



First United Methodist Church

**First United Methodist Church
Funeral/Memorial Policy**

"I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord." – Book of Worship, p. 141

The death of a loved one is a solemn and painful occasion with a myriad of emotions and details to navigate. This guide is intended to help ease the burden on those who must plan a funeral or memorial service by describing the normal practices of First UMC. This is also a good tool for pre-planning a service.

When a baptized Christian dies, it is proper that the person is buried from the Church when possible. It is also helpful to schedule a service at a time when community members have the opportunity to be present.

It is generally advisable to work with a licensed funeral director, and when possible to make prearrangements with the funeral homes and the Church.

Notification

Families often have some warning that death is imminent. In these cases, the pastor should be contacted, when possible, to provide pastoral care for the dying, the family, and all others who are in need of such care. *The United Methodist Book of Worship* states: "The pastor should be notified immediately upon the death of a member or constituent of the congregation." P. 140

Timely notification not only helps in making the arrangements; it also allows the community to care for the bereaved through prayer and presence as appropriate. The Pastor and staff can also provide support for the initial arrangements, from contacting family members to meeting with funeral directors.

At no time should any arrangement be made that involves First Christ Church facilities or staff before consultation with the Pastor. This is particularly crucial when preparing obituary listings, as service times and locations rely upon the availability of facilities and clergy. In most cases accommodations can be made for funerals and memorial service times as requested.

Arrangements

Once the Church has been contacted and the initial time and day of the service are planned, there are a number of details to be organized. Contacts for these items are listed at the end of this on page 4.

Location: Will the service take place at First UMC, a funeral home, at a cemetery/memorial garden, etc.?

Music: Will there be music at the service? Hymns, solos, vocalists, special musicians? All arrangements for music are made through the Organist/Director of Music in consultation with the Pastor. A listing of suggested hymns may be found in Appendix C.

Service Type: Will the service be memorial only, or will there be a local burial/interment? Will Communion be a part of the service?

Flowers: Will there be flowers for the service? Arrangements for flowers are made in consultation with an outside florist. First UMC provides two brass flower urns in the Chancel in which flowers may be placed.

Visitation: Will there be a receiving of friends before/after the service? First UMC offers the Commons and the Courtyard for visitation.

Meal: Would the family like a meal prepared for them on the day of the service? First UMC offers a meal coordinated by the UMW (United Methodist Women) for the **immediate family** on the day of the service. The meal may be served in our Fellowship Hall or Family Life Center or brought to someone's home.

Planning the Service

A Service of Death and Resurrection is found on pages 870-875 of *The United Methodist Hymnal*. The outline of the services may be found in Appendix A. While most of the service is just as it is lined out in the hymnal, there are several options for families to consider. Once decisions have been made about whether there will be Holy Communion or music, the next consideration is normally the readings.

Readings The United Methodist Book of Worship offers suggestions for both the Old and New Testaments, Psalms, and Gospel readings. Choice of these readings is purely up to the discretion of the family. Some choose one of each, while others choose only one or two. If there is to be Communion, there must be a reading from the Gospel. If a family wishes to use a passage that holds particular importance for the deceased or other family members, it should be coordinated with the Pastor. The Pastor will also offer suggestions of appropriate readings.

Suggestions for readings from the *UM Book of Worship* are found in the Appendix B. The full text of the readings may be found in Appendix B.

Family and friends are invited to read passages from the Psalms, and the Old and New Testaments, and those invitations are made by the family and coordinated with the Pastor. If persons prepare ahead of time for reading at a service, *The United Methodist Church* uses the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the bible.

Eulogies

As a rule, lengthy eulogies are not a part of United Methodist services. It is, however, not uncommon and often helpful for a member of the family or a friend to say a few words about the deceased in the *Naming* portion of the service which follows the *Sermon*. When comments

are made in the midst of the service, it is strongly recommended that they be written down and limited to the equivalent of one typed page.

In addition, family, friends, and members of the congregation may briefly voice their thankfulness to God for the grace they have received in the life of the deceased and their Christian faith and joy.

A poem or other reading such as *If Death My Friend and Me Divide* (UMH 656) may be read as a witness. Signs of faith, hope, and love may be exchanged.

Other Things to Keep in Mind

Services of Death and Resurrection range in time from 25 minutes for the most basic service up to one hour, when music, Communion, and additional persons speaking are included. Please feel free to discuss the particulars of the service you are planning with the Pastor.

