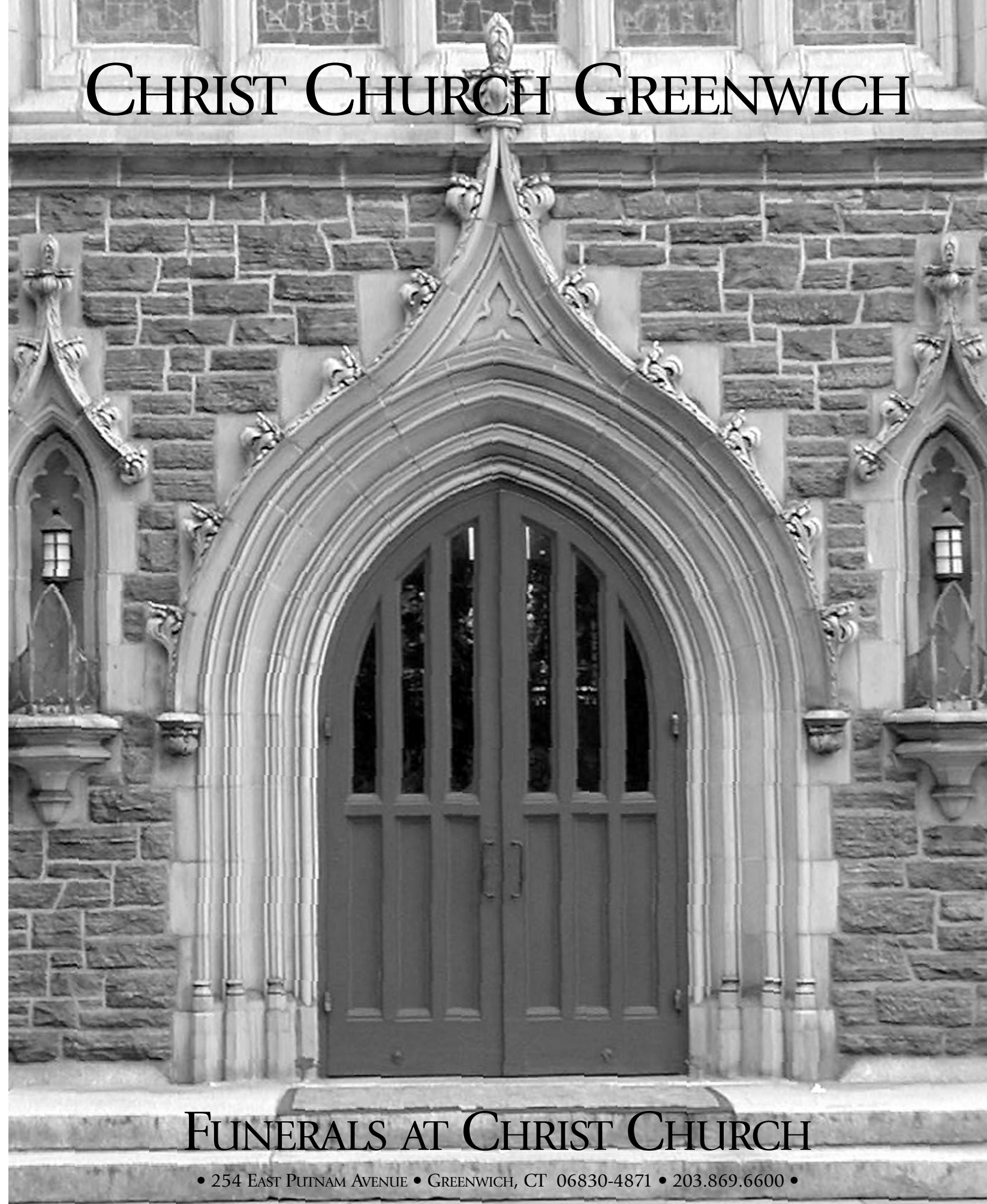


CHRIST CHURCH GREENWICH



FUNERALS AT CHRIST CHURCH

• 254 EAST PUTNAM AVENUE • GREENWICH, CT 06830-4871 • 203.869.6600 •

April, 2008

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Funeral scheduling and administration:

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FUNERAL HOME

I prefer the following funeral home: _____

I have already made arrangements with the above funeral home.

*I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord;
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.*

*I know that my redeemer liveth,
and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth;
and though his body be destroyed, yet shall I see God;
whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold,
and not as a stranger.*

*For none of us liveth to himself,
and no man dieth to himself.
For if we live, we live unto the Lord;
and if we die, we die unto the Lord.
Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.*

*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord;
even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.*

- The Book of Common Prayer, page 469

TO USE THIS BOOKLET...

This booklet is written and compiled for you as a beginning. Its greatest purpose is to assist you in the discussion of death. It is our hope that the reading of this will provide an opportunity for you and those closest to you to talk openly about death and dying, faith and life, your feelings and your funeral preferences. If you share your feelings and wishes now, your loved ones will know that upon your death they are following your desires. We intentionally have not included each and every detail about the traditions and customs of an Episcopal service. **That is because it is most important that after reading this booklet, you meet with one of the clergy at Christ Church to have a pastoral conversation about death and about your funeral plans.** The clergy will be grateful to answer your questions and assist you in making final decisions.

