

Burials at St. Dunstan's

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.

The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, 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."

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

The death of a loved one, whether sudden or unexpected, after a long illness, or having lived a natural life span is a traumatic time in the lives of those left behind. While still grieving, families and loved ones are called upon to make decisions with little time to prepare. We welcome all who seek burial from St. Dunstan's and within the Episcopal tradition. The following is meant to facilitate the planning of a burial, with guidelines and policies designed to simplify the process for family and friends. There are provisions in the Book of Common Prayer for the appropriate readings, psalms, and hymns for a service. These options are included in the following pages.

We at St. Dunstan's stand ready to assist you in making decisions for a meaningful service. With that in mind, all arrangements for a funeral at St. Dunstan's should be made in consultation with the rector.

The Burial Service

Following a death and prior to meeting with the funeral home, surviving family and/or those responsible for making arrangements should contact the Church. This is especially important if no prior planning or contact has been made with a funeral home. The rector will help guide you in making appropriate and reasonable decisions regarding the service.

Selection of a time for the service should be based on the needs of the family and the availability of the Church. This should be done in consultation with the rector prior to establishing a day and time with the funeral home.

St. Dunstan's uses The Book of Common Prayer for all services. The selection of hymns, prayers, scripture and other details of the service is done in consultation with the clergy. Any homily, remembrance, eulogy, will be delivered by the clergy.

The coffin or cremains may be in place at the church. A coffin is always closed in the church and is covered with a pall (a white hanging placed over the casket instead of flowers). A container with cremains is covered with a smaller pall. The use of a fabric pall signifies the equality each individual has in the eyes of God. In the case of a veteran of the Armed Forces, the American Flag may be used.

Cremation is an acceptable practice within the Episcopal Church. The church's recommendation is to have the cremains present at the funeral. Please coordinate the delivery of ashes to the church with the rector. St. Dunstan's also has a Columbarium for the burial of members of the Parish and their relatives.

Participating Clergy

The rector is the appropriate priest to preside at the burial rite. If an Episcopal priest other than one from St. Dunstan's parish is desired to assist (or officiate), the permission and invitation of the rector is required according to The Canon Law (Title III, Canon 21, Section 5a).

Readings from Scripture

During the service, one to four readings from the Bible are read. You may choose a reading from the Old Testament, a Psalm (read by the congregation), an Epistle, and a reading from the Gospels. The rector will assist you in selecting the readings. If the family would like a family member or friend to read a lesson, please take into careful consideration the emotional state of that person in respect to the deceased. The following readings are those authorized for The Burial of the Dead:

Old Testament:

Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever) 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 hands of God) But 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 said, "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."

Psalms

Psalm 23 The Lord is my Shepherd Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and my salvation
Psalm

42:1-7 As the deer longs for the water brooks Psalm 46 God is our refuge and strength

Psalm 90:1-12 Lord, you have been our refuge Psalm 106:1-5 Hallelujah! Give thanks to
the Lord

Psalm 116 I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice

Psalm 121 I lift my eyes to the hills Psalm 130 Out of the depths have I called

Psalm 139:1-11 Lord, you have searched me out

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 In fact 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 which 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 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) 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) 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."

Gospel

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 to the people, "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, Lazarus, 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, "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."

Burial Music

There is a wealth of beautiful and appropriate sacred music that is suitable for use in the context of the Burial of the Dead. We recommend one to three hymns be sung, if music is desired. Suitable times for hymns are in the opening procession; before the Gospel reading; as the altar is prepared; during Communion; at the final procession into the world. The organist of St. Dunstan's will play the organ, if she is available. An honorarium given directly to her is acceptable. If musicians [soloists or instrumentalists] other than the church organ are used, the organist of St. Dunstan's will coordinate the hiring of such persons. Fees for such services will be paid directly to the musicians.

Some hymns appropriate for the Burial of the Dead

208 The strife is o'er	645 The King of love
93 I sing a song of the saints of God	662 Abide with me
314 Humbly I adore Thee	671 Amazing grace!
324 Let all mortal flesh keep silence	680 O God, our help in ages past
383 Fairest Lord Jesus	690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah
473 Lift high the cross	691 My faith looks up to thee
474 When I survey the wondrous cross	707 Take my life
490 I want to walk as a child of the light	708 Savior, like a shepherd lead us
608 Eternal Father, strong to save	

Reserved Seating

Pews will be reserved at the front of the church for the family and for pall bearers. If there will be a coffin present, please let the rector know ahead of time how many pallbearers there will be. Please also let the rector know how many family members will be seated in the reserved area.

