

## SCRIPTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

### *for Funeral and Memorial Services*

The central theme in any worship service, including funeral and memorial services, is the proclamation of the Word of God: It is the proclamation of a resurrection faith in a sermon or meditation. We welcome family and/or friends to read scripture as a means of participating in the service. At St. Paul's, we read the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) translation of the bible. In services, we include at least three scripture readings, with one of the readings as a Gospel passage.

#### **Old Testament Passages:**

- Isaiah 40:1-8, 28-31
- Exodus 14:5-14, 19-31
- Isaiah 43:1-3a, 5-7, 13, 15, 18-19, 25; 44:6, 8a
- Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13

#### **Psalms:**

- Psalm 23
- Psalm 42
- Psalm 43
- Psalm 46
- Psalm 90
- Psalm 91
- Psalm 103
- Psalm 116
- Psalm 121
- Psalm 139

- Psalm 145
- Psalm 146

#### **New Testament Passages:**

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-2a, 12, 16-18, 20, 35-38a, 42b-44, 54-55, 57
- Revelation 21:1-7
- Romans 8:1-2, 11, 14, 17-18, 28, 31-32, 35-39
- 2 Corinthians 4:5-18
- Ephesians 1:15-23; 2:1-10
- 1 Peter 1:3-9, 13, 21-25
- Revelation 7:2-3, 9-17

#### **Gospel Passages:**

- John 14:1-4, 18-19, 25-27
- Luke 24:13-35
- John 11:1-4, 20-27, 32-35, 38-44

## **MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS**

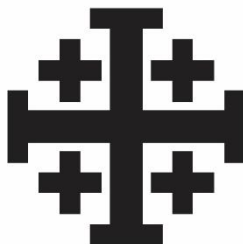
### *for Funeral and Memorial Services*

The music for a funeral or memorial service shall be sacred and reflect the tradition of music at St. Paul's UMC. Music should be scriptural in nature and primarily focused on God. Taped, prerecorded, or electronically produced music may not be used during the service but is welcome at the reception. Our music department will provide music for the service in consultation with the pastor(s). An organist from St. Paul's will be available for the service and a St. Paul's soloist may be requested; Outside soloists or organists are not permitted to perform during funeral or memorial services.

Here is a list of recommended hymns from our United Methodist Hymnal (UMH):

- A Mighty Fortress Is Our God ..... (UMH 110)
- Abide With Me .....(UMH 700)
- All Creatures of Our God and King .....(UMH 62)
- Amazing Grace ..... (UMH 378)
- Be Still, My Soul ..... (UMH 534)
- Be Thou My Vision ..... (UMH 451)
- For All the Saints ..... (UMH 711)
- Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehova ..... (UMH 127)
- Hymn of Promise ..... (UMH 707)
- I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath..... (UMH 60)
- Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee ..... (UMH 89)
- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ..... (UMH 384)
- O God, Our Help in Ages Past ..... (UMH 117)
- Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven ..... (UMH 66)
- Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart ..... (UMH 160)
- The King of Love My Shepherd Is ..... (UMH 138)
- The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want..... (UMH 136)

A SERVICE OF DEATH  
AND RESURRECTION



**ST. PAUL'S**  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
5501 MAIN  
HOUSTON, TX 77004

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# First Middle Last

*Birth Date—Death Date*

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*Month Day, Year at Time*

*Please silence all electronic devices, including cellphones and pagers.*

## **Gathering**

*All stand.*

## **The Word of Grace**

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and I am the 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 the Alpha and the 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 First Middle Last. 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.

**Congregational Hymn** “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

*All sit.*

Revised 7.18.19

## Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. (*unison*)

**O God, who gave us birth, you are evermore ready to hear than we are to pray. You know our needs before we ask. 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.**

### Old Testament Lesson

### Verse Selection

Scripture goes here.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalter

### Verse Selection

Scripture goes here.

### New Testament Lesson

### Verse Selection

Scripture goes here.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Congregational Hymn (or Solo) “\_\_\_\_\_”

### Remembrances

*All stand.*

**Gospel** \_\_\_\_\_

Scripture goes here.

The Word of the Lord.

## **Thanks be to God.**

*All sit.*

### **Homily**

#### **Prayer of Commendation**

Eternal God, you have shared with us the life of First Middle Last. Before (s)he was ours, (s)he is yours. For all that First has given us to make us what we are and that of (her)him which lives and grows in each of us, and for (her)his life that in your love will never end, we give you thanks. As we now offer First back into your arms, comfort us in our loneliness, strengthen us in our weakness, and give us courage to face the future unafraid. Draw those of us who remain in this life closer to one another, make us faithful to serve one another and give us to know that peace and joy which is eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God of love, we thank you for all with which you have blessed us even to this day: for the 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.

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. **Amen.**

#### **Congregational Hymn**

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

## Dismissal with Blessing

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## Reception

You are invited to join the \_\_\_\_\_ family for a reception following this service in the Activity Center, located on the left at the end of the hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Sanctuary building.

## Memorial

For those desiring, memorial contributions may be made in \_\_\_\_\_'s name to St. Paul's Methodist Foundation of Houston, 5501 Main Street, Houston, TX 77004.

## Worship Participants

**Minister**      Rev. Dr. Jeff McDonald

**Organist**      Christopher Betts

**Soloist**      \_\_\_\_\_

**Lay Reader and Remembrances**

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