

St. John's Episcopal Church

Customary for the Rite of Christian Burial.



The Garth at Saint John's is a sanctuary of peace for prayer and a consecrated burial ground of cremated remains.

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents..... 2

The Rite of Christian Burial at Saint John’s Church..... 3

The Day of the Service and arrival at Saint John’s..... 4

Music Repertoire..... 4

 The Prelude (20 minutes before the service) and music during the Reception of Holy
 Communion..... 4

 Hymns 4

Readers of Holy Scripture..... 5

Additional Information 5

 Fees and Honorariums 5

 Memorials 6

The Rite of Christian Burial at Saint John's Church

The Burial service held by the Rector of Saint John's is done in accordance with the Book of Common Prayer 1979 or 1928 ceremonies. The service is dependent on following the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer.

The theology of the burial rite in the Book of Common Prayer is to celebrate the mystery of our life, death and resurrection lived in Jesus Christ. This life in Christ begins at baptism, where through the sanctified water our soul enters into this sacred and saving mystery¹. With this knowledge we are able to live our lives with the hope of ultimately sharing Eternal Life with God when we complete our passage through death².

The burial service at Saint John's can be very short and quiet with only a few members of the family present, held in the Lady Chapel or at the Funeral Home or at grave side; or it can be an occasion of great solemnity with a church filled with family and friends. Whenever possible the service is most appropriately set in the context of the Holy Eucharist.³ But it is understood that a shorter service without Holy Eucharist, even at grave-side, is good for those with specific personal preferences and reasons – which we want to honor.

This Customary will guide you in planning the service. The Rector is available to walk through the details of the service and to answer any questions.

It is important that you begin this process with prayer. Prayer will help you work through the details. In this time of sorrow it is through prayer that we receive the necessary grace and consoling assurances of our faith.

Your brother in Christ

The Reverend David F. Klein
Rector

¹ Romans 6: 1-4, Colossians 3:1-3 and stated in the Prayer of Consecration over the water: "Thanksgiving over the water" BCP 306.

² Preface used at the Holy Eucharist: BCP 349 or 382.

³ This aspect of our sacramental faith is expressed in the opening prayer at the Great Vigil of Easter, 1979 BCP 285.

The Day of the Service and arrival at Saint John's

You should arrive at Saint John's about 30 minutes before the service. When you arrive please gather in the Guild Parlor. Bulletins will be provided. The Rector and any lay minister assisting him will meet with the family immediately before the service begins for a quiet prayer. The family will be taken to their designated seating in the Church. If the family is to accompany the casket in Procession you will be escorted to the narthex.

Five minutes before the service begins the Rector will join the family in the Guild Parlor for a prayer and speak about the service. The family will be seated immediately after this prayer or will join the casket for the procession if the family will be processing in.

Music Repertoire

The organist's fee is \$150.00. The hymns from the Hymnal 1982 and other sacred music express our belief in the Resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Secular and taped music is not allowed in services held within the church or at a Funeral home.

The Prelude (20 minutes before the service) and music during the Reception of Holy Communion

Johann Sebastian Bach	Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring
Johann Sebastian Bach	Arioso
Flor Peeters	Aria
Harold Drake	In Green Pastures
Healey Willan	Soliloquy
Healey Willan	Prelude on "St. Anne"
Gordon Young	Prelude on "Slane"

The Postlude

Gordon Young	Recessional on "St. Anne"
George Frederick Handel	Air in F

Hymns

208	Alleluia! The strife is o'er, the battle done
287	For all the saints, who from their labors rest
517	How lovely is thy dwelling-place
620	Jerusalem, my happy home
625	Ye holy angels bright
635	If thou but trust in God to guide thee
636	How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord

Customary for the Rite of Christian Burial

645 The King of love my shepherd is
680 O God, our help in ages past
688 A mighty fortress is our God
690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Readers of Holy Scripture

The family may:

1. Provide one or two readers that will read a lesson, one from the Old Testament and another from the New Testament.
2. Provide a reader for the Prayers of the People.

It should be remembered that funeral services are very stressful and a difficult time for family members. Unless a person feels truly confident to carry out the task, it is better to allow the rector to provide readers.

Homily. The homily (sermon) is delivered by the rector or the curate of the parish. The homily will reflect on Holy Scripture and the Christian faith in the Resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

1. A eulogy is not permitted.
2. The reading of poetry or other type of literature is not permitted.

Additional Information

Fees and Honorariums

If you are using a Funeral home the funeral Director can handle the payment of any fees. You just need to speak to them about that. This will relieve you from having to remember so many details.

- Altar Flowers (if prepared by Saint John's Flower Guild): \$100.00.
- Organist: \$150.00.
- Sexton: \$100.00.
- The Rector: The rector does not require a fee. An honorarium may be given as an appreciation gift and there is no set standard for this.
- Bulletins No charge for standard one-page program. \$50 for more elaborate bulletins. Please note that we honor all copyright laws. Any copyrighted music or words inserted in the Bulletin must have proper permission and notation.
- Nursery/Child Care. Price upon request.
- Brass Name Plaque for the Garth. \$100.00.

Memorials

Saint John's Memorial Fund provides opportunities for people to make contributions to the Church in memory of a departed loved one. Unlike operating monies used to pay salaries and utilities, the Memorial Fund is spent on making the Church more beautiful and enhancing our worship of God.

Like all gifts to Saint John's, your Memorial contribution is tax deductible, and will be used in Service of Our Lord. Memorial contributions are used at the discretion of the Rector. Acknowledgements are always sent to family members of the deceased noting that a gift was given, and by whom. The amount of gift is never mentioned.