Shepherd's Gate Church
Funeral Packet

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Funeral Packet

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INFORMATION OVERVIEW

AT TIMES OF DEATH the intellectual side of us can be well-prepared but the personal and emotional side of us can crumble under the burden. The death of someone can be a time of disbelief, frustration, anger, uncertainty, self-doubt, and deep concern. These emotions find their way through our hearts and minds.

As people who believe in Jesus Christ we grieve, but not like those "who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). As believers in Jesus Christ we have the sure hope of the resurrection to comfort us and can say with confidence as Paul did, "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55).

The emotions we experience with the death of someone we care for, together with wanting to make the correct decisions in a limited amount of time, leaves many families feeling overwhelmed. Often these decisions must be made when we are grieving and are least prepared. This packet will help you get through the process of planning a funeral.

"What is Shepherd's Gate position on cremation?" Our position is that cremation has no theological significance and may be used in good conscience. Cremation is a matter of Christian freedom, and no Christian who chooses to have a loved one cremated should be led to think that such a decision is sinful or in opposition to the Bible.

We want you to know that we deeply care for you and are ready to help you if you ever find yourself in the position of having to plan a funeral. A Christian funeral is an opportunity to give witness to our faith in Jesus Christ's victory over death and His promise of the resurrection for eternal life (John 6:40,44,54). This funeral planning guide contains information you need to know for planning a funeral here at Shepherd's Gate.

THE FIRST THING YOU NEED TO DO is contact the church office to speak to one our pastors. If you are going to be working with a funeral home we suggest you do this **before** you go to the funeral home to make arrangements. This will allow us the ability to make sure the building is available for the day and time of the funeral if you are planning on having the service at Shepherd's Gate. If you are planning on having a service at the funeral home, contacting the church office first ensures that one of the pastors is available.

In either case, the officiating pastor will also make an appointment to meet with the family.

At this appointment he will help you select:

- Music
- Scripture verses
- Prepare an order of service

This funeral planning guide contains a sample order of service for the funeral service, music suggestion sheet, scripture help list, grief support group information and monetary considerations for you to review prior to the meeting.

We also have resources available to you for the days following the funeral. Our Care Program offers support through GriefShare, which is a support group for adults experiencing grief due to the death of a loved one. Video-based curriculum offers practical coping skills and education, while group environment offers support and encouragement. (See insert for more information.)

You may contact our Care Director at care@sgatechurch.org or by phone at 586.731.4544.

For questions or more information call the church office at 586.731.4544 and ask to speak to one of our pastors.

ORDER OF FUNERAL SERVICE - explanation

The officiating pastor will guide you through the planning of the service when he meets with you. The following sample order of service is intended to help assist in that planning. The funeral service is intended for the burial of those who have departed this life in the Christian faith. As such, the service is a celebration of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.

SAMPLE ORDER OF SERVICE

Remembrance of Baptism: Prior to entrance into the church a remembrance of Baptism will be read by the Pastor.

In Holy Baptism _____ was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all of his/her sin.
St. Paul says: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?" "We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His." – Romans 6:3-15

Processional: The immediate family will process in with the casket or urn. A song or hymn will be sung.

Invocation/Opening Prayer: An invocation and prayer are said.

Opening Songs: Just like a worship service, we will open with one or two songs. *(See Music Suggestion List.)*

Family/Friends Tributes: The family may choose to have some members of the family or close friends give some words of remembrance. This is optional and up to the family. We recommend that the person or persons that are delivering the tributes write them out beforehand and have their notes with them at the time they deliver them.

Scripture Readings: Two or three scripture passages may be read. When choosing Scripture verses you may want to include the confirmation verse of the departed, his or her favorite verse(s) or a passage that is a source of peace and hope for you and your family. *(See Scripture Suggestion List for some possible passages.)*

Remembrance Video: As part of the service we will have a remembrance video played. Shepherd's Gate will produce the video. Pastor will inform you of the process and guidelines when he meets with you to plan the funeral.

Message: Pastor will give a Christ-Centered message.

Closing Song: A song will be sung to close out the message. *(See Music Suggestion List.)*

Closing Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Committal: Pastor may speak words of committal if there is to be no gathering at the cemetery. This is optional.
If there is to be a gathering at a cemetery, the committal is spoken there.

Benediction: A closing blessing is given.

Military Honors: Military Honors are rendered at the time of interment. If circumstances dictate that they be rendered at the church, it would be at this time.

Recessional: A song is sung or played as the casket and/or the family leave the worship center. *(See Music Suggestion List.)*

FUNERAL *order of service*

Name of Deceased:_____

Date of Birth:_____ **Date of Death:**_____

Do you want the service recorded? ❑ Yes ❑ No **Do you want the service live-streamed?** ❑ Yes ❑ No

Remembrance of Baptism: ❑ Yes ❑ No

Processional: ❑ Casket ❑ Urn

Processional Song:_____

Opening/Invocation and Opening Prayer *(officiating pastor)*

Opening Song(s):_____

Family/Friends Tribute:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Scripture Readings:

1. _____ Read by _____

2. _____ Read by _____

3. _____ Read by _____

Remembrance Video: ❑ Yes ❑ No **Remembrance Video Song**: _____

Message *(officiating pastor)*

Closing Song:_____

Closing Prayer *(officiating pastor)*

Lord's Prayer: ❑ Yes ❑ No

Committal: ❑ Church ❑ Cemetery

Benediction *(officiating pastor)*

Military Honors: ❑ Yes ❑ No

Recessional Song: _____

MUSIC SUGGESTION LIST

Music is an important element to any funeral or memorial service. Music has the ability to comfort us at the most difficult time of our lives. You may request live music if the service is being held at Shepherd's Gate. You may also choose to use recorded music if you so desire.