In using this booklet, it will be necessary for you to have a copy of *The Bible*, *The Hymnal 1982*, and *The Book of Common Prayer 1979*. We suggest that you read through the burial services in *The Book of Common Prayer 1979*, pages 468-507. This will enable you to become familiar with the shape of the liturgy.

Please read through "Concerning the Service" and write in your preferences for the various elements of the service as you go along. Then call the Parish Secretary at Christ Church to arrange a time to visit with one of the clergy. This meeting will assist you in completing the "Funeral Instructions" form located at the back of the booklet. We will then be grateful to keep a copy of that form on file with the church.

Old Testament Reading _____

Reader _____

New Testament Reading _____

Reader _____

The Gospel _____

Homilist _____

Other Speaker(s) (if desired) _____

Pall bearers: _____

Ushers: _____

BURIAL

I prefer to be buried

Location of burial plot: _____

I prefer to be cremated

Ashes may be placed _____

Ashes to be placed in the Christ Church Memorial Garden

MEMORIAL GIFTSS

In lieu of flowers, I ask that contributions be made to:

Church, Name of Institution, or Charity *Address*

Church, Name of Institution, or Charity *Address*

Church, Name of Institution, or Charity *Address*

Church, Name of Institution, or Charity *Address*

FUNERAL FORM - TO BE LEFT ON FILE AT CHRIST CHURCH GREENWICH

In consultation with the clergy of Christ Church, please fill this out and return to Sally Herring. It is recommended that you give a member of your family a copy, and keep another for yourself.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Full Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Date of Baptism _____ Place of Baptism _____

Spouse's Full Name _____

Spouse's Address _____ Telephone Number _____

THOSE TO NOTIFY UPON MY DEATH:

Name	Address	Telephone	Relationship
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

I request: (check one)

The Burial of the Dead and Eucharist: (check one)

Rite I

Rite II

The Burial of the Dead: (check one)

Rite I

Rite II

Officiating clergy _____

Requested Hymns: _____

A PREFACE FOR CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Christian burial is more than a testimonial occasion. It is a sacred liturgy in which we give thanks to God for the gift of life itself, for the life of someone we have known and loved, and for the hope of the resurrection given to us in Baptism.

At the time of death, your family should notify Christ Church as soon as possible so that we can assist them in every way possible. Arrangements for the funeral will then be made in consultation with one of our clergy. They are available and grateful to help your family through each step they need to take, including accompanying them in meeting with the funeral home. And most especially, at the time of serious illness and dying, the clergy of Christ Church hope to be called upon to offer prayers and comfort.

The Episcopal tradition is that every baptized Christian is most appropriately buried from the church. The coffin is not opened in the church. It is our tradition that the coffin is covered by a pall, a cloth similar to the altar hangings, supplied by Christ Church rather than elaborate floral displays or blankets. Our belief is that this custom symbolizes our equality before God and offers each person equal dignity.

The Liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its 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.

- The Book of Common Prayer, page 507

CONCERNING THE SERVICE

The liturgies of *The Book of Common Prayer* assume the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Throughout Christian history, the Eucharist has been the sacrament feeding and sustaining the sacred rhythm of our life. Within the context of the Burial of the Dead, this can be an occasion of great solace for those who grieve. However, it is understood that in particular situations there may be pastoral reasons not to include the Eucharist in the service.

I request: (check one)

The Burial of the Dead and Eucharist: (check one)

Rite I

Rite II

The Burial of the Dead: (check one)

Rite I

Rite II

Officiating clergy _____

A priest on the staff of Christ Church customarily presides at the service. Visiting priests, at the invitation of the family and in consultation with the parish clergy, may assist in the celebration.

MUSIC

The music chosen for the funeral is selected from sacred music rather than secular music for two reasons: First, it is to be remembered that this is a worship service offered to the glory of God rather than a testimonial occasion. Favorite songs might best be shared at a time of visitation, sometimes referred to as a Wake or Vigil, or at a reception following the funeral. Second, religious music is written specifically to convey a sense of hope, glory, faith and eternity. Secular music, no matter how admired, lacks this sacred quality. It should also be noted that the hymns selected should be familiar to a broad range of people so that the congregation may participate fully. In selecting hymns, it is important to read the text to be certain the words fit this singular worship experience. **Any decisions regarding hymn selection or additional music are to be made in consultation with the Music Department of Christ Church.**

The following are some of the suggested hymns from *The Hymnal 1982* which are most appropriate for funerals:

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|----------------------------------|
| 199 | Come, ye faithful, raise the strain | 525 | The Church's one foundation |
| 362 | Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! | 558 | Faith of our fathers! |
| 376 | Joyful, joyful, we adore thee | 618 | Ye watchers and ye holy ones |
| 383 | Fairest Lord Jesus | 645 | The King of love my shepherd is |
| 410 | Praise, my soul, the King of heaven | 657 | Love divine, all loves excelling |
| 477 | All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine | 671 | Amazing grace! |
| 490 | I want to walk as a child of the light. | 680 | O God, our help in ages past |
| 494 | Crown him with many crowns | | |

Hymns I desire to include:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and giving life to those in the tomb.

