

Memorial Service Guide

THE
HOLY
BIBLE
EXON
STATION
ALVIN

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Regarding Funerals at First Methodist Church Alvin

“Blessed are those that mourn
for they shall see God.”

A worship service following the death of a loved one does at least two things: It enables us to face the reality of our mortality, and comforts us in the celebration of another reality—life after death in God. As one of our creeds declares, “In life, in death, in life beyond death, we are not alone. Thanks be to God!”

A service where the body of the deceased is present is called a funeral. A memorial service is appropriate when the body of the deceased is not present. Most of the services at First Methodist Church are called A Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance.

It is the commitment of the clergy and music leadership of First Methodist Church to claim and present a properly balanced and theologically sound experience for all who see God through worship at the time of death. To this end, the following are guidelines and suggestions that we offer to assist those who mourn, and those who look to tomorrow.

To the Family

While it will be the minister who guides you and your family through this important time, there are a few things that only the family of the deceased can do:

- It is best for one person to speak for the family with regard to decisions about the funeral.
- While friends and extended family certainly wish to help at the time of death, the staff will prepare, execute, and conclude the worship service.
- If there is a desire to have a reception at the church following the service, we will be happy to assist you in preparation. Roxann Corona will see to it that space for such a reception is scheduled. If the reception is to be catered, please let her know.
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- Music for the service, both choral and instrumental, must follow the same guidelines as for Sunday worship. Selections should be scriptural in nature and primarily focus on God, God's attributes, and giving thanks to God. Love songs, show tunes, school songs, etc. are certainly appropriate during the slide show.
- There are moments in a funeral for specific remembrances and thanksgivings by family and friends. Experience teaches us that two to three speakers with a combined length of 10 minutes is sufficient. We request that the personal words reflect the goodness and Christian virtues of the person.

Frequently Asked Questions

The following questions will help you with the decisions to be made and the planning to go more smoothly.

1. Do I want to hold the service at First Methodist Alvin?

- Graveside/interment occurs about one hour after the service.
- A pastor may officiate at another location (funeral home, graveside, etc.)
- Services are held in the Sanctuary.
- If you choose to have a service at the funeral home or at the graveside, then that needs to be cleared only with the funeral home and the pastor conducting the service.

2. When can I have the service?

- Monday 1-3 pm Tuesday, Friday 10 am-3 pm, Saturday 10 am-2 pm

3. How soon after death should the service be scheduled?

- Service should be scheduled at least three days after death. If cremated, you can wait as long as necessary.

5. Obituary

- You may want to write an obituary for the Alvin Sun.

6. Can First Methodist Alvin provide a live stream for the service?

- Yes. Live stream is available for an additional \$75 fee if there are family or friends unable to attend the service in person. Please let the Bereavement Coordinator know if you'd like the live stream to be set up.

7. Is there a fee for the service?

- While funerals are free of charge for members, there is a suggested donation of \$250.
- If you are not a member of the church, the cost is \$400.
- Please make your check payable to First Methodist Alvin. An honorarium for the minister is at the family's discretion and is to be given directly to him/her.

Elements of the Service

How do you want this service to feel?

What favorite songs or hymns might be sung or played?

Who would you like to sing or what would you like to have sung or played for the congregation?

What favorite scriptures or inspirational writings might be shared?

Who will talk / share in the service? (we recommend 2 persons total 10 min.)

What suggestions do you have about the order of the service?

How do you want the pastor to refer to the deceased?

Personal Information

Tell the pastor a little about his/her jobs and career.

(If married) How did the deceased meet his/her spouse?

What are some stories you recall about your years growing up?

What are some special vacation memories you'd like to share?

What were some of his/her notable accomplishments?

What are some funny stories you remember?

What are some of your fondest memories?

Personal Information

What made this person special/unique? What are examples to illustrate this?

What did you learn from this person's life? How did he/she make you a better person?

Did he / she have any favorite quotes or sayings?

What challenges did the deceased face, and how did he/she address them?

How can we use the deceased life as an inspiration?

Is there anything else that needs to be said to make the service complete?

Is there anything that you'd prefer not be mentioned?

Spiritual Life

What was his/her spiritual heritage—spiritual roots?

Do you know of any Bible verses or inspirational materials that have been marked, highlighted, written down, memorized, or quoted frequently?

May we use his/her Bible to prepare for the message and to use during the funeral/ memorial service?

Scripture Ideas

- Psalm 23 (Lord is my Shepherd)
- Psalm 130 (My soul waits for the Lord)
- Exodus 14 (Israel's deliverance)
- Isaiah 40 (Comfort my people, renew their strength like eagles)
- Isaiah 43 (God will deliver)
- Isaiah 55 (Hymn of joy)
- 1 Corinthians 15 (Where, O death, is your victory?)
- Revelation 21 (New heaven and new earth)
- 2 Corinthians 4 (Glory to God)
- Ephesians 1, 2 (Alive in Christ)
- Romans 8: 1-28 (Nothing can separate us from the love of God)
- 1 Peter 1 (Blessed by God)
- Revelation 7 (The multitude of the redeemed)
- John 14 (In my Father's house, many dwellings)
- Luke 24 (Jesus at Emmaus)
- John 11 (The raising of Lazarus)

Hymn Ideas

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Mighty Fortress is our God• Amazing Grace• Abide with Me• All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name• Be Still, My Soul• Be Thou My Vision• Breathe on Me, Breath of God• Christ the Lord is Risen Today• Come, Christians, Join to Sing• For All the Saints• God of Grace and God of Glory• Great is Thy Faithfulness• He Leadeth Me• How Firm a Foundation• How Great Thou Art• Hymn of Promise• In the Garden | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee• Just a Closer Walk with Thee• Love Divine, All Loves Excelling• My Hope is Built• O God, Our Help in Ages Past• Precious Lord, Take My Hand• This is My Father's World |
| | <p>Contemporary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I Can Only Imagine• In Christ Alone• Indescribable• On Eagle's Wings• You Raise Me Up |