

# PLANNING FOR THE FINAL CELEBRATION OF LIFE

The best possible person to plan your funeral is you.

This outline is an effort to help congregants of All Saints Episcopal Church to understand the choices available to them. It has been designed in two parts to guide you through a process. We recommend that you give the Church one copy to keep on file; another to your family; a third to your attorney; and keep a fourth with your will.

## PART A: PLANNING THE FUNERAL

Each of us will die. When we die, it falls to members of our family, friends, distant relatives, or total strangers to plan our services and burials.

Planning such things when you are grieving is both hard and time-consuming. Often members of the surviving family live far apart and have never discussed these matters.

When the time for planning comes they can have very different ideas about what the deceased person would have preferred or about what would be appropriate.

The best way to avoid all this struggle, and even disagreement about what should be done, is to make your own plans. It is a very thoughtful gift both to your family and to yourself. You simply leave written instructions saying, "This is what I prefer."

Before planning the service, with its many options, it will be helpful to your family if you provide certain preliminary information:

1. Do you wish to be buried in a casket? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you prefer to be cremated? \_\_\_\_\_ (Do you wish direct cremation?) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you wish to have a viewing? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Once the casket is closed at the Funeral Home, it will not be reopened at the Church)
4. Who should be notified of your death?  
(In addition to family and friends, list Social Security, pension funds, especially military pension funds, insurance companies, organizations, schools and colleges, professional and other associations known only to you.)

By Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

By mail: \_\_\_\_\_

use a separate sheet if necessary

5. Are you entitled to military honors? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, where are your discharge papers? \_\_\_\_\_
6. If you own a burial plot, where is the deed? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who do wish to conduct your funeral? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who should be invited to speak about you? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Is there anyone who should not be invited to participate or attend? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Have you made a will or created a revocable trust? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Does your will make prudent provision for the well being of family, with clear directions about the guardianship of any minor children, and the arrangements for their nurture and education? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Does your will or trust leave bequests for charitable purposes, including All Saints? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Where are your will and other important papers? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Where is your security box and where is the key? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Where is your passport? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Do you have valuable papers that need to be kept? \_\_\_\_\_  
Where are they? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Where are bank books, stock certificates, titles and deeds of ownership? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Have you compiled a list of valuable and/or treasured items and their proposed recipients apart  
From your will?  
Where is that list? \_\_\_\_\_
19. Whom have you designated as your executor? \_\_\_\_\_
20. Does anyone have any outstanding obligations to you about which your family or executor should  
be aware? \_\_\_\_\_
21. Who has your Power of Attorney? \_\_\_\_\_
22. Have you made an "advanced directive/living will" and/or healthcare proxy? \_\_\_\_\_  
Where is it? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who has copies? \_\_\_\_\_  
Who is your healthcare proxy? \_\_\_\_\_  
What is that person's telephone number? \_\_\_\_\_
23. Do you own property of which others may not be aware? \_\_\_\_\_  
Where is it? \_\_\_\_\_
24. Do you have partnerships in properties or businesses of which others may not be  
aware? \_\_\_\_\_  
Where are the corporate offices? \_\_\_\_\_
25. Do you have death benefits of which others may not be aware? \_\_\_\_\_  
Please list: \_\_\_\_\_

## PLANNING FOR THE FINAL CELEBRATION OF LIFE

### PART B: PLANNING THE SERVICE

The parish Priest would be happy to meet with you to assist in the planning of this Service. Burial Services at All Saints are generally from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979 utilizing Rite One found on page 469 or Rite Two beginning on page 491. The appropriate place for the Service is in the Church and typically in the context of the Holy Eucharist.

Your full name: \_\_\_\_\_

The date of your birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Which rite would you like us to use? (circle one)            RITE I (traditional)            RITE II (contemporary)

Do you wish a Funeral Service with body or cremains present? (circle one)            YES    NO

### Music

Within the service there are opportunities for the singing of several hymns. Please list your preferences from the Episcopal Hymnal 1982.

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### Readings and Prayers

There are normally three readings from the Bible interspersed with Psalms. The suggested Psalms, listed below from the Book of Common Prayer, need not be used in the order that they appear. Psalms do not have to be used at all.

1. The first reading is from the Old Testament or from the Apocrypha. Choose one of the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 25:6-9

\_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 61:1-3

\_\_\_\_\_ Lamentations 3:22-26; 31-33

\_\_\_\_\_ Wisdom of Solomon (Apocrypha) 3:1-5, 9

\_\_\_\_\_ Job 19:21-27a (the "a" means the first phrase in that verse)

2. Choose a Psalm:

42:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_; or 46 \_\_\_\_\_; or 90:1-12 \_\_\_\_\_; or 121 \_\_\_\_\_; or 130 \_\_\_\_\_; or 139:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_.

3. The second reading is from the New Testament. Choose one.

\_\_\_\_\_ Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39

\_\_\_\_\_ I Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44

\_\_\_\_\_ II Corinthians 4:16-5:9

\_\_\_\_\_ I John 3:1-2

\_\_\_\_\_ Revelation 7:9-17

\_\_\_\_\_ Revelation 21:2-7

4. Choose a second Psalm:

23 King James Version \_\_\_\_\_; or 23 Prayer Book Version \_\_\_\_\_; or 27 \_\_\_\_\_; or 106:1-5 \_\_\_\_\_; or 116 \_\_\_\_\_.

5. The Gospel. Choose one.

- John 5:24-27
- John 6:37-40
- John 10:11-16
- John 11:21-27
- John 14:1-6

6. The Homily/Sermon. The priest will preach on the Resurrection of the Dead.

7. Would you like The Apostle's Creed to be said? (circle one) YES NO

8. The Prayers of the People.

9. Would you like there to be Holy Communion? (circle one) YES NO

10. Other suitable prayers you might want to consider from the Prayer Book:

- The final collect on page 280
- Collect number 25, page 823
- Collect number 54, page 831
- Collect number 62, page 833
- Collect number 63, page 833
- Collect number 4, page 838
- Collect number 6, page 839

11. Any additional readings in the Burial Office or at the grave site committal:

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12. Additional requests:

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13. It would be helpful if you would attach a finished obituary or the outline of an obituary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Copies of this form should be given to your family, your attorney, your designated Executor and the church office at All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Boulevard, San Leandro, CA 94577.

If you need any assistance in completing this form, please do not hesitate to call the church's Priest.