

Funeral Policy

Bayside Presbyterian Church

Virginia Beach, Virginia

This policy is based on the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Approved by the Session on 19 February 2016

Purpose of Worship

A service is held to mark the occasion of the death of a Christian and is known in the Presbyterian Church as a “Service of Witness to the Resurrection”. The worship service points attention to the everlasting God, the hope of resurrection through Jesus Christ, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

The Resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes a Christian’s attitude and response to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death, Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Spirit and the community of faith.

Order of Worship

The service is under the direction of the pastor in consultation with the family. Others may be invited to participate as leaders in the service only upon the discretion and an invitation from the Pastor.

The service may be held on any day. A request to observe a service as part of a Sunday worship service or to celebrate the Lord’s Supper as part of the service on the occasion of a death requires the approval of the Session.

The service of worship may be held before or after the committal of the body.

If the body is not to be committed, the service may be held at any time. The service of worship is complete in itself. Any fraternal, civic, or military rites should be coordinated with the Pastor and an active duty military Chaplain.

The service ordinarily is held in the church in order to join the service to the congregation’s continuing life, ministry, and witness to the resurrection. When there are important reasons to not hold the service in the usual place of worship, it may be held in another place such as a home, a funeral home, a crematorium, or at graveside.

The Elements of Worship May Include

- Hymns and songs that affirm God’s power over death, a belief in the resurrection, and the assurance of the communication of the Saints
- Scripture Passages
- Sermon or Message spoken on the Word
- Affirmation of Faith made by the congregation
- Recalling aspects of the life of the one who has died
- Prayers giving thanks, making intercession, and lifting supplications
- Commending the deceased to the care of God, and blessing the congregation with a benediction

Music in Worship

Music for funerals and memorials should witness to God’s faithfulness in our life present and our life eternal.

Use of a Choir, a Praise Team, or a soloists during the worship service may be requested. The volunteer nature of the Choir or Praise Team and timing of the funeral or memorial may dictate their availability. Please consult with the Director of Music to coordinate all use of musicians.

Other Guidelines

Flowers may be placed on the Chancel area near the communion table at the discretion of the Pastor.

When a casket is present, it is closed in order that attention may be directed to God. It may be covered with a pall or flowers.

The family may arrange with the Pastor to video tape the service. This is ordinarily done from the back of the sanctuary or balcony in a non-disruptive manner. Flash photography is not allowed.

The family may arrange pictures and mementos to create a memory table or display of their loved one. This is usually done in the Atrium or the Fellowship Hall but may be placed in the Sanctuary at the discretion of the Pastor.

Arrangements and Fees for Members

In the event of the death of a church family member, the Sanctuary and the pastoral staff will be available to the family to plan and provide the funeral or memorial service without charge.

The Director of Music will provide an organist. Compensation of vocalists or instrumentalists will be the responsibility of the family.

If requested the Fellowship Hall is available to the family after the service as a gathering place to receive condolences and support from friends.

Food and drink may be served at a reception after the service in the Fellowship Hall. These arrangements must be made directly with the Funeral Coordinator. Contact information will be provided to the family by the Pastor.

Arrangements and Fees--Non Members

If the facilities of Bayside Presbyterian Church are requested for a funeral or memorial service there will be fees payable by the family for the following services, all of which may be waived by the pastor.

Fees

- Pastor - \$150
- Organist - \$150
- Sanctuary and Parlor - \$120
- Fellowship Hall - \$150
- Funeral Coordinator - \$100
- Reception – separate cost schedule provided by Funeral Coordinator

All fees are to be paid to Bayside Presbyterian Church.