The Sun of Righteousness is gloriously risen, giving light to those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Lord will guide our feet into the way of peace, having taken away the sin of the world.

Christ will open the kingdom of heaven to all who believe in his Name, saying, Come, O blessed of my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared by you.

Into paradise may the angels lead thee; and at thy coming may the martyrs receive thee, and bring thee into the holy city of Jerusalem.

- The Book of Common Prayer, page 483

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

- The Book of Common Prayer, page 486

YOUR OBITUARY

Another way you can assist your family and friends is by considering what information you would want included in your obituary. Your life story is valuable to them and worth telling. Talking about this now can be a real gift to them and to you as well.

The following are facts and information that could be included in the obituary:

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Father's Full Name: _____

Mother's Full Name: _____

Children's Names and Locations: _____

Close Relatives: _____

Education: _____

Work/Career: _____

Community Activities: _____

Volunteer Activities: _____

Military Service: _____

Honors/Awards: _____

Hobbies/Avocation: _____

THE READINGS

The Readings at the service are always from the Bible. It is desirable that the Reading from the Old Testament, and the Epistle, be read by lay persons. If there is a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings.

Suggested Readings:

Old Testament

Isaiah 25:6-9

Isaiah 61:1-3

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9

Job 19:21-27a

Psalms (page number refers to *The Book of Common Prayer*)

Usually read in unison

Rite I

Rite II

Psalm 23 (p. 476)

Psalm 23 (p. 612)

Psalm 27 (p. 477)

Psalm 27 (p. 617)

Psalm 42 (p. 471)

Psalm 42 verses 1-7 (p. 643)

Psalm 46 (p. 471)

Psalm 46 (p. 649)

Psalm 90 (p. 472)

Psalm 90 verses 1-12 (p. 717)

Psalm 106 (p. 478)

Psalm 106 verses 1-5 (p. 741)

Psalm 116 (p. 478)

Psalm 116 (p. 759)

Psalm 121 (p. 473)

Psalm 121 (p. 779)

Psalm 130 (p. 474)

Psalm 130 (p. 478)

Psalm 139 (p. 474)

Psalm 139 verses 1-11 (p. 794)

New Testament

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

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

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

1 John 3:1-2

Revelation 7:9-17

Revelation 21:2-7

The Gospel

Read by the Clergy

John 5:24-27

John 6:37-40

John 10:11-16

John 11:21-27

John 14:1-6

Old Testament Reading _____

Reader _____

New Testament Reading _____

Reader _____

The Gospel _____

THE HOMILY

The Homily is preached by a member of the Clergy. The homily is a time to offer hope and consolation to those who are bereaved, in the certainty that nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus Our Lord. It has not been the custom in the Episcopal Church to offer testimonial eulogies. We would not presume to tell you about someone you have loved, and we would not dare to tell God about one of His own children. If any, further memorial remarks should be kept to a minimum, perhaps three minutes. Sharing the quality of a person's life is an important ministry among friends and family. And it might be more fitting that personal stories be shared either at the Wake or at a reception following the service.

Homilist _____

Other Speaker(s) (if desired) _____

OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Pall bearers (customary to have six): _____

Ushers: _____

BURIAL

One of the decisions you and your family will need to make involves traditional burial with a coffin, or cremation with an urn. Both are ancient practices in keeping with Church teaching. There are equally valid reasons for choosing either. If you have a preference, it should be made known so that your family may follow your wishes to the best of their ability.

I prefer to be buried

Location of burial plot _____

I prefer to be cremated

Ashes may be placed _____

Ashes to be placed in the Christ Church Memorial Garden

Location of burial plot _____

A RECEPTION

Traditionally, burial follows immediately after the church service, and a reception can be held following that. If you wish to have the reception at Christ Church, you may be able to use either the Parish Hall or the Tomes-Higgins House. Please contact the Parish Secretary for more information.

FLOWERS, AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

In the Episcopal Church, flowers are limited to those on the Altar. At Christ Church, the flowers are the responsibility of the members of our dedicated and gifted Altar Guild. Your family will want to advise friends and other family members that additional flowers sent to the church are not necessary and will not be able to be used. If it is your desire to support a particular charity in lieu of flowers, that can be publicized in the obituary.

The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.

- The Book of Common Prayer, page 445

We hope that parishioners will give serious consideration in the preparations of their wills to include a bequest to the church.

In lieu of flowers, I ask that contributions be made to:

Church, Name of Institution, or Charity *Address*

Church, Name of Institution, or Charity *Address*

Church, Name of Institution, or Charity *Address*

Church, Name of Institution, or Charity *Address*

I have included Christ Church Greenwich in my will or estate plan. *(Unless specified explicitly as a gift to the Endowment of Christ Church Greenwich, all gifts are used for general church purposes.)*

Please contact me about the Arbor Society, the planned giving program at Christ Church Greenwich.

FUNERAL HOME

I prefer the following funeral home: _____

I have already made arrangements with the above funeral home.