When the coffin or urn is brought into the Church for the service, we encourage them to be draped with a pall provided by First UMC. This is to ensure that as each of us leaves this world, s/he does so as equals. The white pall is a reminder of our baptism. There are no distinctions to be made in the Church through the choice of a casket or urn. Palls are not generally in place when there is a viewing; however, all caskets are closed before the service and remain closed thereafter, covered with the pall. In keeping with Christian tradition, the pall replaces even the American flag when it is draped on a casket, although the flag is replaced immediately after the service.

Use of color guards and inclusion of military honors is always welcome. Arrangements can be made with most funeral directors for such honors, and when they take place at the Church they are coordinated with the presiding minister.

Fees and Memorial Gifts There are NO fees for a Service of Death and Resurrection. Some, however, choose to make gifts to the Church in honor of their loved one and in thanksgiving for the ministry of the community. The list of fees below is for nonmembers of First UMC, and can be used as a model for members who also wish to make gifts.

Basic funeral service in the Church with clergy for nonmembers \$200
Organist (fees paid directly to the Organist): \$200
Special Musicians at contracted rate through the Organist/Director of Music

Contacts and Initial Planning:

The Service: Rev. Kyle D. Randle, 843-488-4251

Music: Mr. Billy Fallaw, 843-488-4251

Name of the Deceased: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date of Death: _____

Date of Funeral: _____ Time: _____

Funeral Home: _____

Officiating Clergy: _____

Altar Guild representative: _____

Head Usher: _____

Visitation/Calling: _____

Contact person of the deceased: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Final Resting Place: _____

Special Instructions:

Appendix A

SERVICIE OF DEATH AND RESURRECTION

ENTRANCE

GATHERING

The coffin or urn may be carried into the place of worship in procession, in which case the pall may be placed on it outside the place of worship with these words:

Dying, Christ destroyed our death.
Rising, Christ restored our life.
Christ will come again in glory.
As in baptism *Name* put on Christ,
so in Christ may *Name* be clothed with glory.
Here and now, dear friends, we are God's children.
What we shall be has not yet been revealed;
but we know that when he appears, we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.
Those who have this hope purify themselves
as Christ is pure.

THE WORD OF GRACE

If the coffin or urn is carried into the place of worship in procession, the pastor may go before it speaking these words, the congregation standing. Or if the coffin or urn is already in place, the pastor speaks these or other words from in front of the congregation.

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and I am life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live,
and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.
I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.
I died, and behold I am alive for evermore,
and I hold the keys of hell and death.
Because I live, you shall live also.

GREETING

Friends, we have gathered here to praise God
and to witness to our faith as we celebrate the life of *Name*.
We come together in grief, acknowledging our human loss.
May God grant us grace, that in pain we may find comfort,
in sorrow hope, in death resurrection.

HYMN OR SONG*

See hymns suggested in Appendix C

PRAYER *

One or more of the following or other prayers may be offered, in unison. Petition for God's help, thanksgiving for the communion of saints, confession of sin, and assurance of pardon are appropriate here.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**O God, who gave us birth,
you are ever more ready to hear
than we are to pray.
You know our needs before we ask,
and our ignorance in asking.
Give to us now your grace,
that as we shrink before the mystery of death,
we may see the light of eternity.
Speak to us once more
your solemn message of life and of death.
Help us to live as those who are prepared to die.
And when our days here are accomplished,
enable us to die as those who go forth to live,
so that living or dying, our life may be in you,
and that nothing in life or in death will be able to separate us
from your great love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

The following prayer may also be used:

**Eternal God,
we praise you for the great company of all those
who have finished their course in faith
and now rest from their labor.
We praise you for those dear to us
whom we name in our hearts before you.
Especially we praise you for Name,
whom you have graciously received into your presence.
To all of these, grant your peace.
Let perpetual light shine upon them;
and help us so to believe where we have not seen,
that your presence may lead us through our years,
and bring us at last with them
into the joy of your home
not made with hands but eternal in the heavens;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The following prayer of confession and pardon may also be used:

**Holy God, before you our hearts are open,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
We bring to you now
our shame and sorrow for our sins.
We have forgotten
that our life is from you and unto you.
We have neither sought nor done your will.
We have not been truthful in our hearts,
in our speech, in our lives.
We have not loved as we ought to love.
Help us and heal us,
raising us from our sins into a better life,
that we may end our days in peace,
trusting in your kindness unto the end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Who is in a position to condemn?
Only Christ, Christ who died for us, who rose for us,
who reigns at God's right hand and prays for us.
Thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

