



The CATHEDRAL of
ST. PHILIP
SERVING ATLANTA AND THE WORLD

Planning A Funeral

Please take a few minutes to read through this booklet as you prepare to talk with a member of the clergy. It can help you to gather your thoughts, consider possibilities, and find comfort in planning a meaningful service.

Grace to you, and peace . . .

The Cathedral clergy, staff, and volunteers understand that facing death can be a complicated and difficult proposition. We are here to support you, whether you want to plan your own service or you need to navigate the loss — and celebrate the life — of a loved one.

When someone dies, there are many decisions to be made, plus the task of working to accommodate the wishes of others. In an effort to help make those decisions and accommodations easier, this booklet is divided into six sections arranged in order of time sensitivity, a section of end-of-life and funeral planning resources, and an invitation to join the Cathedral Arbor Society.

In his book, *Holy Living, Holy Dying*, Anglican theologian Jeremy Taylor helped many to see that there is holiness even in the midst of death. We hope that you will experience that holiness here at the Cathedral.

First Things First

(To report a death, please call the Pastoral Care line at 404-365-1003.)

1. Please begin by scheduling the funeral service. After this crucial decision is made, there will still be plenty of time to plan the rest of the service. There are two ways to go about this:

A. Prioritize the day and time.

The day and time are more important than the clergy person. The clergy person will be determined by who is available at the day and time you have chosen.

OR

B. Prioritize the clergy.

The choice of clergy person is more important than the day and time. The service will be scheduled at a day and time when your preferred clergy person is available.

Regardless of your priority above, please select a day and time as well as an alternate day and time in case your first choice is not available. These are the suggested funeral times:

Monday	10 a.m. or 2 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m. or 2 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. or 2 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. or 2 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. or 2 p.m.
Saturday	2 p.m. only

The weekday schedule is designed to avoid morning and evening rush hours. Adequate parking is not available on Saturday mornings from March through December. Generally speaking, Sunday funerals are not possible.

If you have a clergy preference, you may call your preferred clergy person directly (please refer to Page 14). Otherwise, please call the pastoral care coordinator (404-365-1038); a member of the clergy will contact you to begin planning the service. Funerals are a scheduling priority, and we will do everything we can to accommodate your preferences, but please keep in mind that the Cathedral will only schedule a service when we can do our very best for you.

First Things First, *continued*

2. If there is to be an obituary, begin working on it now. (Some funeral homes and cremation societies will assist you with this task.) If you intend the obituary to alert friends and acquaintances to the time and place of the funeral, the obituary should be published at least two days before the funeral is scheduled to take place.

NOTE: It is NOT safe to publish anything mentioning the Cathedral until the clergyperson or the pastoral care coordinator has contacted you to confirm the day and the time.

3. Details to share with the funeral home or cremation society:

- A. Give the funeral home or cremation society the Cathedral's complete address (2744 Peachtree Road, NW; Atlanta, Georgia 30305) and the pastoral care coordinator's direct telephone number (404-365-1038).
- B. If a coffin will be present at the funeral, make sure that the funeral home knows to arrive via the horseshoe driveway that leads from Peachtree Road up to the Peachtree Porch of the Cathedral (next to the Memorial Garden).
- C. If ashes will be present at the funeral:
 1. Clarify with the funeral home or cremation society who will be responsible for getting the ashes to the Cathedral. The ashes should be at the Cathedral one hour before the service. (It is fine to bring them far in advance, too.) A member of the Funeral Guild will greet you and receive the ashes; don't worry — they will be able to find you.
 2. If the ashes are to be interred in the Cathedral Memorial Garden, please emphasize to the funeral home or cremation society that the bag must be *completely* biodegradable; a paper bag is best. The Cathedral will place that bag in a biodegradable box for interment. *For the purposes of an interment in the Cathedral Memorial Garden, it is not necessary for you to purchase an urn or decorative outer container of any kind. Moreover, it is not necessary for you to purchase a "cremains vault."* Detailed information about the Memorial Garden is available from the pastoral care coordinator (404-365-1038).
 3. If you intend to keep your loved one's ashes at home after the funeral and have purchased an urn for that purpose, please bring the filled urn to the Cathedral at least one hour before the service.

