St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

Funeral and Memorial Service Planning

Standards

Service planning: We are an Episcopal Church; all of our worship falls within the theological framework of our tradition and our clergy will uphold that tradition. While we strive to tailor the service to fit the needs of the family involved, there are a few rules that we will follow. **Those rules are:**

The ashes are to be present at the service. We will cover them and the container in which they are held so they are not visible, but they are present for the commendation of the person's soul to God.

At least one of the readings will be from Scripture.

There is no eulogy in the Episcopal Tradition. Sometimes families choose to have someone share a reflection about the person who has died. These are prepared ahead of time, in conversation with the clergy person. At most funerals, a clergy person preaches a short homily, framing this life in the context of a Christian community of faith.

There will be no opportunity for 'open mike' at the service, these kinds of comments are best held for at the reception.

Because we are St. Bart's there are a few things we do differently than most Episcopal churches, but you can choose the more traditional approach at any place in the service. Unless otherwise specified we will use Rite II language (more people understand what is being said). Some of the service pieces where there are choices to be made:

Opening Anthem (read piece at the beginning)? How many scriptures, and/or lessons/readings you would like to
include. Which prayers of the people to include? Traditional or those written in-house?

Eucharistic service or not? The Eucharistic table is always open at St. Bart's – so if you choose to have a Eucharist, we will welcome everyone to receive, regardless of baptism/tradition.

What about including a photo or two in the bulletin? If yes, you might set some aside with your funeral planning packet.

Poetry, favorite sayings, artwork... again, set it aside and include these things in your folder/packet.