

*Christian  
Service of  
Death &  
Resurrection*



**St. Luke's**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## **The Church's Ministry at Death**

As the church embraces us in our baptism and throughout our Christian life, it embraces us in our dying and death with the hope and assurance of resurrection to eternal life.

This booklet is intended to assist in the arrangements for a Christian Service of Death and Resurrection. The following items are covered:

- Contacting the Church
- Location of the Service
- Visitation
- Disposition of the Body
- A Service of Worship
- Flowers
- The Casket and Pall
- Order of Worship
- Practical Matters
- Service Worksheet

### **Contacting the Church**

If the death of a loved one is imminent and a pastor's presence is desired, call the church office at 317.846.3404. After office hours, please follow the prompts for connecting with a pastor.

When the death of the beloved has occurred, call the church and a pastor will be informed. When you call, please let them know where you are (hospital/home/elsewhere) and whether you want a pastor to meet you then.

### **Initial Church Contact**

To begin making arrangements for the Service, call the church and ask for the Pastor of Congregational Care. They will be responsible for details related to the church. The church's phone number is 317-846-3404.

### **A Service of Worship**

The Christian Service of Death and Resurrection is a witness to God's love that sustains us in our sorrow and celebrates the promise of eternal life. It is a testimony to God's promises in Jesus Christ, who went before us through death into new life. His resurrection gives us reason for hope.

## **Location of Service**

Church members are encouraged to hold the Service in the Sanctuary, Robertson Chapel or Columbarium. The Christian Service of Death and Resurrection is a worship service. God is the focus. The beloved and our grief are set within the context of the faith, hope and love that God's grace makes available to us.

The church is where the significant events and transitions in life are held. It is where the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion are received and where confirmation and marriage are celebrated. There we are surrounded by the symbols of our faith. It reminds us of the "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1) that has gone before us and surrounds us.

## **Service option:**

1. A worship service held within days/months after death in the Sanctuary, Chapel or Columbarium with the casket or urn present, followed by a burial service.
2. A memorial service without urn or casket may be held anytime.
3. A service may be held in the chapel of a funeral home with burial to follow.
4. A graveside service.

## **Visitation**

If the service is held in the Sanctuary or Chapel, visitation may be scheduled before and/or after the service. The visitation may take place in Fellowship Hall or the Community Room. If the service is held elsewhere, visitation times will be set in consultation with the funeral home.

## **Disposition of the Body**

Burial, cremation, or donation of the body to medical science are all appropriate options for Christians.

## **Flowers**

Flowers are limited to the altar unless other plans are made. Flowers left at the church after service will be donated.

## **The Casket and the Pall**

The casket or urn, if present during the service, shall be closed and covered with a "pall"; a large cloth covering, and is furnished by the church. It symbolizes our belief that in Christ we are "clothed" with glory. In Christ we surrender the old self under the influence of sin and are made new creations. The pall also expresses the Christian conviction that every child of God is valued regardless of our worldly status.

If you wish the pall to be used, the flower pall will be removed before the casket enters the sanctuary. The church's pall will cover the casket during the service. Upon leaving the Sanctuary, the flower pall or flag may again be placed on the casket.

You may also use a flower pall inside the Sanctuary. The flag is reserved and will cover the casket outside the Sanctuary.

## **Order of Worship**

The service may include the following elements:

### **Prayers**

The Lord's Prayer

### **Scripture Readings**

The family may specify passages that were meaningful to the beloved and are a source of comfort and hope for the family and community of faith. These may include readings from the Old Testament, Psalter, the Epistles and Gospel. Refer to page 10.

### **Hymns**

Again the family may suggest specific hymns in consultation with the pastor. Refer to page 10.

### **Music - Vocal and Instrumental**

The church organist or a pianist is available to play for the service. They will provide suitable music in consultation with the family.

### **Witnesses**

Persons are invited to express thanksgiving for the beloved.

