

Planning for a Celebration of Life - Outline, Description, & Resource List

The outline below is based upon three main sources: the Book of Common Prayer (1979) and Enriching Our Worship 2 (2000) and 3 (2007). Combinations of these can also be used in concert with the flexible outline "An Order for Burial" in the Book of Common Prayer, p. 506. The links for these online sources are shared below this basic outline/structure, to help you choose from the several options. Biblical reading and hymn ideas are shared below that.

Basic Outline:

1. Service of the Word

Opening Anthem (spoken or sung poem) and/or an opening Hymn (Hymn ideas included at end of this guide)

(Book of Common Prayer (BCP), pp. 491-492 or Enriching Our Worship III (EOW), pp. 27-28)

Opening Prayers

(BCP pp. 493-494 or EOW pp. 29-31)

Readings – Most often there are three biblical readings, with one or two hymns/chants/instrumental music interspersed between. A list of reading ideas is included at the conclusion of this guide. Additionally

- A poem and/or favorite prose passage from another source can be one or more of the readings
- You can choose fewer readings than three
- If the service includes Communion, then the third passage should be from one of the Gospels
- If the family would like specific people to do the readings, please let us know and we will list them in the booklet

Homily and Eulogy/ies

- If the family would like someone specific to give the homily, please let us know
- In addition to a homily, a remembrance(s) / Eulogy(ies) can come during the service. If you would like that, please let us know who will give the eulogy so they can be properly listed in the booklet.
- If the family would like an open / unplanned time of sharing, that works best in the reception. We can set up a microphone for that if you'd like.

The Apostle's Creed (BCP p. 486) can follow the Homily and Eulogies – please let us know either way

Prayers of the People (+ The Lord's Prayer just prior, if service does not include Communion) (options at *BCP* p. 497 or *EOW* pp. 79-83)

- If there is a specific person the family would like to have lead the Prayers of the People, please let us know and we will list them in the booklet

Commendation if the service does not include Communion, then there is a prayer of Commendation at this point. If there is Communion, the Commendation comes at the end of the service. (*BCP* 499-500 or *EOW* 35-37)

2. Service of the Table / Communion

A Hymn, chant, or instrumental music can precede the Eucharistic Prayer

There are various Eucharistic Prayer options if you would like to choose (*BCP* pp. 361-363; 367-369; 370-372; 373-376; or *EOW I.* pp. 57-65)

A hymn, chant, or instrumental music can be shared during Communion

3. Commendation

The Celebrant stands before the casket or urn and leads prayers, commending to God the person who has died (*BCP* pp. 499-500 or *EOW* 35-37)

If no remains are present, then we bring the service to a close with final prayers (*EOW* pp. 70-78, or from other sources)

Celebrant offers a final blessing

Concluding hymn, chant, or instrumental music, if desired

4. Burial / Scattering of Ashes

- There is a separate, brief service that can take place at the graveside or the scattering of ashes (the Committal, *BCP* pp. 501-502 or *EOW* pp. 59-69). This can happen (and often does happen) at a later date.

Worship Language

The *Book of Common Prayer* 1979 can be found online:

<https://bcponline.org> (on the left, click "Pastoral Offices", then one of the "Burial of the Dead" options, near the bottom)

Enriching Our Worship vol. 2 can be found online at
<https://www.churchpublishing.org/siteassets/pdf/enriching-our-worship-2/enrichingourworship2.pdf>

Enriching Our Worship vol. 3 can be found online at
<https://www.churchpublishing.org/siteassets/pdf/burial-rites-for-adults-together-with-a-rite-for-the-burial-of-a-child/enrichingourworship3.pdf>

Photos, Obituary, Slide Show

- St. Aidan's often includes a photo of the person who has died on the cover of the booklet, and an obituary or brief narrative of the person's life on the inside cover or last page of the booklet. If you would like a photo(s) to be part of the booklet, we can help you scan a photo or you can email us one or more as attachments.

- If you would like to put together a slide show with photos of the person, we're happy to include that during the service, or before or after it – we have a projector and sound system if the slide show has music.

Biblical Readings for Funerals / Memorial Services / Celebrations of Life As suggested in the *Book of Common Prayer & Enriching Our Worship III*.

Hebrew Bible I (including Apocrypha)

Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever)
Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort those who mourn)
Daniel 12:1-3 (Those who sleep in the dust shall wake)
Lamentations 3:22-26,31-33 (The Lord is good to those who wait for him)
Job 14:7-9 (10-12) (Mortals die, and are laid low)
Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (For everything there is a season)
Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15 (God did not make death)
Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-5, 9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God)

Hebrew Bible II: Psalms

Psalms 23
Psalm 27
Psalm 42 (42:1-7)
Psalm 46
Psalm 90 (1-12)
Psalm 106
Psalm 116
Psalm 118 (14-29)

Psalm 121
Psalm 130
Psalm 139 (1-11)

New Testament Letters

Romans 6:3-9 (10-11) (So we too might walk in newness of life)
Romans 8:14-19,34-35,37-39 (All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God; The glory that shall be revealed)
Romans 14:7-9 (And if we die, we die to the Lord)
1 Corinthians 15:20-26,35-38,42-44,51-58 (The imperishable body)
2 Corinthians 4:16--5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)
2 Corinthians 5:1-9 (We walk by faith, not by sight)
1 Peter 1:3-9 (He has given us a new birth into a living hope)
1 John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)
Revelation 7:9-17 (God will wipe away every tear)
Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)

New Testament Gospels

Matthew 11:25-30 (Come to me, all you that are weary)
Luke 24:13-16 (17-35) (The road to Emmaus)
John 5:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life)
John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to you)
John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd)
John 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life)
John 14:1-6 (In my Father's house are many rooms)
John 20:11-18 (Mary encounters the risen Christ)

