



The Christian Funeral

Christ has promised: *"I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."* (John 14:18)

The scriptures promise that nothing can separate us from the love of God, not even death. (Romans 8:39) Country Club Christian Church stands ready to plan a service designed to comfort those who mourn and hold in grateful memory a loved one. To that end, we have provided a list of scripture readings and hymns, as well as answers to frequently asked questions. In addition, we have provided a list of books related to grieving that might be helpful now and in the future.

List of Suggested Scripture Readings

The Bible has much to say about God's promises related to death and resurrection. The following are passages that Christians have found meaningful in funeral services. If you have a favorite passage not listed here, be sure to visit with the clergy about other possible readings.

Old Testament

- Isaiah 25:6-10 God will swallow up death forever.
- Isaiah 40:28-31 Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.
- Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd.
- Psalm 46:1-5, 10-11 A very present help in trouble; be still and know that I am God.
- Psalm 90:1-10, 12 You have been our dwelling place in all generations; number our days
- Psalm 91 The one who dwells in the shelter of the Most High.
- Psalm 103 Bless the Lord, O my soul.
- Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills.
- Psalm 139:1-12 Where shall I go from your spirit?

New Testament

- Matthew 5:1-12a The Beatitudes, "Blessed are those who mourn..."
- John 6:37-40 I will raise them up on the last day
- John 11:38-44 Lazarus raised from the dead
- John 14:1-6, 25-27 Let not your hearts be troubled
- Romans 6:3-9 Baptized into Christ's death, raised to live with him
- Romans 8:31-39 Nothing can separate us from the love of God
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 Death is swallowed in victory
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 The comfort of Christ's coming again
- 1 John 3:1-3 We are children of God
- Revelation 21:1-4 A new heaven and a new earth; death will be no more

List of Suggested Hymns from *Chalice Hymnal*

Our hymnal contains many of the great hymns of the faith, including some more appropriate for the Christian funeral. If you do not see a favorite hymn, please directly contact the designated musician which will be provided to you by the clergy.

- Amazing Grace! No. 546
- Christ the Lord Is Risen Today No. 216
- Fairest Lord Jesus No. 97
- For All the Saints No. 637
- For the Beauty of the Earth No. 56
- Great Is Thy Faithfulness No. 86
- Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! No. 4
- I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry No. 75
- In the Bulb There Is a Flower No. 638
- Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee No. 2
- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling No. 517
- Precious Lord, Take My Hand No. 628
- There Is a Balm in Gilead No. 501
- When I Survey the Wondrous Cross No. 195
- What Wondrous Love Is This No. 200

Frequently Asked Questions

In a time of grief, persons often have many practical concerns. If you have questions not addressed here, please be sure to ask the clergy person from our church.

How do we determine the date/time of the service?

Please contact the clergy of the church who will check the availability of the worship space, reception space, parking space and clergy/musicians prior to confirming the time/date of the service. The main number is 816-333-4917.

How will bulletins be prepared?

The church will prepare and print a standard funeral bulletin. Information, such as participants, scripture readings, music titles and composers, photo, etc., must be received by the church at least 4 business days before the service. If the family prefers to print its own bulletin, please include the church information as follows: church logo (will be provided in jpeg, png or eps format by the church Communications office), and name and title of Country Club Christian Church clergy and musicians.

Can we have guest musicians for the service?

Country Club Christian Church has a staff of professional musicians who are here to counsel and serve. One of our music staff will provide the service music or delegate duties to a reliable sub. If a guest soloist (vocal or instrumental) is requested, please discuss this with the staff musician. An additional fee for the staff musician may be charged if extra rehearsal time is required. If you wish to have a referral for a soloist, our staff is glad to facilitate. Guest soloists are required to provide legally purchased PDF copies of their music (in the key they wish to perform) to our music staff by 48 hours prior to the service. Failure to do this may result in an additional fee.

Can another minister participate in the service?

Yes, the officiating minister at the church may invite another minister to assist in the service with readings, prayers or personal remarks. The officiating minister at Country Club Christian Church will deliver the message or homily/sermon.

What about flowers?

If a funeral home is involved, flowers may be delivered to the church and will be held until a representative from the funeral home arrives to arrange them. If no funeral home is being used, the church funeral guild will work with the family to arrange and display flowers. Families are encouraged to consider asking for donations to a cause or charity in lieu of flowers.

Our loved one served in the military. How can we acknowledge their service?

We support military honors at the graveside or the cemetery.

Who will help with logistics the day of the service?

If there is no funeral home personnel at the service, we can invite members of the funeral guild to assist with welcoming guests and distributing bulletins for the service.

Can memorial gifts be made in honor of my loved one?

Yes. Memorial gifts will go into the church's endowment (undesigned), which are used to support the church now and into the future. The Endowment Trustees disburse the funds according to the Declaration of Trust approved by the official Congregational Board. If donations are requested for a specific church ministry, please contact Rachel Clement (rachelc@cccckc.org), Director of Finance in advance. If you list a variety of causes as options for friends and family, such as your loved one's alma mater, a health-related 501(c)(3), or an animal shelter, the gifts should be made payable to the organization and sent to them directly.

It is recommended that a statement regarding memorial gifts be listed with the obituary and the service bulletin. Examples:

Memorial donations may be made to Country Club Christian Church.

Can there be an open casket?

Yes, if the funeral home personnel are here to assist.

In cases of cremation, what options are there for scattering the remains?

Our church has a columbarium where members and other persons associated with the congregation may be inurned. Please contact the church office for information regarding fees and availability.

Can the church host a service after the reception?

