

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church
Long Beach, CA
www.epcfriends.org
562 439 8946

The Purpose of the Memorial Service

A memorial service is a service of worship to God and of witness to the resurrection in Jesus Christ. It is a time for reflecting on God's gifts of life and love; for re-affirming the hope of eternal life; for receiving the strength and comfort of God's Spirit. It is a time to be surrounded with the love and support of family and friends. In this healing context, we remember the life of the one who has died, and how God has enabled that person's life to touch us.

The Mood of the Memorial Service

"We grieve," declared the apostle Paul, "but not as those who have no hope." The memorial service is a time to recognize our grief — a time to give appropriate expression to our sorrow. In the Christian context, it is a celebration of hope. God's love has triumphed over death. Both these elements should be evident in the mood of the service: the recognition of our bereavement on the one hand and the celebration of God's victory over death on the other; the appropriate expression of sorrow on the one hand and of thankfulness to God on the other.

The Structure of the Memorial Service

The memorial service shall be under the direction of the church's pastor. It shall include the reading of Scripture and prayer. It may include various offerings of music, including solos, instrumentals and congregational songs. It may include a sermon or other exposition of God's word. It may include remembrances of the one who has died. The people may make an affirmation of faith. The Apostles' Creed is particularly appropriate.

Planning the Memorial Service

Contact with the pastor of the church should be made as soon as possible after the event of death. In this initial contact, a date, time and place may be set for the memorial service. On occasion, the pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church conducts funerals at funeral chapels or outdoors.

After the initial contact, the officiating pastor will meet in person with the family to plan the details of the service. If the deceased has left behind any wishes regarding the content of the service, these should be shared with the pastor.

If the family wishes to have a pastor present for a graveside committal, the committal may be conducted anytime before or after the memorial service.

Memorial Service Coordinator

After initially contacting the pastor, the family is to contact the [Church Office](#) for the following arrangements:

1. Arrange for music and musicians; and A/V personnel.
2. Arrange for the printing of the order of worship for the service;
3. Arrange for ushers;
4. Arrange for a simple reception following the memorial service, if the family wishes to have a reception in the church.
5. Arrange for the placing of flowers.

Other Items

Remains of the deceased, caskets and urns, are typically not brought to the church or into the church sanctuary. Please get permission.

Music (instrumental and vocal) shall direct the worshipper's attention to God and provide for a celebration of God's power, providence, and care. The officiating pastor and Coordinator will work with the family in the selection of hymns, songs, musicians and vocalists. It is recommended that family members or friends offering to provide special music in the memorial service receive permission.

Elaborate Floral Displays are discouraged. Ordinarily, one or two arrangements are placed in the sanctuary on provided pedestals. Other flowers may be set in the reception area. Because of the sacramental nature of the Lord's Supper in our tradition, floral and other decorations should not be placed on the communion table.

Flower delivery and disposal

Since florists often call the church to ask where flowers should be delivered, the family

should communicate to the Coordinator what their wishes are in this regard. The family should decide what they want to do with flowers remaining at the church when the memorial service is concluded. In most cases family members appoint one of their own number to remove the flowers from the church. Flowers left at the church will be distributed to nursing homes or homebound folk or disposed of as otherwise appropriate.

Photographs and articles of remembrance may be placed in the reception area, wherever the reception is to be held, but not on the chancel or in the sanctuary.

Receptions may be arranged for Fellowship Hall, which is adjacent to the sanctuary, and/or in the church courtyard.

The church can provide for a simple reception (coffee and cookies) for church members, or the family can provide a more elaborate reception at its own expense. If caterers handle the reception, the kitchen must be thoroughly cleared and cleaned by the caterers after the reception is concluded.

Fees and Stipends

Facility Use	\$400
Pastor	\$300
A/V	\$100
Custodian	\$50
Coordinator	\$50
Hostess	\$100
Musicians	<u>\$100</u>
Total	\$1,100

One check payable to “Emmanuel Presbyterian Church”