

St. David's United Church
Celebration of Life Service Brochure



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*Growing and Deepening our Spiritual lives in an Affirming and
Inclusive Community*

Celebrating God's Presence

"In Life, in Death, in Life Beyond Death"

The death of a loved one is a time to recall the miracle of life, to give thanks for the life of the deceased, and to mourn the loss. The Bible reflects many emotional responses to the reality of death, including anger, denial, guilt, lament, resignation, thanksgiving, and trust.

Our hearts and prayer are with you during this recent loss. St David's United Church and its ministers are available to assist you and your family in your time of grief. We hope that the information in this brochure will be helpful as you plan Celebration of Life service. The ministers and staff of St. David's will assist you to design the kind of ceremony which will be meaningful to you, your family and friends. At the time of death the minister can meet with the family to plan the service.

Empowered by Christ's compassion and promise of new life, the Christian church helps people face the event of death, consoles the bereaved, celebrates the life of the deceased, and offers thanks to God. In some situations, this may be a time to acknowledge the pain caused by any unresolved issues with the person who has died, and an opportunity to give expression to anger or disappointment. In all situations the reality of loss needs to be acknowledged. In a Christian funeral the promise of hope is to be proclaimed: "In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone."

Whether the service is held at the church or at a funeral home of your choice we will work with the Funeral Director to ensure a meaningful worship time. We assure you of our support and prayers.

Some Key Questions

- ❖ Do you wish to use the church sanctuary **or** do you wish to have the service in the chapel at the funeral home? If a large attendance is expected, the funeral home may be unable to accommodate the congregation.
- ❖ For a Celebration of Life service the casket may be present or not. Do you wish to have the urn present in the case of cremation?
- ❖ Do you wish to have “visiting hours” the day before the funeral?
- ❖ What music do you wish to have? This includes music at the beginning of the service, singing of hymns, solos by a friend or a church soloist, other special requests such as a bagpiper player and music at the end of the service.
- ❖ What scripture passages do you wish to have read? Is there someone special you wish to do the reading?
- ❖ Do you wish to have a friend or family member share their memories of the deceased - remembrance?
- ❖ Do you wish to have a meditation by the minister?
- ❖ Do you wish to create a “memory table”?
- ❖ Do you wish to have a digital photo presentation?

Your response to these questions will provide the basics for the development of an appropriate service.

Other Considerations

There are some other considerations which need to be discussed with the church and/or the funeral director.

- ❖ If the casket is present for the service, it is important to consider pallbearers. This will require lifting the casket and carrying it to the hearse and from the hearse to the graveside.
- ❖ At a service the family may wish to recognize persons who have been important to the loved one. They do this by naming these persons “honorary” pallbearers. They sit together and precede the casket out of the sanctuary.
- ❖ You may wish to collect and display symbols and photos on a “memory table” at the service or at the reception.
- ❖ In the service the family may wish to light candles or place flowers.
- ❖ If young children are present you may wish to have the minister offer a time in the service for them.
- ❖ In the case of cremation, it is becoming common not to have a graveside committal. If so the service is “complete” at the sanctuary or funeral home and the minister commits the soul to God and prays as he or she would at the graveside.
- ❖ Funeral homes often produce funeral pamphlet at the request of the family. These usually have the picture of the deceased and an outline of the service.

Reception

After the service many people wish to have a reception. This is helpful because it allows families and friends to gather and share stories and memories, and offer support to one another.

St. David's has rooms available to host receptions of various sizes. We have a commercial kitchen as well as tables and chairs. St. David's does not offer catering but will supply coffee/tea, sugar, cream, napkins and other such necessities. You are welcome to use our facilities and engage your own caterer. Please let us know if you want to use the church for your reception.

What Will St. David's Do?

We will provide the following services and personnel. Fees will be reviewed with you when you meet with the minister.

THE MINISTER will offer pastoral care and meet with the family upon notification of the death of the loved one to discuss all aspects of the service and plan it together. The minister will also work with the funeral home to ensure that the arrangements are handled with care. The minister will conduct the service and will also go to the cemetery for the committal. Our ministers will be available for any follow-up which may be needed or requested.

THE MUSIC DIRECTOR will provide music before, during and after the service as is needed or requested by the family. If there is a soloist, the music director will rehearse with and accompany the soloist.

THE SOUND AND PROJECTION PEOPLE will run the soundboard and provide projection of hymns and photo memories during the service.

LIVE STREAMING is available if you wish to provide people who are unable to attend with the opportunity to tune in from home.

A RECEPTION HOST will be needed, if you choose to have a reception at the church, to set up and remove tables & chairs and to clean afterwards.

A SOLOIST will sing the solos and lead the congregational singing of hymns.