Flowers at the Service

Two floral arrangements inside the Nave (Sanctuary) are appropriate, but are not required. If the family chooses to have flowers, please let the church know and we can deliver the vases which fit our brass flower stands to the florist of your choice. Please do not order flowers before this contact has been made. Additional flowers delivered to the church prior to the burial service will remain in the Narthex or McDowell Room.

Members of the family will be seated prior to the beginning of the service. The clergy will enter in an appropriate liturgical procession from the back of the Church. This will be explained and discussed by the rector in the course of preparations for the funeral

Service Leaflets

It is our policy that service leaflets for the funeral be produced by St. Dunstan's.

Guest Book

In most cases, a guest book is provided by the funeral home, but is not required.

Ushers

Ushers fulfill two important responsibilities: seating of guests, and ushering of the congregation to the Altar Rail to receive Holy Communion. We will provide ushers at all funerals.

Memorial Gifts

The family may want to consider designating the Church, or another charitable organization or cause to which donations may be made in lieu of flowers. Gifts to the church are placed in the memorial fund for upkeep and maintenance to the building.

At the Graveside/Columbarium

The Committal service is brief and is usually held following the service. Family and friends may choose for this to be a private service or may open the service to all. Military honors are always a welcome part of the Committal Service.

Visitation and/or Reception in the McDowell Room

Families are welcome to use the McDowell Room before or after the service to receive visitors. Upon request, St. Dunstan's Mary and Martha Guild will arrange for a simple reception that includes coffee and water. If more food is desired, the family can contact a local caterer, at their own expense.

If a floral arrangement centerpiece for the reception table is desired, those arrangements will need to be made through a florist. Displays of pictures of the deceased and other memorabilia may be displayed on a table in the McDowell Room.

Fees

There is no fee for use of the church for a burial from St. Dunstan's. A donation made to the church is appropriate, if the family feels so moved.

A Statement for the Guidance of my Parish and Family

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised. The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, 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." This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

- *The Book of Common Prayer p. 507*

Services are to be conducted at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, in Auburn, Alabama or:
_____ (Parish Church), (City or Town).

If in another location, the Funeral Director will be told: "The parish priest will be in charge of the services and all related arrangements. It is my desire that the services be conducted as instructed by the parish priest and as provided in the Book of Common Prayer. The priest will make selections when no preference is expressed below."

1. Full Name _____
Date of birth: _____

2. Please use ____ The Burial of the Dead: Rite One (BCP p. 469)
____ The Burial of the Dead: Rite Two (BCP p 491)

3. I would like a Visitation before (or after) the Service __ Yes __ No
Location: Church ____ Funeral Home ____ Other ____

4. Music Please list any hymns you would like sung:
Other music:

5. The Liturgy of the Word (Please choose from the following category) One or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read. If there is to be a Communion, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings.

a. Old Testament

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

_____ Isaiah 61: 1-3 To comfort those who mourn

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

_____ Wisdom 3: 1-5,9 The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God

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

Choice of Reader: _____

b. Psalms

_____ Psalm 23 The Lord is my Shepherd

_____ Psalm 27 The Lord is my light and my salvation

_____ Psalm 42:1-7 As the deer longs for the water brooks

_____ Psalm 46 God is our refuge and strength

_____ Psalm 90:1-12 Lord, you have been our refuge

_____ Psalm 106:1-5 Hallelujah! Give thanks to the Lord

_____ Psalm 116 I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice

_____ Psalm 121 I lift my eyes to the hills

_____ Psalm 130 Out of the depths have I called

_____ Psalm 139:1-11 Lord, you have searched me out

c. New Testament

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

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

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

_____ 1 John 3: 1-2 We shall be like him

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

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

Choice of Reader _____

d. The Gospel

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

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

_____ John 10: 11-16 I am the good shepherd

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

_____ John 14: 1-6 In my Father's house are many rooms

6. Additional requests for the service:

7. I would like my remains

_____ 1) buried in a casket

_____ 2) cremated

_____ 3) donated for research

If cremated, do you wish for the ashes to be interred into the church columbarium?

_____ Y _____ N

If buried, name of cemetery where burial is to

occur: _____

I have received information about the church columbarium: _____ Y _____ N

8. Do you have any requests regarding military honors? _____

9. Do you have any preference with regard to memorial gifts?

10. Have you made arrangements previously with a funeral home? _____ Y _____ N

Name: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Phone: _____

11. My next of kin is (name, address, phone) Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

These instructions should be placed on file at the church and a copy given to a close friend or relative