PSALM 130 *

This or another version of Psalm 130 (UMH 515, 516, or 848) may be sung or spoken:

**Out of the depths I cry unto thee, O Lord!
Lord, hear my cry.
Let thine ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplication.
If thou, Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with thee,
that thou may be feared.
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word do I hope.
My soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning.
O Israel, hope in the Lord!**

**For with the Lord is great mercy,
With him is plenteous redemption,
and he will redeem Israel from all their sins. (RSV, ALT.)**

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

One or both of the following or another lesson may be read. Other suggestions are available in the Appendix B

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all the people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

(ISAIAH 40:1–8)

Or

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is an everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

(ISAIAH 40:28–31)

PSALM 23 *

This or another version of Psalm 23 (UMH 136, 137, 138, or 754) may be sung or spoken:

**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. (KJV)**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

One of the following or another lesson may be read: See Appendix B

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters,
of the good news that I proclaimed to you,
which you in turn received, in which also you stand,
through which also you are being saved.
Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead,
how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?
For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised.
If Christ has not been raised,
your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.
Then those also who have died in Christ have perished.
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have died.
But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised?
With what kind of body do they come?"
Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.
And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be,
but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.
But God gives it a body as he has chosen.
What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable.
It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory.
It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body.
If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.
When this perishable body puts on imperishability,
and this mortal body puts on immortality,
then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:
"Death has been swallowed up in victory."
"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"
But thanks be to God,
who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 CORINTHIANS 15:1–2a, 12, 16–18, 20, 35–38 a, 42b –44, 54–55, 57)

Or

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.
And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
"See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."
And the one who was seated on the throne said,
"See, I am making all things new."
Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."
Then he said to me,
"It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
To the thirsty I will give water
as a gift from the spring of the water of life.
Those who conquer will inherit these things,
and I will be their God and they will be my children."

(REVELATION 21:1–7)

Or

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
he who raised Christ from the dead
will give life to your mortal bodies also
through his Spirit that dwells in you.
For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—
if, in fact, we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.
I consider that the sufferings of this present time
are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.
We know that all things work together for good for those who love God,
who are called according to his purpose.
What then are we to say about these things?
If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else?
Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted 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,
nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ROMANS 8:1–2, 11, 14, 17–18, 28, 31–32, 35–39)

GOSPEL LESSON*

The following or another lesson may be read: See Appendix B

[Jesus said,] "Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.
If it were not so,
would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and will take you to myself,
so that where I am, there you may be also.
And you know the way to the place where I am going.
I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.
In a little while the world will no longer see me,
but you will see me;
because I live, you also will live.
I have said these things to you while I am still with you.
But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything,
and remind you of all that I have said to you.
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (JOHN 14:1–4, 18–19, 25–27)

SERMON

A sermon may be preached, proclaiming the gospel in the face of death. It may lead into, or include, the following acts of naming and witness.

NAMING (Optional)

The life and death of the deceased may be gathered up in the reading of a memorial or appropriate statement, or in other ways, by the pastor or others.

WITNESS (Optional)

Pastor, family, friends, and members of the congregation may briefly voice their thankfulness to God for the grace they have received in the life of the deceased and their Christian faith and joy.

*A poem or other reading such as *If Death My Friend and Me Divide* (UMH 656) may be read as a witness. Signs of faith, hope, and love may be exchanged.*

HYMN OR SONG*

See hymns suggested Appendix C

CREED OR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *

The Apostles' Creed

**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.**

COMMENDATION

PRAYERS *

One or more of the following prayers may be offered, or other prayers may be used.

God of us all, your love never ends.
When all else fails, you still are God.
We pray to you for one another in our need,
and for all, anywhere, who mourn with us this day.
To those who doubt, give light;
to those who are weak, strength;
to all who have sinned, mercy;
to all who sorrow, your peace.
Keep true in us
the love with which we hold one another.
In all our ways we trust you.
And to you,
with your Church on earth and in heaven,
we offer honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O God, all that you have given us is yours.
As first you gave *Name* to us,
now we give *Name* back to you.

