



*Funeral / Memorial Service for*

# John Doe

*Date - Date*



Death is not extinguishing the light; it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come

*Rabindranath Tagore*

**Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Staunton**

*Time*

*Date*

*Officiating Priest*

**The Rev'd Dr Jonathan N Bauer**

Rector

## **Obituary (optional)**

### **Memorial contributions may be made to Emmanuel Episcopal Church:**

Simply text **EECS\$** followed by the amount of dollars you wish to give, to 73256.

For example: to give \$20 simply send EECS\$20 to 73256.

*Message and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies.*

*Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.*

*OR*

### **The family's chosen good cause (optional)**

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at

*MUSIC MAY BE PLAYED AS PEOPLE ARRIVE (ON THE ORGAN OR RECORDED)*

## **WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

*Priest* Jesus said: '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.'

*John 11: 25,26*

*All* Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**and also with you.**

*The Officiating Priest welcomes everyone and introduces the service, then says:*

Let us pray

*A moment of silence is kept for personal prayer*

*All* **O God,**  
**you remind us that all earthly life is fragile and tender,**  
**and compassed about by birth and death:**  
**we ask your blessing on this moment**  
**as we honor N's life**  
**and acknowledge her death:**  
**be present with us as we do our remembering,**  
**come close to us with your love,**  
**surround us with your peace**  
**and open our hearts to each other;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

*HYMN (optional)*

## **REMEMBERING N**

*Remembering and giving thanks for a precious life*

*Family Member(s) and / or friend(s) may tell some of the story of the departed's life*

**SCRIPTURE READING** *read by .....*

**A N OTHER READING** *read by .....* (optional)

## HOMILY / ADDRESS

### PRAYERS

Loving God,  
we gather to give thanks for N and for his/her life amongst us.  
We have been pilgrims together on the journey of life sharing its joys and sorrows.

As N now continues her/his journey out of our sight,  
we pray particularly for all whose lives will feel the hollow pain  
of an emptiness without her/his physical presence.  
Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress;  
draw near to us who mourn for N,  
and dry the tears of those who weep.

Lord of life,  
*All* **in your mercy hear us.**

Most merciful God,  
whose wisdom is beyond our understanding,  
deal graciously with us in our grief.  
Surround us in your love,  
that we may not be overwhelmed by our loss,  
but have confidence in your goodness,  
and strength to meet the days to come;

Lord of life,  
*All* **in your mercy hear us.**

As we gather in this sacred place, O God,  
we offer you the things our hearts would still like to say,  
in the silence you understand,  
so that we may find the peace you promise to N and to us.

*We pause for a moment of silent personal prayer*

Lord of life,  
*All* **in your mercy hear us.**

Lord God,  
as a shepherd guides sheep to new pasture  
and keeps them safe, so you walk with us  
and guide our footsteps as we journey through life.  
May we, in our turn, be found ready to embrace life with you.

Lord of life,  
*All* **in your mercy hear us.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Priest* Jesus taught those who would follow him to call God "our Father", so in faith we pray:

*All* **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,  
and the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## HYMN (optional)

### COMMENDATION

*The Priest commends N's soul to God's keeping:*

Let us now commend N to the mercy of God,  
our Maker and Redeemer:

Into your hands, O merciful God, we commend our beloved N,  
as we have commended those who have gone before.  
Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own fold,  
a lamb of your own flock, a child of your own redeeming.  
Enfold her/him, we pray, in the arms of your love.  
We thank you, O God, that you make yourself known to us in love.  
We claim your love today for N, and for ourselves;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*Priest* N, may you who have belonged to us here on earth  
now rest in the eternity of God's promised heaven;  
you who have left the shadows of this world behind,  
rise to the joy of heaven's new morning.  
As we let you go, may you be welcomed on another shore.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **Loving God, we give you thanks for N;  
for the time we shared with her/him,  
for the good we saw in her/him,  
for the love we received from her/him,  
and for the memories we treasure today.  
Now give us strength and courage  
to entrust her/him to your care,  
confident in your promise of eternal life:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## BLESSING

*Priest* Life is short and we haven't much time  
to gladden the hearts of those who journey with us,  
so be swift to love and make haste to be kind,  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the +Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you  
and all those you love and pray for,  
both in this world, and the next.

*All* **Amen.** ☐

*Particular music may be played either on the organ or from a recording (otional)*



*N's ashes will be interred at ..... immediately following this service*

*N's family thank you for your presence here today*

## COMMITAL - AT .....

*N's ashes are reverently put into their final resting place*

*Priest* We are here because this place has been set apart and is sacred and special;  
it is a place that will always now hold memories of N,  
and the loved ones of others.  
In the stillness of God's peace, let us remember....

*A moment of quiet reflection is kept*

*Priest* Today we honour this place as sacred for us  
because it holds the mortal remains of loved ones and friends.  
This will be part of our farewell  
and a sign of the setting free of N to leave us and enter into her/his next journey.

To love someone is to risk the pain of parting.  
Not to love is never to have lived.  
Let us now let go, in faith and hope and love:

We have entrusted our beloved N to God's mercy,  
and we now commit her / his mortal remains to the ground:  
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust:  
and we do this in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

N's ashes now rest in the peace of the earth  
—it is a place of final rest:  
It is for us a special place, not because she/he is here  
—her / his spirit could never be contained in ashes.  
N's true life is, we pray, through God's mercy  
to be found in the Kingdom God has promised to her/him and to each one of us.  
We give our respect as a mark of love and we honor that part of human life  
which always returns to the earth in a cycle of renewal  
—we do this as those who are now prepared to let her/him go, even as we grieve.

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ has opened to us the gate of life;  
✠bless this, the final resting place of N's earthly body,  
which she/he now no longer needs;  
may her / his soul be at peace in the joy of your kingdom;  
this we ask, O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord,  
who is the resurrection and the life.

*All* **Amen.**

Praying together:

*All* **Support us, O Lord, throughout the whole of life,  
until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes,  
the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over,  
and our work is done.**

**Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us with N,  
a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last.  
Amen.**

*Priest* May gentle rain visit this place with its greening of life,  
may the winds of freedom  
move in delight among the trees around it  
and connect its breathing and growing  
with the spirit of our loved ones.

*All* **Amen.**

## FINAL BLESSING

*Priest* May God the ✠Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit,  
direct your life in good works,  
and after your journey through this world  
grant you eternal rest with N and all the faithful departed,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*Priest* Alleluia. Christ is risen  
*All* **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Priest* Let us go forth in the name of Christ  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