First Things First, *continued*

4. Costs. The Cathedral will send you an invoice after the service. Your payment will help us to defray the costs associated with funerals and memorial services. If money is a concern, please discuss your situation with the clergy person: we will work with you.

Here is a basic list of funeral costs:

Clergy	\$150 per clergy person is the suggested donation; this money funds the clergy's discretionary funds for the needy
Organist	\$300
Altar Flowers	\$250 in the Nave \$175 in Mikell Chapel
Service Leaflets	\$50
Choral Music	Cathedral Singers: \$175 per singer Chamber Choir: \$2,000 The Schola: \$3,500 The Cathedral Choir: \$4,500 Organist's Accompaniment Supplement: \$50
Reception Space	\$500 for Child Hall \$250 for the Court of Gratitude
Memorial Garden Plot	\$1,000

More information about various costs is included in their respective sections of this booklet. Detailed information about the Memorial Garden is available from the pastoral care coordinator (404-365-1038).

2: Words

In the Episcopal Church, worship services — including funerals — are conducted according to the rites of the Book of Common Prayer. The solemn dignity of the prayer book's funeral service and the depth and beauty of its prayers give timeless expression to human grief and provide a framework for beginning to process that grief.

The funeral service also includes readings from scripture which proclaim the promises of faith and can give the congregation a sense of who the deceased person was as a child of God. We have provided on Pages 15 – 21 of this booklet a wide range of suggested readings, but please feel free to discuss with the clergy person any other passages of scripture that you would find meaningful. The service commonly includes at least two readings from scripture. Many people select a Psalm as a third scripture reading.

Now is a good time to decide if you would like the service to include Holy Communion. There is no “right” or “wrong” choice: both are correct. If you do decide to include Holy Communion, please make sure that one of your selected scripture readings is from the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John). Please note that it is not always possible to celebrate Holy Communion in Mikell Chapel when there is a coffin present.

The funeral service sometimes includes remembrances from loved ones or close friends. As with Holy Communion, there is no “right” or “wrong” choice. However, the number of remembrances generally should not exceed three or four, and the suggested length of each remembrance is five to seven minutes, depending upon the number of remembrances offered.

If you wish, the clergy person will deliver a brief sermon (called a “homily” in this context).

Please record your preferences for this section in the blanks at the top of the next page. The Cathedral will format and print the service leaflets using this information and your music selections from the next section of this booklet.

Words, *continued*

Remembrances: Yes No

If Yes, please write each remembrancer's first and last name as they should appear in print in the service leaflet:

After you have reviewed the suggested readings beginning on Page 15, please record your choices in the blanks below. Please write "N/A" on the line beside any category from which you do not want a reading.

Old Testament _____

Psalm _____

New Testament _____

Gospel (required with Communion) _____

When you have finished recording your choices of readings, please continue to page 10.

3: Music

The beauty and depth that distinguish the words of the Book of Common Prayer are also found in the sacred music of the Episcopal Church. In the context of a funeral, that music, like the readings from scripture, can give the congregation a sense of who the deceased person was as a child of God.

Funeral services commonly include two hymns: one at or near the beginning of the service and one at or near the end of the service. For shorter services or smaller congregations, you may prefer to include only one hymn or no hymns. For longer services or larger congregations, you may prefer to add a middle hymn. We have provided on Page 22 a list of suggested funeral hymns, but please feel free to discuss with the clergy person any other hymns from the hymnal that you would find meaningful.

The exceptional quality of music at the Cathedral reflects the belief that music performed in a house of worship should be a worthy offering to God. One of the Cathedral organists will play voluntaries from the organ repertoire before and after the service. With enough lead time, they also can arrange for choral or instrumental music to be provided at appropriate points in the service by professional musicians contracted by the music department. If you are interested in including choral or instrumental music, the clergy person can put you in touch with the organist who will be playing the service. The Cathedral will invoice you to defray the costs of engaging extra musicians.

If you would like to include hymns in the service, please review the suggested funeral hymns on Page 22 and record your choices in the blanks below. Please write “N/A” wherever you do not want a hymn.

Opening Hymn _____

(Middle Hymn _____)

Closing Hymn _____

4: Flowers

Flowers for the service: The altar will be adorned with flowers arranged by the Flower Guild. No other flowers may be placed in the Nave or in Mikell Chapel.