### **Homily/Sermon/Message of Hope**

A service of death and resurrection has two purposes:

- 1) Express thanksgiving to God for the loved one that has died.
- 2) Affirm the promise of eternal life in Christ.

## **Creeds**

It is appropriate to use one of the Church's traditional creeds that affirm the faith of Christians. These may be found on page 13.

## **Holy Communion**

The Christian community gathers around the table of Christ to feed on that life which is abundant and eternal. Communion is served by intinction.

## **Military Honors**

Military honors will be observed at the burial site or outside of the sanctuary/chapel.

### **The following are elements of a typical service order:**

- Prelude
- Opening Words
- Greeting
- Hymn
- Prayers
- Old Testament Reading (Psalter)
- Music (Hymn)
- Witness
- Scripture (Epistle and/or Gospel)
- Homily
- Prayer
- The Lord's Prayer
- Creed
- [Holy Communion]
- Benediction
- Postlude

# PRACTICAL MATTERS

St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 317-846-3404

## Service Planning

The Pastor(s) will want to schedule a time to meet with as many family members as would like to attend\*. This needs to be scheduled as soon after the funeral home has been contacted.

## Charges

The service of death and resurrection is one of the Church's ministries. The remuneration is made to the church for Honorariums.

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Organist/Pianist.....        | \$200                                  |
| Soloist.....                 | \$150                                  |
| Audio Tech .....             | \$200                                  |
| Visual Tech (streaming)..... | \$200                                  |
| Clergy.....                  | (Honorarium)                           |
| Chef.....                    | Contact the front office: 317.846-3404 |

Outside musicians may have different fees, i.e. bagpiper, harpist, etc.

If streaming the funeral service, it will stream to: [stlukesumc.com/funeral](http://stlukesumc.com/funeral)

## Bulletin

A bulletin will be provided by the church for the service. A food reception is available through our chef or an outside caterer only.

## Pastors

\* Services held at St. Luke's will be directed by a St. Luke's pastor. Other pastors, United Methodist or of another denomination, may be invited to participate or preside.

**WORKSHEET (please prepare prior to meeting with clergy)**

**Service of Death and Resurrection**

Main Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Relatives who will help plan the service (points of contact, provide photo, review bulletin):

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Service

- Sanctuary (seating capacity 1,200)
- Chapel (seating capacity 400)
- St. Luke's Columbarium (20-25 people)
- Funeral Home: \_\_\_\_\_
- Community Room (seating capacity 50)
- Prayer Chapel (seating capacity 10-15)
- Sowers Garden (seating capacity 5-6)
- Burial after service
- Burial on another date
- No burial
- Cremation

Scripture passages to be read: (Page 10-12)

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Hymns to be sung: (Page 10)

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Hymns to be played: (Page 10)

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Special Music or Recorded Music:

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Witnesses (family or friends who will speak):

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Pastor(s) to participate:

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Liturgist(s)/Reader(s):

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To give sermon:

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Others:

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Pallbearers:

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Honorary Pallbearers:

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Planning Notes:

Arrival time of funeral home: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival time of family: \_\_\_\_\_

AV Needs:

- Pre-service slide show (provided by family or funeral home)
- Service streamed on St. Luke's website (will be recorded)
- Service recorded but not streamed

Anticipated attendance numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Set-up Needs:

- Easel for photo(s)
- Reserved seating, how many:
- Casket placement:
- Podium
- Pedestal for cremation urn

Other items to note:

