

# Planning for a Funeral, Memorial, or Celebration of Life Service

A Resource from Leaside United Church

Spring 2018

## Hymns and Music

*Most often 2-4 hymns are sung. A soloist or group could also sing a hymn or secular song. Other favourite music can be played before or after the service.*

## Scripture and Other Readings

*Most often 1-3 scripture readings and 0-2 other readings (poem, song lyrics, quotation) are chosen (1-4 readings total). Are there any additional scripture verses, language or images you find meaningful or inspiring?*

## Who Would You Like to Give Remembrances?

*Most often 1-3 people speak, in addition to the minister. The total time might be 12-18 minutes. Other opportunities for more informal sharing might include a family funeral, a graveside service, or a remembrance on the anniversary of a death (the minister is happy to facilitate any of these).*

Who Would You Like to Participate in Other Ways (Reading, Prayers, Etc.)?  
*People could include family or friends, other church staff or other ministers.*

#### The Lord's Prayer / The Prayer of Jesus

*This prayer is usually said during the service. Do you prefer the Traditional "Our Father," the Casa del Sol version "Ground of all being" or another?*

#### Bulletin

*Is there a particular image you would like to use? Do you have a preference for the words Funeral, Memorial, or Celebration of Life? Is there anything else you would like on the bulletin, such as a poem, quotation, or obituary (the church will make the bulletin with the family's input unless the family wishes to do so themselves)? Anything else?*

#### Other Thoughts

*Some Celebration of Life services include elements such as lighting a candle in remembrance, sharing a slideshow of images, or some other personalized element. Any photos, meaningful items, or flowers you would like to be present? Anything else you would like to add?*

*At the time of the death, please notify the minister for pastoral support and to discuss dates and times. Please also contact the office for an up to date copy of our "Funerals, Memorials, and Celebration of Life Services: An Overview for Family and Friends" with information about fees, caterers, and other practical details.*