Here the pastor standing near the coffin or urn, may lay hands on it, continuing:

Receive *Name* into the arms of your mercy.
Raise *Name* up with all your people.
Receive us also, and raise us into a new life.
Help us so to love and serve you in this world
that we may enter into your joy in the world to come. **Amen.**

Into your hands, O merciful Savior,
we commend your servant *Name*.
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you,
a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock,
a sinner of your own redeeming.
Receive *Name* into the arms of your mercy,
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,
and into the glorious company of the saints of light. **Amen.**

*HOLY COMMUNION * (Optional)*

The pastor may administer Holy Communion to all present who wish to share at the Lord's table using the Great Thanksgiving. All persons are invited to participate though careful instructions are given for those who may choose not to commune. Otherwise, the service continues as follows:

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *

God of love, we thank you
for all with which you have blessed us
even to this day:
for the gift of joy in days of health and strength
and for the gifts of your abiding presence and promise
in days of pain and grief.
We praise you for home and friends,
and for our baptism and place in your Church
with all who have faithfully lived and died.
Above all else we thank you for Jesus,
who knew our griefs,
who died our death and rose for our sake,
and who lives and prays for us.
And as he taught us, so now we pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *

All pray the Lord's Prayer if not included in the Great Thanksgiving during Holy Communion

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING *

The pastor, facing the people, will offer a blessing.

HYMN *

See hymns suggested and under the Appendix C. The Pastor along with the Pallbearers will exit as the Hymn comes to a close with the family following the deceased. The congregation will exit afterwards.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *

A Service of Committal follows at the final resting place.

Appendix B

Old Testament Readings

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of wellaged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

Lamentations 3:22-26,31-33

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-5,9

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

Job 19:21-27a

Job answered, "Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh? O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another."

The Psalms

Psalm 42

My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.

⁷Deep calls to deep
at the thunder of your cataracts;
all your waves and your billows
have gone over me.

⁸By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,
and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

⁹I say to God, my rock,
"Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because the enemy oppresses me?"

¹⁰As with a deadly wound in my body,
my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me continually,
"Where is your God?"

¹¹Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 90

¹LORD, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

²Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³You turn us back to dust,
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

⁴For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.

⁵You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;

⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

⁸You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

⁹For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰The days of our life are seventy years,
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

¹¹Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

¹²So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills —
from where will my help come?

²My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

³He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
⁴He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
⁶The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
⁷The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
⁸The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

Psalm 139

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills —
from where will my help come?
²My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
³He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
⁴He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
⁶The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
⁷The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
⁸The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

New Testament Readings

1 John 3:1-2

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

Revelation 7:9-17

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Gospel Readings

John 11:21-27

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." John 14:1-6 Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Luke 24:13-35

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*Other Readings may be suggested.

Appendix C

Suggested Hymns

*This list is not exhaustive. Other hymn suggestions may be offered.

163 Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know	143 On Eagle's Wings
557 Blest Be the Tie That Binds	733 Marching to Zion
141 Children of the Heavenly Father	368 My Hope Is Built
318 Christ Is Alive	356 Pues Si Vivimos (When We Are Living)
407 Close to Thee	66 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (stanzas)
709 Come, Let Us Join Our Friends Above	491 Remember Me
510 Come, Ye Disconsolate	523 Saranam, Saranam (Refuge)
315 Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain	666 Shalom to You
710 Faith of Our Fathers	512 Stand By Me
129 Give to the Winds Thy Fears	704 Steal Away to Jesus

654 How Blest Are They (for an older adult)	496 Sweet Hour of Prayer
77 How Great Thou Art	703 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
103 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise	395 Take Time to Be Holy
314 In the Garden	545 The Church's One Foundation (stanzas 1, 5)
488 Jesus, Remember Me	546 The Church's One Foundation (stanzas 1, 5)
133 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms	303 The Day of Resurrection
59 Mil Voces Para Celebrar	116 The God of Abraham Praise
520 Nobody Knows the Trouble I See	504 The Old Rugged Cross
57 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing	308 Thine Be the Glory
480 O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go	383 This Is a Day of New Beginnings
247 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (stanza 3)	153 Thou Hidden Source of Calm Repose

518 O Thou, in Whose Presence	322 Up from the Grave He Arose
184 Of the Father's Love Begotten	526 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Other hymn suggestions can be found in “The United Methodist Hymnal” pg. 940 “Eternal Life,” pg. 941 “Funerals and Memorial Services” in the Index of Topics and Categories beginning on pg. 934 of the hymnal.