



ST. MATTHEW EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Dear Friends:

Without a doubt, the death of a loved one brings grief and loss. Even our Lord Jesus wept at the grave of his friend, Lazarus. However, for Christians it is also a time for renewed trust in a loving God who is the Lord of life and the Victor over death. At St. Matthew Episcopal Church, we are eager to assist you in arranging your or your loved one's burial to be an occasion of solemn, dignified worship, of comfort to the bereaved, and of celebration for the life of the deceased within the context of the Risen Lord. As a parish, we conduct burials for parishioners, their families, and all who have a need for this important ministry. This booklet on The Burial of the Dead has been prepared to help you in your planning.

At the time of death, it is important to consult with me directly to secure a date and time for the burial liturgy and to plan the details before you begin making other arrangements.

May God's light and love shine forth for you in this time of preparation.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kendall Haynes'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long, sweeping underline.

Fr. Kendall Haynes
Rector

The human body is a gift of God. We live in bodies our whole life, and in death the body is treated with respect and dignity as it is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Christian burial is the proper and ordered placing of the body in its final resting place. We praise God our Creator, pray for the deceased and his/her family and friends, are comforted with Holy Scripture, and proclaim the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At St. Matthew, we have maintained our Church with a simple dignity, which focuses our attention on God. This booklet outlines those guidelines, which we believe maintain an atmosphere of worship, dignity and grace. Your support and cooperation are appreciated.

The death of a member of the Church should be reported as soon as possible to, and arrangements for the funeral should be made in consultation with, the Minister of the Congregation.

The Book of Common Prayer Page 468

BURIAL IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

- + Baptized Christians are properly buried from the Church.
- + The Burial liturgy should be held at a time when the congregation has the opportunity to be present.
- + If the disposition of the body is not cremated, the casket is brought into the Church and is closed before the liturgy, and remains closed thereafter.
- + The casket or urn is covered with a funeral pall, which the Church provides.
- + For the pastoral care of all in attendance, the body, whether cremated or not, should always be present for the Burial liturgy.

PASTORAL CARE AT THE TIME OF DEATH

Sometimes death comes slowly and with anticipation, and other times it comes suddenly and without warning. The clergy are eager to provide pastoral care to the dying and their families whatever the circumstances. It is an essential ministry of our priests and the parish. Please call one of our priests whenever you are in need. Fr. Haynes' cell is **253-224-7554**.

BURIAL AT ST. MATTHEW

CLERGY

The clergy of the parish provides pastoral care before, during, and after the experience of death. Their ministry is augmented by strong lay presence and involvement from our pastoral teams and committed laity. The entire parish extends love, support, and prayers at the time of death.

Funerals are scheduled through the clergy. A priest will meet with you to arrange the time and discuss the details. This booklet has been prepared to assist in that process.

Our clergy officiate at funerals in the parish. Other clergy, who may be friends of the family, are of course, invited to assist.

CHURCH

St. Matthew Episcopal Church seats 200 comfortably in the nave. Additional space of up to 50 is available elsewhere in the nave and some additional chairs may be used.

Burials performed at St. Matthew Church are held in the Church. We do not perform funerals in individual homes, in gardens, at funeral homes, etc. without permission of the clergy in charge.

SETTING THE DATE AND TIME

Burials may be scheduled at St. Matthew by arrangement with the clergy in charge only. They may be scheduled throughout the year, *except* for the following days:

Holy Days:

- All Sundays
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day
- Epiphany
- Ash Wednesday
- Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Holy Saturday

Additional Holidays of the Parish:

- New Year's Day
- President's Day
- Memorial Day
- Fourth of July
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day & the Day after Thanksgiving

The choice of day and time of a funeral is important. The time is usually between 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.

PRAYER BOOK

All burials at St. Matthew are from the Book of Common Prayer. Each service includes a short homily.

THE EUCHARIST

The principal act of Christian worship is the Holy Eucharist. For baptized, practicing Christians, the Holy Eucharist at a funeral is an essential part of burial.

READINGS

If a *Life Transition Pre-Planning Guide* has not been previously filed by the deceased with the parish, the surviving family may wish to select Scripture readings and psalms suggested by the Book of Common Prayer. For Rite I Burial office, see page 469, and for Rite II, see page 491 or consult the Burial Readings Booklet at the church office.

MUSIC

If a *Life Transition Pre-Planning Guide* has not been previously filed by the deceased with the parish, the surviving family may select hymns and music at the time the priest calls on you. Our musicians provide the music for the liturgy from the Episcopal Hymnal or other sacred resources in consultation with the clergy.

Since the burial is a service of worship, music appropriate to that occasion needs to be selected.

RECEPTIONS

The parish hosts an informal reception for the family and friends of the departed in consultation with the clergy as arrangements may vary between events.

FEES

As a ministry of love and hospitality in the name of Jesus Christ, there is no fee for the use of the Church. Any fees for musicians (instrumental or vocal) who are used above and beyond the church musician (i.e. pianist) are the responsibility of the family of the departed. Any additional costs such as flowers for the altar and food for the reception are negotiable in consultation with the clergy and Altar Guild.

No fee is collected or expected by the clergy or church musicians for the services of ministry. Any honoraria is under the sole discretion of the family of the departed.

FLOWERS

The family may wish to supply flowers for the Burial liturgy. This is arranged through our Altar Guild. One large arrangement may be placed on the “re-table” behind the altar. Other flower arrangements sent to the church by friends are kept in the in the parish hall for the reception.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

St. Matthew Episcopal Church maintains a Memorial Garden for cremated remains. Cremated remains are usually buried in sanctified ground and are preferably not scattered. Whatever the case may be, the clergy are eager to discuss the final disposition of the body and provide recommendations for its Committal with great care and flexibility.

FUNERAL PLANNING IN ADVANCE

It is fitting and proper for the Christian to plan his or her funeral in advance. The clergy desire to help you make the necessary arrangements. It is not uncommon to select a funeral home in advance to work with you. The clergy keep on file those who have planned their funerals in advance. If you wish to do so, simply make an appointment with one the clergy in charge and discuss your questions and concerns. A form will be prepared for your files and ours that will detail your wishes at burial.

AT TIME OF DEATH

For those who have a death in the family, the clergy are eager to be of assistance. They will be glad to come to your home to discuss details. The clergy will give special consideration to the thoughts and concerns of the family, as well as any known wishes of the deceased in the funeral arrangements. Family involvement in the planning process is encouraged.