Helping Hands* will make contact to discuss the kind of reception desired (meal, dessert, etc.)

B. QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SERVICE AT THE CHURCH OR CHAPEL.

With your help we will put together a meaningful funeral or memorial service, using the information you provide:

10. The Book of Life (in other places this is called the eulogy). Will this be a part of the service? If yes, who will be speaking. Do you wish to have the pastor invite anyone present to speak?

11. What passages from the Bible do you want to be read during the service:

12. Are there special hymns that you would like to be sung?

13. Would you like a special musical offering?

14. We often prepare a worship folder for services in the church. The pastor will show you the choices we keep in stock for you to choose from.

15. Will pallbearers be needed for the service? Names?

16. Will a guest book be provided by the mortuary or cemetery?

C. QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PERSON

17. Will there be an obituary appearing in the paper? Will it include a photo? If no, do you want a photo to be included in the worship folder we prepare?
18. Where were they born:
19. Where did they die:
20. Was the person baptized? In what church tradition?
21. Was the person married? The year?
22. Was the person a veteran? Branch of service? Will there be military honors at the church or cemetery?
23. Who are the survivors to be named in the service?
24. What was the person's occupation?
25. What were the person's hobbies/other interests:
26. Other personal information (special honors or accomplishments, memberships in organizations, etc.).

D. COSTS

27. There is no cost to use the church facilities and there is no set honorarium charged by the pastors.
28. If an organist plays for the service, the expected honorarium is \$175.00.
29. If a soloist sings for the service, the honorarium should be in the range of \$50.00 for one song, \$75.00 for two. Be sure to honor additional work that may be required to prepare for the service and extra work, for example, serving as own accompanist.
30. If *Helping Hands* arranges a reception at the church following the service, the family is invited to make a donation to help cover costs. As a guide, consider \$1.50/person for a dessert and coffee type reception. If a luncheon is to be served, consider a donation of about \$4.00/person.

E. HELPING HANDS

31. *Helping Hands* is the Mount Cross service group that assists the pastors and the congregation by arranging and serving receptions **when funerals or memorial services are held at the church**. Someone from Helping Hands will contact the family as plans begin to be made for the reception at Mount Cross. They sometimes also assist by greeting those who have come to the service and attending to some of the details inside the sanctuary, such as the arrangement of flowers. As noted above, a donation to cover costs for the reception is appreciated.

F. FLOWERS

32. When the service in the church will include the casket, it will be covered with a large white cover (called the pall) which is emblazoned with a cross. This white covering echoes the white baptismal garment that may have been worn or given at baptism. It reminds us that we are wrapped up in the righteousness of Christ and for that reason only are we fit for heaven. If flowers to cover the casket have been purchased, they will be placed on a nearby table during the service in the church. If an American flag is to drape the casket, it will be removed when the casket enters the church and replaced when the casket leaves the church.

33. When flowers are delivered for a memorial service, the director from the mortuary or a member of *Helping Hands* will arrange them so that they look nice and do not block lines of sight in the sanctuary. The family

should look over the arrangement of the flowers and indicate whether any should be moved to a more prominent location.

34. If at all possible, please make arrangements to take the flowers to the cemetery, to the reception or to the home or homes of family. We will not usually display the flowers from a memorial service in the front of the sanctuary on a Sunday morning. The altar flowers for Sunday services are usually smaller arrangements and it would not be appropriate to overpower them.

35. If the flowers need to be left at the church, we will do our best to break them down into smaller arrangements and distribute them to hospitals, schools, nursing homes, etc., so they do not go to waste.

G. MEMORIAL GIFTS

36. When a church member dies, we usually send an announcement of their passing, including date and time for the services. You may wish to have us include the request: *"In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to..."* Please feel free to indicate your church or community service agencies (hospice, for example) as recipient of these gifts.

37. When memorial gifts are received by the church in the name of the one who has died, one of the pastors or the memorials committee will discuss the use of the funds with the family. Possible uses for memorial funds include:

Gifts to the Mount Cross Endowment Fund. One of the nice things about these gifts is that the principal is never used up; it joins with other gifts to generate interest income that is used for special ministries and projects.

Gifts to purchase special needed items for the sanctuary or the church.

Gifts to further certain ministries or activities (for example, scholarships for camp or preschool).

H. AT THE CEMETERY

38. Many times families want to remain at the gravesite or the place of interment until the casket has been lowered into the ground and perhaps even covered with earth, or until the urn is placed and its niche closed. In almost every case the directors at the cemetery will accommodate your wishes.

39. Most families are probably unprepared, however, for how these tasks are actually accomplished. In every case those who work to place caskets or urns in their final resting place will be khaki clad groundskeepers. When a grave is filled in after a service has concluded, shovels are not used; it is a noisy backhoe that does the work. In the case of the placement of a casket in a mausoleum or an urn in a niche, the worker has to apply a seal from a caulking gun. In short, the work that has to be done may not be as spiritual or reverent as one might have hoped. For some this industrial and very down-to-earth activity is helpful for closure, but that may not be true for all.

Please call or email the church office if you have any questions.

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