Sample Order of Service

Musical Prelude _____

Scripture Sentences _____

Greeting and Words of Welcome

Prayer

Hymn or Solo _____

Scripture _____

Meditation

Tributes (Eulogy)

Photo Memory Tribute (this can be shown at the beginning)

Prayer

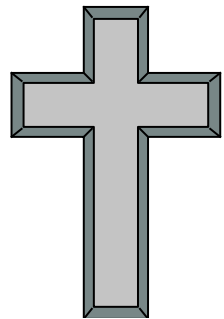
The Lord's Prayer

Hymn or Solo _____

Commendation and Blessing

In Lieu of Flowers

Sometimes families wish to suggest a charity in lieu of the donation of flowers. St. David's has a Foundation which is pleased to receive charitable donations. Cheques should be made payable to **St. David's United Church or St. David's United Church Foundation of Calgary**. Tax receipts and acknowledgements are issued.
Low scent flowers only please.



SCRIPTURE

Many families leave the selection of scripture readings to the minister. If you wish to select Bible readings, you may find the following suggestions helpful.

Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament)

Ecclesiastes	3:1-15
Isaiah	25: 6-9
Isaiah	40: 6-11
Isaiah	46: 3-10, or *28-31
Lamentations	3:17-26, 31-33
Wisdom of Solomon	3:1-9
Psalms	*23, 46, 90, 103, 116, 121, 130, *139

Christian Scriptures (New Testament)

Romans	5:1-11
Romans	6:3- 9
Romans	8:26, 28, 31-33, 35, 37-39
Matthew	11:25-30
Matthew	18:*1-5, 10-14
Matthew	25: 31-40
John	6:*1-14, 35-40
John	11:21-26a
John	14:1-6, 18-19, 25-27

Scripture for A Child's Service

Mark	9:33-37
Mark	10:13-16
1 Timothy	4:11-16
1 John	3:1-3

HYMNS

Hymns provide an opportunity for all present to actively participate in the service. If you do not have a favorite hymn or hymns in mind, the following suggestions from Voices United may be helpful.

VU 375	Spirit of Gentleness
VU 267	Like a Mighty River Flowing
VU 271	There's A Wideness In God's Mercy
VU 664	What a Friend We Have In Jesus
VU 684	Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
VU 808	On Eagles Wings – Psalm 91
VU 409	Morning Has Broken
VU 226	Amazing Grace
VU 703	In the Bulb There Is a Flower
VU 652	Be Still My Soul
VU 238	How Great Thou Art
VU 232	Joyful, Joyful We Adore You
VU 436	Abide With Me
VU 642	Be Thou My Vision
VU 651	Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Jehovah
VU 670	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
VU 710	Shall We Gather at the River
VU 747	The Lord's My Shepherd – Psalm 23
VU 159	The Strife is O'er
VU 959 or 960	The Lord's Prayer
VU 433	Day Is Done
VU 586	We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection
VU 380	She Flies On
VU 182	Stay with Us through the Night
VU 658	O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go
VU 644	I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry
VU 497	Nearer My God To Thee
VU 173	Thine Is the Glory
VU 288	Great Is Thy Faithfulness
VU 509	Here I Am Lord (I the Lord of Sea and Sky)
VU 563	Jesus, You Have Come To the Lakeshore

More Voices

MV 17	God in the Darkness
MV 125	When a Grain of Wheat

HYMNS FOR A CHILD'S SERVICE

VU 270	Dear Mother God
VU 713	I See a New Heaven
VU 703	In the Bulb There Is a Flower
VU 583	Jesus Came, a Child like Me
VU 570	Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands
VU 232	Joyful, Joyful We Adore You
VU 684	Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
VU 632	O Blessed Spring
VU 182	Stay with Us through the Night
VU 647	Travel On, Travel On
VU 365	Jesus Loves Me

Dealing with Grief

There are a variety of resources available. Printed resources are available which you may find helpful. One example is "Understanding Your Grief – Ten Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart", by Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt. You may wish to talk with your minister, a counselor or a friend who has experienced the death of a loved one. You may also wish to attend a grief support group offered regularly by St. David's United Church.

People who have experienced grief have made the following suggestions. Postpone important decisions such as moving. Accept invitations from friends. Return to church and other functions; the longer you postpone renewing former acquaintances and activities the more difficult it becomes. Don't expect that your emotions will level out in a few weeks. Grieving is important and takes time. Be assured God's grace is with you.

A NEW CREED

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

FEES

Minister

Honorarium

An honorarium can be paid directly to the Minister.

Memorial Service:

\$450

(includes organist,
building rental, reception host
& sound technician)
Coffee/tea & juice are supplied.
(Food for the reception is not).

Optional Cost:

Soloist	\$100
Projection	\$50
Live Streaming	\$150

Please direct any questions or concerns to the minister or Office Manager at 403-284-2276.

Payment can be made via cash, cheque or etransfer to admin@sduc.ca. Please make the password **funeral**.