Flowers sent to the Cathedral: Any flowers sent to the Cathedral will be placed in the Gould Room where loved ones gather before the service. We discourage the sending of flowers because of the logistical difficulties of getting them home after the service.

Flowers for the reception: If you choose to host a reception at the Cathedral after the service, you are free to engage the florist of your choice. If you do not already have a florist in mind, we recommend Faith Flowers (404-922-8298), as they are most familiar with our facilities and procedures. Suggested budgets for standard funeral receptions are \$350 for the Court of Gratitude or \$500 for Child Hall (tax not included).

5: Food

If you wish to host a reception at the Cathedral after the service, contact the caterer of your choice as soon as you possibly can, as caterers plan their cooking schedules many days in advance. If you need guidance selecting or working with a caterer, The pastoral care coordinator can provide names of suggested caterers. Wine or beer service will depend upon the caterer's requirements. We will provide the necessary tables, tablecloths, and chairs. The Cathedral does not use bar tables at funeral receptions.

Funeral receptions at the Cathedral are held in the Court of Gratitude, which is well suited for groups of 75 or fewer persons, or Child Hall, which is ideal for larger groups. Large receptions should be staffed by servers sent by the caterer and may incur a kitchen cleaning fee of \$250.

Please contact the pastoral care coordinator (404-365-1038) as soon as you have engaged a caterer or made reception plans. Be sure to let us know if you intend to serve wine or beer.

6: After the Service

We are here to help you navigate this time of transition. The clergy are prepared to provide continuing pastoral care (404-365-1038), and the Cathedral hosts a grief support group led by trained facilitators from Hospice Atlanta. Please contact Canon Cathy Zappa (404-365-1043 or czappa@cathedralATL.org) for more information or to register to attend. The Cathedral Counseling Center (404-786-0381), located in the Lanier House on the Cathedral grounds, offers individual and family counseling as well as a range of support groups.

If your loved one is interred in the Memorial Garden, we will order a cast bronze plaque with their name and dates of birth and death on it and install the plaque on one of the bronze tablets on the south wall of the Memorial Garden. Please note that, despite our best efforts, delivery times for plaques remain long (sometimes many months). We will contact you once the plaque has been installed. In the interim, please feel free to stay in touch with the pastoral coordinator (404-365-1038).

End-of-Life Resources

Cathedral Resources

The Very Rev. Samuel G. Candler	404-365-1031
Dean of the Cathedral	scandler@cathedralATL.org
The Rev. Cathy Zappa	404-365-1043
Canon for Liturgy and Pastoral Care	czappa@cathedralATL.org
The Rev. Lauren Holder	404-365-1036
Canon for Community and Education	lholder@cathedralATL.org
The Rev. George Maxwell	404-365-1088
Vicar	gmaxwell@cathedralATL.org
The Rev. Julia Mitchener	404-365-1083
Priest Associate	julia.mitchener@cathedralATL.org
The Rev. Juan Sandoval	404-365-1095
Deacon for Hispanic Ministries and Pastoral Care	jsandoval@cathedralATL.org
The Rev. Thee Smith, Ph. D.	404-365-1093
Priest Associate	tsmith@cathedralATL.org
Hillary Jones	404-365-1038
Program Coordinator for Pastoral Care	hjones@cathedralATL.org

Other Resources

Medicare	1-800-Medicare; medicare.gov
Hospice Atlanta	404-215-6000
1244 Park Vista Dr. NE, Atlanta	vnhs.org
AJC Obituaries	ajc.com/services/obits/
Cathedral Counseling Center	404-365-1100
at the Lanier House on the Cathedral campus	cathedralcounselingcenter.org
Home Care Assistance	404-355-9901
4890 Roswell Rd., Suite 160, Atlanta	atlantahomecarenow.com

Suggested Funeral Readings

Suggested Readings from the Old Testament

Isaiah 25:6-9 [He will swallow up death forever]

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 61:1-3 [To comfort those who mourn]

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 [The Lord is good to those who wait for him]

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 [The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God]

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

Job 19:21-27a [I know that my Redeemer lives]

Job answered, “Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh? O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.”

