



The Anglican Parish of Burnside-Harewood

Order of Service for a Funeral

Christian funerals aim to do two things: firstly to give us a chance to share memories of the person's life, and secondly to focus us on God, who sustains us in our grief and holds out the free gift of new life. The template order below is not set in stone, but gives an outline for what would normally happen in our churches. It may be possible to accommodate other items such as a musical tribute or a slideshow of photographs. The minister taking the service will discuss the options with you and will be happy to answer any questions that you have.

Welcome

Hymn

Family Tribute (can be read by a family member, friend or the minister)

[Additional Reading or Psalm]

Reading from the New Testament

Message of Christian Hope

[Hymn]

Prayers

(including the Lord's Prayer)

Either

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Or

Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are
yours now and forever. Amen.

[Hymn]

[Open mic]

[Poem]

Words of Commendation

Music to leave Church or final Hymn

Words of Committal (either at hearse, graveside or crematorium)

Suggested readings for funerals

You may choose any New Testament passage you wish, but here are some more commonly selected readings for funerals.

John 6:35-40

Jesus says "I am the bread of life"

John 11:17-27

Jesus says "I am the resurrection and the life"

John 14:1-6

Jesus says "In my Father's house there are many rooms"

Romans 8:31-end

Paul writes "Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ"

1 Corinthians 15 [selected verses]

Paul writes "So it is with the resurrection of the dead... It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power."

1 Thessalonians 4:13-end

Paul writes "We do not want you to be uninformed about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope."

Revelation 21:1-7

In a vision, John hears a voice say: "God will wipe every tear from their eyes... Death will be no more."

A selection of appropriate poems and readings from other sources is available on request.

Suggested hymns for funerals

With numbers from "Hymns for Today's Church" in brackets.

All things bright and beautiful [283]

Amazing Grace [28]

Guide me O Thou great Redeemer [528]

How great Thou art

Lord of all hopefulness [101]

Praise my soul the King of Heaven [38]

Father hear the prayer we offer [360]

The day you gave us, Lord is ended [280]

The Lord's my shepherd (Psalm 23) [591]

These words may be printed in the service sheet to be read by those present before the service begins:

God's love and power extend over all creation. Every life, including our own, is precious to God. Christians have always believed that there is hope in death as in life, and that there is new life in Christ over death.

Even those who share such faith find that there is a real sense of loss at the death of a loved one. We will each have had our own experiences of their life and death, with different memories and different feelings of love, grief and respect. To acknowledge this at the beginning of the service should help us to use this occasion to express our faith and our feelings as we say farewell, to acknowledge our loss and our sorrow, and to reflect on our own mortality. Those who mourn need support and consolation. Our presence here today is part of that continuing support.