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## APPENDIX

### Some Hymn Suggestions

- Hymn No. 77: *How Great Thou Art*
- Hymn No. 89: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*
- Hymn No. 117: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*
- Hymn No. 128: *He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought*
- Hymn No. 140: *Great is Thy Faithfulness*
- Hymn No. 159: *Lift High the Cross*
- Hymn No. 261: *Lord of the Dance*
- Hymn No. 292: *What Wondrous Love is This*
- Hymn No. 314: *In the Garden*
- Hymn No. 361: *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*
- Hymn No. 364: *Because He Lives*
- Hymn No. 378: *Amazing Grace*
- Hymn No. 369: *Blessed Assurance*
- Hymn No. 420: *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*
- Hymn No. 480: *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*
- Hymn No. 702: *Sing with All the Saints in Glory*
- Hymn No. 707: *Hymn of Promise*
- Hymn No. 711: *For All the Saints*

### Some Scripture Reading Suggestions

- Exodus 14:5–14, 19–31
- Isaiah 43:1–3a, 5–7, 13, 15, 18–19, 25; 44:6, 8a
- Isaiah 55:1–3, 6–13
- 2 Corinthians 4:5–18
- Ephesians 1:15–23; 2:1–10
- 1 Peter 1:3–9, 13, 21–25
- Revelation 7:2–3, 9–17
- Luke 24:13–35
- John 11:1–4, 20–27, 32–35, 38–44
- John 14:1–4, 18–19, 25–27
- 1 Corinthians 15:1–2a, 12, 16–18, 20, 35–38a, 42b–44, 54–55, 57
- Romans 8:1–2, 11, 14, 17–18, 28, 31–32, 35–39
- Revelation 21:1–7

## Lessons from the Psalter

### ☐ Psalm 23 (in unison)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths  
of righteousness for His name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;  
for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;  
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Amen.

### ☐ The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as  
we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### ☐ Psalm 121 (read responsively)

I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From whence does my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.  
My Lord will not let your foot be moved,  
the Lord who keeps you will not slumber.  
Behold, the One who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.  
The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.  
The Lord will keep you from all evil, and will keep your life.  
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and for evermore.

☐ **Psalm 121** (in unison) King James version

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.  
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord is thy keeper;

the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil;  
he shall preserve thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and  
thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

☐ **Psalm 130** (in unison) New Revised Standard version

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.  
Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you,  
so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!  
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities.

## Creeds

### **A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada** (in unison)

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 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. Amen.

### **Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed** (in unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **A Statement of Faith of the Korean Methodist Church, adpt.** (in unison)

**Leader: Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:**

We believe in the one God, maker and ruler of all things, the source of all goodness and beauty, all truth and love.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, our teacher, example and Redeemer, the Savior of the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort and for strength.

We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer and in grace equal to every need.

We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient rule both of faith and of practice.

We believe in the Church as the fellowship, for worship and for service, of all who are united to the living Lord.

We believe in the kingdom of God as the divine rule in human society, in the final triumph of righteousness and in the life everlasting. Amen.

## **GRIEF RESOURCES**

**GriefShare** - a 13-week study on Grief that helps you face the challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Contact Jan Kirk for more information at [jangraykirk@icloud.com](mailto:jangraykirk@icloud.com)

**Healing Under Grief Support (H.U.G.S)** offers comfort to those dealing with the loss of a spouse or partner. Meets Sundays at 1:00pm in the Community Room. Contact Jan Kirk at [jangraykirk@icloud.com](mailto:jangraykirk@icloud.com) to get connected

**Men's Grief Group** - This group provides support for men who have lost their spouses. Contact Bob Shive at [rlshive@yahoo.com](mailto:rlshive@yahoo.com)

**Stephen Ministry** - Stephen Ministry offers one-on-one for anyone going through a difficult time. All conversations are confidential. You meet privately with a trained Stephen Minister according to your schedule. For more info visit [stlukesumc.com/care](http://stlukesumc.com/care)

**Brooke's Place** - Brooke's Place provides support groups, therapy services and education to empower children, teens, young adults, and their families to thrive in the midst of grief. For more info visit [brookesplace.org](http://brookesplace.org)

***If you are interested in information about purchasing a niche in our columbarium, please contact the Care Team at 317-846-3404, if after regular business hours, when calling, please select option 4.***





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