Receptions can be held before or after the service, or even the day before the service. The date and time will need to be checked against the church calendar before confirming. Simple receptions (example: cookies and beverages) can take place in the Parlor. A larger reception could be held in the Social Hall. The family is responsible for any food (cookies/desserts are ideal for all receptions), catering arrangements, and any associated costs. At this time, staff/volunteer capacity does not allow for the management of receptions beyond cookies/desserts.

Is it possible to display photos and other memorabilia at the reception?

Yes, we can set up tables and have easels available.

Can we show a slideshow?

The church has a screen in the parlor and in the Social Hall where a slideshow could be shown during a visitation or reception.

Please refer to the document entitled "*How to Arrange Tech Services for Funerals*"

Can the service be recorded?

Country Club Christian Church has the capacity to record and/or privately livestream funerals and memorial services.

Please refer to the document entitled "*How to Arrange Tech Services for Funerals*"

What are the expenses involved?

Facility Rental Charges (for non-members)	
Sanctuary or Chapel*	\$500
Social Hall (for receptions)**	\$350 (room) + \$300 (coordinator)= \$650
Parlor (for dessert receptions)**	\$150 (room) + \$200 (coordinator)= \$350
Facility Rental Charges (for members)	
Sanctuary or Chapel*	NO FEE
Social Hall (for receptions)**	\$300 (for event coordinator)
Parlor (for dessert receptions)**	\$200 (for event coordinator)
Technical Services	
Recording/Live Stream	\$400 full tech/\$200 audio only
Post-Production Work	\$60/hour
Honorariums	
Officiating	
Minister – suggested range	Optional (members) and \$500 (non-members)
Organist – suggested range	\$300-400 (members and non-members)
Pianist – suggested range	\$300-400 (members and non-members)
Singers/instrumentalists	\$250-350 (members and non-members)

* Funerals in the sanctuary or chapel include service bulletins, easels, photo display tables, and funeral guild members to serve as greeters for the funeral service.

** Receptions in Social Hall/Parlor include funeral coordination services to plate **family-provided desserts**, as well as church-provided beverages (coffee, lemonade, water). In the Social Hall, the usage of church-provided tables, tablecloths and chairs is included in the space fee.

One check can be made to the Country Club Christian Church for the facility based on fees outlined above. Honorariums can be paid directly to the officiants and musicians or honorariums can be included with the facility rental fees.

Resources on Grief

When the funeral is over, the grieving process continues. This can be an especially hard time after family and friends leave. The following resources are recommended in hopes they help you on the journey ahead:

Nicholas Wolterstroff, *Lament for a Son*

Ann Weems, *Psalms of Lament*

C. S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*

Alan Wolfelt, *Understanding Grief: Helping Yourself Heal*

John ClaycCormackpool, *Tracks of a Fellow Struggler*

Jerusha Hull M, *Grieving: A Beginner's Guide*

Stephanie Ericsson, *Companion Through the Darkness: Inner Dialogues of Grief*

Harold Bloomfield, Melba Colgrove, and Peter McWilliams, *How to Survive the Loss of a Love*

New Testament Passages

Matthew 5:1-12a | When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

John 6:37-40 | ³⁷Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; ³⁸for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And 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. ⁴⁰This 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 11:38-44 | ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud

voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

John 14:1-6, 25-27 | ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ²⁵"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Romans 6:3-9 | ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

Romans 8:31-39 | ³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who 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. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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 15:51-58 | ⁵¹Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When 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." ⁵⁵"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸Therefore, 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.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 | ¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

John 3:1-3 | ¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.

Revelation 21:1-4 | ¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And 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; ⁴he 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."

Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Passages for Funerals

Isaiah 25:6- 25:10 | ⁶On 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. ⁷And 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. ⁸Then 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. ⁹It 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. ¹⁰For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain. The Moabites shall be trodden down in their place as straw is trodden down in a dung-pit.

Isaiah 40:28-31 | ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not be faint.

Psalms 23 | ¹The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely 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.

Psalms 46 | ¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; ³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Selah ⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. ¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.” ¹¹The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalms 90 | ¹Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. ²Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. ³You turn us back to dust, and say, “Turn back, you mortals.” ⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. ⁵You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; ⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. ⁷For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. ⁸You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. ⁹For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh. ¹⁰The 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. ¹²So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Psalms 91 | ¹You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, ²will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.” ³For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; ⁴he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. ⁵You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, ⁶or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday. ⁷A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. ⁸You will only look with your

eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. ⁹Be cause you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, ¹⁰no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. ¹¹For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. ¹²On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. ¹³You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. ¹⁴Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. ¹⁵When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. ¹⁶With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

Psalm 103 | ¹Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. ²Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits— ³who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, ⁴who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, ⁵who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. ⁶The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. ⁷He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. ⁸The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. ¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. ¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him. ¹⁴For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust. ¹⁵As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; ¹⁶for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. ¹⁷But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, ¹⁸to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. ¹⁹The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. ²⁰Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word. ²¹Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will. ²²Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Psalm 121 | ¹I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? ²My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. ³He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. ⁶The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Psalm 139 | ¹⁰ Lord, you have searched me and known me. ²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. ³You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. ⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. ⁷Where can I go from

your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? ⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. ⁹If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, ¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. ¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," ¹²even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.



The Christian Funeral Planning Guide

(This planning worksheet can be completed with the presiding clergy person)

How name should read on bulletin: _____

Date of Birth: ___/___/___

Date of Death: ___/___/___

Family Members to be acknowledged during service:

Scripture Selections:

Hymn Selections:

Minister and Musicians:

- Minister _____
- Organ/Pianist _____
- Singer/Soloist _____

Family members or friends to write/share tributes:

Would you like to include an opportunity for "Memorial Donations?"

Would you like more information about the Columbarium/Rose Garden?