Suggested Funeral Readings

Suggested Readings from the Psalter

Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me*

The LORD is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul, and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table before me in the presence of them that trouble me; thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full. Surely thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me* (King James Version)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalm 27 *Dominus illuminatio*

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid? One thing have I desired of the LORD, which I will require, even that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the fair beauty of the LORD, and to visit his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle; yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone. And now shall he lift up mine head above mine enemies round about me. Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness; I will sing and speak praises unto the LORD. Hearken unto my voice, O LORD, when I cry unto thee; have mercy upon me, and hear me. My heart hath talked of thee, Seek ye my face. Thy face, LORD, will I seek. O hide not thou thy face from me, nor cast thy servant away in displeasure. I should utterly have fainted, but that I believe verily to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. O tarry thou the LORD'S leisure; be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the LORD.

Psalm 42 *Quemadmodum*

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God; when shall I come to appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God? Now when I think thereupon, I pour out my heart by myself; for I went with the multitude, and brought them forth into the house of God; In the voice of praise and thanksgiving, among such as keep holy-day. Why art thou so full of heaviness, O my soul? and why art thou so disquieted within me? O put thy trust in God; for I will yet thank him, which is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Suggested Funeral Readings

Suggested Readings from the Psalter, continued

Psalm 46 *Deus noster refugium*

God is our hope and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof rage and swell, and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same. There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most Highest. God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed; God shall help her, and that right early. Be still then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, and I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 90 *Domine, refugium*

Lord, thou hast been our refuge, from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were made, thou art God from everlasting, and world without end. Thou turnest man to destruction; again thou sayest, Come again, ye children of men. For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. As soon as thou scatterest them they are even as a sleep, and fade away suddenly like the grass. In the morning it is green, and groweth up; but in the evening it is cut down, dried up, and withered. For we consume away in thy displeasure, and are afraid at thy wrathful indignation. Thou hast set our misdeeds before thee, and our secret sins in the light of thy countenance. For when thou art angry all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end, as it were a tale that is told. The days of our age are threescore years and ten; and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years, yet is their strength then but labor and sorrow, so soon passeth it away, and we are gone. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Psalm 106 *Confitemini Domino*

O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is gracious, and his mercy endureth for ever. Who can express the noble acts of the LORD, or show forth all his praise? Blessed are they that alway keep judgment, and do righteousness. Remember me, O LORD, according to the favor that thou bearest unto thy people; O visit me with thy salvation; That I may see the felicity of thy chosen, and rejoice in the gladness of thy people, and give thanks with thine inheritance.

Psalm 116 *Dilexi, quoniam*

My delight is in the LORD, because he hath heard the voice of my prayer; Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live. The snares of death compassed me round about, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me. I found trouble and heaviness; then called I upon the Name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul. Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. The Lord preserveth the simple; I was in misery, and he helped me. Turn again then unto thy rest, O my soul, for the LORD hath rewarded thee. Any why? thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living. I will pay my vows now in the presence of all his people; right dear in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

Suggested Funeral Readings

Suggested Readings from the Psalter, continued

Psalm 121 *Levavi oculos*

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills; from whence cometh my help? My help cometh even from the LORD, who hath made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved, and he that keepeth thee will not sleep. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD himself is thy keeper; the LORD is thy defence upon thy right hand; So that the sun shall not burn thee by day, neither the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil; yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in, from this time forth for evermore.

Psalm 130 *De profundis*

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O LORD; Lord, hear my voice. O let thine ears consider well the voice of my complaint. If thou, LORD, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who may abide it? For there is mercy with thee, therefore shalt thou be feared. I look for the LORD; my soul doth wait for him; in his word is my trust. My soul fleeth unto the Lord before the morning watch; I say, before the morning watch. O Israel, trust in the LORD, for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. And he shall redeem Israel from all his sins.

Psalm 139 *Domine, probasti*

O LORD, thou hast searched me out, and known me. Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising; thou understandest my thoughts long before. Thou art about my path, and about my bed, and art acquainted with all my ways. For lo, there is not a word in my tongue, but thou, O LORD, knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for me; I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go then from thy Spirit? or whither shall I go then from thy presence? If I climb up into heaven, thou art there; if I go down to hell, thou art there also. If I take the wings of the morning, and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there also shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Peradventure the darkness shall cover me, then shall my night be turned to day. Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee, but the night is as clear as day; the darkness and light to thee are both alike.