Hymn & Chant Ideas for Funerals / Memorial Services / Celebrations of Life

Various musical options, including videos or recorded music, are possible in addition to the below, and verses can also be subtracted or added.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, *The Hymnal 1982 #688*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tAq4IMDUT78>

Abide With Me, *The Hymnal 1982 #662*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SY3vSL3U53Q>

All Creatures of Our God and King (v. 6), *The Hymnal 1982 #400*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_RkzFZoxDo

All Glory Be To God on High, *The Hymnal 1982 #421*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVhVV1q_qtk

All Shall Be Well / Another World, Ana Hernandez and Fran McKendree

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OS0zew_5EIA

All Things Bright And Beautiful, *The Hymnal 1982 #405*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nykxi6IPBbE>

Almighty Father, Strong To Save (Navy Hymn), *The Hymnal 1982 #579*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Vrralljabo>

Amazing Grace, *Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) #181*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iou_pSEbEY

A Repeating Alleluia, Calvin Hampton

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVVPfuBSgL8>

You Shall Cross the Barren Desert (Be Not Afraid, I Go Before You Always), *Wonder, Love, and Praise (WLP) #811*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BltudBGj8dg>

Be Still And Know, Ana Hernandez

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33h9Fm16tnU>

Be Thou My Vision, *The Hymnal 1982 #488*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noBYWL2ZOyQ>

Breathe On Me, Breath of God, *The Hymnal 1982 #508*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIU-Uspbt7c>

By All Your Saints Still Striving, *The Hymnal 1982 #232*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnFx-t7qFz4>

City of God, *Gather #678*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXZTYV1Pq_M

Come Down, O Love Divine, *The Hymnal, 1982 #516*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMFIj8jysOQ>

Come, Labor On, *The Hymnal 1982 #541*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YA7Nh1hc994>

Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness, *The Hymnal 1982 #339*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7oU2xvCyio>

Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether, *The New Century Hymnal* #337

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4tIHVv3udQ>

For All the Saints, *The Hymnal 1982* #287

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbPshOGxpew>

For the Beauty of the Earth, *The Hymnal 1982* #416

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8F1qgbImO_g

Give Thanks for Life, *WLP* #775

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1KXstvmNf4>

God Himself Is With Us, *The Hymnal 1982* #475

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=igwxyKUDbUo>

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer, *The New Century Hymnal* #19

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlSF9nJt8Nc>

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name, *The Hymnal 1982* #366

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ytf_TlujPw

How Great Thou Art, *LEVAS* #60

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdE_NKY_o0

How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place, *The Hymnal 1982* #517

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rE6tyBiSTNM>

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God, *The Hymnal 1982* #293

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tFly-iUZKhU>

I the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord), *WLP* #812

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dy21OdFn2vM>

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, *The Hymnal 1982* #490

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ionKh1dL9o0>

It Is Well with My Soul, *LEVAS* #188

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oO4ox5qqEbg>

Jerusalem, My Happy Home, *The Hymnal 1982* #620

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhK_gQ7T_Y

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today, *The Hymnal 1982* #207

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9a41CvVEHw>

Lo, I Am With You, John Bell / Iona Community

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJX1lbsfy7Y>

Lord of All Hopefulness, *The Hymnal 1982 #482*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oOZqgLMAt18>

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, *The Hymnal 1982 #657*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQrNMJrgbyM>

Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Works, *The Hymnal 1982 #385*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHwcdQGelmI>

O God, Our Help in Ages Past, *The Hymnal 1982 #680*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FePzLRiHu-U>

O Laughing Light, *Songs For a Gospel People #101*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SONpZxLkCuk>

O Love of God, How Strong and True, *The Hymnal 1982 #456*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQ54sUVwhqQ>

Open My Heart

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-BDAS5DYa4>

O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God, *The Hymnal, 1982 #505*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NhLkJmwR5MQ>

O Thou Who Camest From Above, *The Hymnal 1982 #704*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3UYybc7XaO>

One Bread, One Body, *LEVAS #151*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_lofSwVdwM

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation, *The Hymnal 1982 #390*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YxI8hSFVwI>

Psalm 23 Bobby McFerrin version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9fzWq-d8jU>

She Flies On, Gordon Light

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fup0Wby0xRk>

Spirit of the Living Earth, life and death are one (Iverson / Rus)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BagH-zTfnsQ>

Take, O Take Me As I Am, *My Heart Sings Out* #46
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhXxhllrwAo>

The King of Love My Shepherd Is, *The Hymnal 1982* #645
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8XGtuvKWWw>

The Peace of the Earth Be With You, John Bell / Iona Community
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYsTzXby4vU>

The Spirit of the Lord Is Upon Me, *Songs for a Gospel People* #115

The Strife Is O'er, *The Hymnal 1982* #208
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu5Ctty9kiA>

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy, *The Hymnal 1982* #469
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26ttkPAiuFA>

We're Marching to Zion, *LEVAS* #12
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTFM8lBYIz0>

When the Saints Go Marching In (various hymnals)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJc8F8mmbNw>

Will You Come and Follow Me / The Summons, Iona
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFXAmB_lq7k

Will You Come and Follow Me (different tune) *Wonder, Love and Praise* #757
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyPCMp3nk7w>

Ye Holy Angels Bright, *The Hymnal 1982* #625
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLfc8vxeXck>

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones, *The Hymnal 1982* #618
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3w4D3Atcdyw>

You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord, *WLP* #810
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LycFC-uZNA>