

## Planning your Funeral

Planning your funeral is a gift to your family. It is one of the most loving things you can do for them. It will relieve them of some of the stress and burden of planning at a time when they will be weighed down with grief. So here are a few things to bear in mind:

1. Put all your wishes in writing. Be as specific and detailed as you can.
2. It's your party (so cry if you want to). Your tastes and preferences should take priority over those of other people. This is your chance to tell everyone who loves you what you consider important in life.
3. Do you want to be buried or cremated? From a Christian perspective, it makes no difference what happens to your body. One day it will be raised to transformed glory. If God is clever enough to do that, it doesn't matter whether your body is a handful of ash or an intact skeleton.
4. Would you like the liturgy to be from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), Rite 1 version (traditional language) or Rite 2 (contemporary language)?
5. Would you like the congregation to have a printed bulletin?
6. Would you like the congregation to take the Eucharist as part of the funeral service?
7. Chose two or three Bible readings. Unless you state otherwise, the readings will be from the New Revised Standard Version. However, you can choose from any of the popular modern translations. The readings can be from any parts of the Bible, but people often like to have a range from across the Old Testament, Gospels, and epistles. Choose readings that mean something to you and that have given you comfort or encouragement – this will help the preacher craft an inspiring sermon that is tailored for you personally. You will find a list of suggested readings in the BCP, pages 494-5. However, there is an entire Bible to choose from.
8. There will be a sermon unless you explicitly state that you do not want one. This will, indeed, be a sermon and not a eulogy, although it will reference your godly character.
9. You can choose a Psalm to be read or sung in addition to the other Bible readings. See BCP pages 494-5 for some suggestions.
10. You can include liturgy from outside the BCP as long as it is consistent with the theology of the BCP.
11. Chose two to four hymns. Generally, these should be from the 1982 hymnal, but well-known hymns from other sources can be included, as long as they are consistent with the theology of the BCP.