

St. George's Episcopal Church

The Burial of the Dead



“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.” John 14:1-3

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

While we mourn with you the loss of our loved ones, we rejoice in the knowledge that they live in eternal life with Christ. The prayers of the entire parish family are with you at this time.

Services for members of the St. George's worshipping community and those to be interred in St. George's Columbarium may be held at the church, upon arrangement with the clergy. Our clergy stand ready to help you with the planning of services and suggestions for appropriate readings and hymns. The burial service can be found in the Book of Common Prayer (pages 468-489, for Rite I, and pages 490-505, for Rite II). Planning notes and a planning checklist can be found on pages 17-19.

If you do wish to have the services of an organist, a \$150 remuneration will be required. Vocal or instrumental soloists may be available, if desired; our organist, Stephen Karr, will assist with those arrangements and with coordinating those persons, and he will advise of the remuneration for each.

Our Daughters of the King will provide coffee, water and very light refreshments in the library for a visitation before or small family reception following the service. For larger gatherings which require the use of the Parish Hall, a \$150 remuneration is offered for our sexton, for set-up and clean up. The family will need to arrange for a caterer to bring in refreshments as well as cleaning up afterwards.

Our Flower Guild will create a floral arrangement for the church; a \$75 donation is requested.

St. George's clergy will officiate at all services held at St. George's Church. Guest clergy who are friends or members of the family may be invited to take part in services which are held at St. George's, upon consultation with the Rector.

St. George's clergy may be available to officiate at services for family members of parishioners which are held at funeral homes or chapels. The family should contact the clergy as soon as possible in order to make arrangements for the services.

Appropriate Lessons

From the 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-matured wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured 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 for ever.
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 broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, 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 for ever.

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)

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 for ever!
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.
My heart faints within me!

From the New Testament

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

For 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)

But 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 dishonour, 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.'⁶

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 labour is not in vain.

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

So 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)

After this 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 worshipped God, singing, ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever 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 centre 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)

And 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; 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.

The Gospel

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

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, 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 judgement, because he is the Son of Man.

John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to you)

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)

‘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 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)

'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.'

Psalms which may be included after the readings are

Psalm 42:1-7

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When shall I come and behold the face of God?

My tears have been my food day and night,
while people say to me continually, 'Where is your God?'

These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:

how I went with the throng,

and led them in procession to the house of God,

with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts;
all your waves and your billows have gone over me.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Selah

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Selah

Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.
'Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.'
The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Selah

Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust, and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.'
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end like a sigh.
The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due to you.
So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Psalm 139:1-12

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night',
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!
'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!' Your face, LORD, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!
If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.

Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.
Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!

Psalm 106:1-5

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD, or declare all his praise?
Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

Remember me, O LORD, when you show favour to your people;
help me when you deliver them;
that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that I may glory in your heritage.

Psalm 116

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the LORD: 'O LORD, I pray, save my life!'

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.
The LORD protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.
Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.

I walk before the LORD in the land of the living.
I kept my faith, even when I said, 'I am greatly afflicted';
I said in my consternation, 'Everyone is a liar.'

What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,
I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.
O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid.
You have loosed my bonds.
I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.
I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD!

Planning Notes:

If a family member would like to speak on behalf of the family at the service, it is strongly encouraged that the person speak before the service actually begins from prepared statements. It is preferable that the person speak from the ambo in the church (or from a lectern at a funeral home or chapel).

Family members or friends of the family may take part in the service by reading the lessons or bringing forward the oblations (bread and wine) at the offertory.

Some traditional familiar hymns include:

A mighty fortress is our God (Hymnal 688)

Abide with me (Hymnal 662)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound (Hymnal 671)

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord (Hymnal 178)

Lift high the cross (Hymnal 473)

My shepherd will supply my need (hymn setting of Psalm 23; Hymnal 664)

The King of love my shepherd is (hymn setting of Psalm 23; Hymnal 645, 646))

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want (hymn setting of Psalm 23, to *Brother James' Air*)

How lovely is thy dwelling place (hymn setting of Psalm 84, *Brother James' Air*; Hymnal 517)

O God, our help in ages past (Hymnal 680)

How Great Thou Art (LEVAS 60)

Great is thy Faithfulness (LEVAS 189)

Planning Checklist:

Burial – Location _____

Cremation – ashes to be interred:

_____ (If St. George's Columbarium, is there a contract?)

Service to be held at (church, funeral home, gravesite, other): _____

Visitation: _____

Speaking on behalf of the family _____

Lessons (The service may include one or more of the following: a reading from the Old Testament, the New Testament, a Psalm, and a Gospel reading. A Gospel reading is required if there will be Communion.):

Family members/friends as readers

Old Testament: _____

Psalm: _____

New Testament: _____

Gospel: _____

Rite I: _____

Rite II: _____

Eucharist: _____ Yes _____ No

Oblationers: _____

Hymns:

Opening Hymn: _____

Sequence Hymn (before the Gospel lesson): _____

Hymns at Communion: _____

Closing Hymn: _____

Pallbearers:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Memorials: Memorials may be made to the following:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Fees:

_____ If you do wish to have the services of an organist, a \$150 remuneration will be required. Vocal or instrumental soloists may be available, if desired; our organist will assist with those arrangements and with coordinating those persons, and will advise of the remuneration for each.

_____ Our Daughters of the King will provide coffee, water and very light refreshments in the library for a visitation before or small family reception following the service. For larger gatherings which require the use of the Parish Hall, a \$150 remuneration is offered for our sexton, for set-up and clean up.

_____ Our Flower Guild will create a floral arrangement for the church; a \$75 donation is requested, and your check may be made payable to St. George's Episcopal Church.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Children's Chapel

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf, *Bishop of West Tennessee*
The Rev. Dr. Dorothy White, *Interim Rector*
The Rev. Amanda McGriff, *Assisting Priest (Part Time)*



ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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