The following list of hymns and contemporary songs is provided to assist you in choosing music for the funeral or memorial service. This list is not a complete list of the many songs and hymns that could be included in a funeral or memorial service. If a song or hymn that you would like is not listed, you may ask the officiating pastor if it can be included. Please remember that the funeral you are planning is a Christ-centered service that celebrates our salvation through Jesus, and as such not every song, such as show tunes and secular songs, is appropriate for that setting.

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Give Me Jesus - Jeremy Camp

Amazing Grace (chains) - Chris Tomlin

10,000 Reasons - Matt Redman

Heaven Song - Phil Wickham

I Can Only Imagine - Mercy Me

One Thing Remains - Jesus Culture

Broken Vesslels - Hillsong

Reckless Love - Cory Asbury

Great Are You Lord - Jason Ingram

Do It Again - Elevation Worship

O Come to the Altar - Phil Whickham

Holy Spirit

His Name Is Jesus - Phil Wickham

Way Maker - Leeland

Goodness of God - Bethel

The Blessing - Cody Carnes

Graves Into Gardens - Elevation Worship

HYMNS

In Christ Alone

Till We Meet Again

It Is Well with My Soul

In The Garden

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

How Great Thou Art

Come Thou Fount

SCRIPTURE SUGGESTION LIST

The following list of Scripture passages is provided for you to assist you in choosing Scripture readings for the funeral service or memorial service. Please inform the officiating pastor of any passages you want included that may not be listed. When choosing Scripture verses you may want to include the confirmation verse of the departed, his or her favorite verse(s) or a passage that is a source of peace and hope for you and your family.
All Scripture listed are NIV.

PSALM 23
The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

PSALM 121
I lift up my eyes to the hills- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip- he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you-the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

PSALM 130
Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

JOB 19:23-27
"Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead or engraved in rock forever! I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes-I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!"

ISAIAH 40:28-31
Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

MATTHEW 11:28-30
"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

MATTHEW 25:21-23
"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

JOHN 27-30
My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all ; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

JOHN 11:20-27
When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

JOHN 14:1-6
"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

JOHN 14:27
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

ROMANS 5:1-8
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man some one might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

ROMANS 8:35-39
Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-57
Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 1:21-23
For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18
Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.

REVELATION 21:4-7
He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

COST SHEET

DAY OF THE SERVICE

When you have a funeral service at Shepherd's Gate or a local funeral home, we are here to assist you

Funeral services at Shepherd's Gate are held in the morning based on availability.

This is a typical schedule:
10 am: Viewing or Family Time in the Fellowship Hall
11 am: Funeral Service in our Worship Center
12 pm: Luncheon in our Gym (optional).

We will accommodate you if you choose to have a time of visitation on the day of the service. Most often families choose to have visitation for one hour prior to the service. Shepherd's Gate staff will ensure that the room is clean and set up for you. We have several easels available for you if you would like to set up picture boards.

The staff of Shepherd's Gate will set up the Worship Center for you and ensure that it is ready for the service.

Funeral Luncheon
We can assist in providing a luncheon immediately following the service in our Gym. The cost is $10 per person. Most people prefer to stay after for a luncheon when the service is held at Shepherd's Gate. You will need to provide us with a suggested number of people you think will attend.

COST INFO SHEET

OPTION #1 Funeral at Shepherd's Gate

If you would like to have a funeral service at Shepherd's Gate, we charge a flat fee that will cover all the expenses to prepare and facilitate a meaningful time that honors your loved one. This fee includes several staff members: a funeral coordinator, sound tech, computer tech, musician and singer, and an honorarium for the presiding pastor. One of our pastors will walk you through all of the details during the time of your planning meeting. ***Funeral services may held at SG on Monday, Friday, or Saturday.***

COST: $900

OPTION #2 Funeral at a Local Funeral Home

If you would like to have a funeral service at a local funeral home, one of our pastors as well as one of our musicians and singers are available to prepare and facilitate a meaningful time that honors your loved one. One of our pastors will walk you through all of the details during the time of your planning meeting.

COST: $500

COST SHEET

COST INFO SHEET

OPTION #3 Burial/Committal Only

One of our pastors will be available to prepare and facilitate a burial/committal for your loved one, even if we have not been part of the funeral service. Please schedule a time to meet with one of our pastors.

COST: $100

Please Note: There is no charge for the use of Shepherd's Gate Church. All payments can be made on or before the funeral date. Fees should be paid in cash or checks made out to "cash". You can turn the payments into the office. Thank you.



sgatechurch.org

GriefShare

At some point in every person's life, challenges arise that overwhelm our ability to cope. The Care Program at Shepherd's Gate provides a safe and welcoming environment where people can find support and navigate the challenges of grief and loss. Having someone to care, to listen, and to share God's love during these times may not change the circumstance, but provides strength and support to get through it. There's no reason to walk down a painful road alone. Someone is waiting to walk alongside you.

Contact our Care Director at care@sgatechurch.org or call the office at 586.731.4544.