Suggested Funeral Readings

Suggested Readings from the New Testament

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 [The glory that shall be revealed]

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, 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.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 [The imperishable body]

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 [Things that are unseen are eternal]

We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a

Suggested Funeral Readings

Suggested Readings from the New Testament, continued

building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling—if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

1 John 3:1-2 [We shall be like him]

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

Revelation 7:9-17 [God will wipe away every tear]

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Revelation 21:2-7 [Behold, I make all things new]

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

Suggested Funeral Readings

Suggested Readings from the Gospel of John

John 5:24-27 [He who believes has everlasting life]

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.”

John 6:37-40 [All that the Father gives me will come to me]

Jesus said, “Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.”

John 10:11-16 [I am the good shepherd]

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

John 11:21-27 [I am the resurrection and the life]

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

John 14:1-6 [In my Father’s house are many rooms]

Jesus said to his disciples, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The above suggested readings are taken from The Rite Word: Lectionary Texts © 1998 by Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved. Readings taken from The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible © 1989 by The Division of Christian Education of The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., used by permission.

Suggested Funeral Hymns

The Hymnal 1982 is a wonderful resource for hymns. The following list, which is not intended to be complete, may be used in your selection.

The complete hymnal may be browsed online here:

<https://www.riteseries.org/song/Hymnal1982/display/cpi/1/>

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|--|
| 8 | Morning has broken | 490 | I want to walk as a child of the light |
| 24 | The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended | 494 | Crown him with many crowns |
| 180 | He is risen | 517 | How lovely is thy dwelling place |
| 204 | Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain | 618 | Ye watchers and ye holy ones |
| 208 | The strife is o'er | 620 | Jerusalem, my happy home |
| 210 | The day of resurrection | 623 | O what their joy and their glory must be |
| 238 | Blessed feasts of blessed martyrs | 625 | Ye holy angels bright |
| 286 | Who are these like stars appearing | 637 | How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord |
| 287 | For all the saints | 645 | The King of love my shepherd is |
| 376 | Joyful, joyful we adore thee | 646 | The King of love my shepherd is |
| 390 | Praise to the Lord | 657 | Love divine, all loves excelling |
| 410 | Praise, my soul, the king of heaven | 658 | As longs the deer for cooling streams |
| 427 | When morning gilds the skies | 660 | O Master, let me walk with thee |
| 429 | I'll praise my Maker while I've breath | 662 | Abide with me |
| 439 | What wondrous love is this | 663 | The Lord my God my shepherd is |
| 441 | In the cross of Christ I glory | 664 | My Shepherd will supply my need |
| 448 | O Love how deep, how broad, how high | 671 | Amazing grace |
| 450 | All hail the power of Jesus' Name | 679 | Surely it is God who saves me |
| 457 | Thou art the Way | 680 | O God, our help in ages past |
| 460 | Alleluia, sing to Jesus | 685 | Rock of ages |
| 473 | Lift high the cross | 686 | Come, thou fount of every blessing |
| 482 | Lord of all hopefulness | 688 | A mighty fortress is our God |
| 486 | Hosanna to the living Lord | 690 | Guide me, O thou great Jehovah |

The Cathedral Arbor Society and the Endowment Fund

“For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.” — 1 Chronicles 29:14

The financial stability the Cathedral enjoys today was made possible in large part by the faithful gifts of previous generations of Christians who have been buried from this great church. We hope that you will prayerfully consider including the Cathedral in your own estate plans, too. Planned gifts to the Endowment and Capital Funds of the Cathedral ensure its longterm viability and enable it to develop and enhance its mission, ministries, and facilities beyond the scope of what is possible through annual giving alone.

Your bequest or planned gift, at whatever amount is right for you, will make you a member of the Cathedral Arbor Society — and a guarantor of the future of this special place.

There are three different categories of funds to which gifts may be made:

- The Cathedral of St. Philip Endowment Fund
- The Cathedral of St. Philip Mission and Ministries Funds
- The Rector, Warden, Vestry Fund (RWV)

Some standard planned gifts are:

- Outright Gift
- Bequest, Life Insurance
- Pooled Income Fund
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Revocable Living Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Bargain Sale
- Memorial Gift

For further information about the Cathedral Endowment Fund, the Cathedral Arbor Society, or any aspect of planned giving, please contact David Rocchio, Director of Stewardship and Gift Planning, at 404-365-1033 or drocchio@cathedralATL.org.

Notes and Questions