

## CONDUCTING A FUNERAL SERVICE

(Greenlane Christian Centre - 7/1/90 - EKB)

### A.

Service conducted in the Church Building. (These are the words used without indicating who the person was and they need to be adjusted to meet your actual situation.)

1. **The Greeting.**

“On behalf of (name nearest relative and family) I welcome you today to this service of remembrance.”

2. **The Intention.**

“We are gathered here today, in the sight of Almighty God to give thanks for the life of (name the deceased), precious (husband/wife/etc), beloved (father/mother/etc), and faithful friend of so many people.”

3. **Prayer.**

“Our great God and Heavenly Father, we gather before You today to thank You for the life of (.....).

We thank You for his/her love, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and for his/her labour of love for his/her family and many others. We thank You for his/her faith and trust in Christ, and for his/her example of godly living.

We ask You to come now into our midst and reveal Yourself to us as Saviour and Lord, as Comforter and Redeemer, in the Great and Glorious Name of Jesus Christ our Lord.”

(Then pray for the immediate family, by name, for God’s hand to be upon them, that they will find truth, light and peace in Christ.)

4. **Scripture passages** (from the KJV as better received by non church people).

*Ps 116:15*

*Jn 11:25,26*

*Amos 5:8*

*2Cor 5:1,6-8*

*Ps 23:1,4*

*Nahum 1:7*

*Jn 14:1-3,6,27*

*Rev 21:3-6*

*Ps 46:1,2*

*Is 41:10*

*1Thes 4:13,14*

*Ps 91:1-3*

(or other appropriate passages.)

5. **First hymn.**

6. **Family eulogy** for the deceased.

7. **Hymn solo.**

8. **Sermon.** (to apply the Word and preach the Gospel - brief and to the point.

“(name the deceased)” had a strong personal faith and trust in Jesus Christ. He/she knew that Christ had died on the Cross, and risen from the dead so that (he/she) might have forgiveness of sins, and eternal life from God.

“(....)” was not trusting in his/her own good works, and life, to earn his/her eternal salvation. He/she trusted in the Blood of Jesus as his/her only way to eternal life. “(....)” had given his/her whole life to Christ, and had received Him as his/her Saviour.

“(....)” is now, by God’s Word, in the presence of God and of Christ, in heaven, and the Bible says that if we would go where he/she has gone, we need to have the same personal

faith and trust in Christ, receive Him as our Saviour, surrender our life to Him, to obey, serve and follow Him.

*Jn 14:6*

“Dear precious people for whom Christ died, the greatest joy you could give “(....)”, now, and in eternity, is to open up your life to Christ, and receive Him as God and Lord and give your life to serve and follow Him. Read the gospels, pray to the Lord Jesus Christ and call on His name, seek fellowship with those who know the Lord, and you will find Him.”

9. **Prayer** to conclude the message, and give a time of silence for people to commit their lives to Christ.
10. **Last hymn.**
11. **Prayer** to conclude this part of the funeral.
12. **Invitation** to the gathering in someone’s home after the funeral is concluded.
13. “This is the end of this part of the funeral service, the concluding part will be at the crematorium (or the graveside).

## **B.**

### **At the Crematorium or Graveside.**

1. **Scripture Readings:** *1Cor 15:20,21,35,42-44,50-58(KJV), Jn 6:40.*

2. **Prayer** - please stand

“Forasmuch as it has pleased our Heavenly Father, of His great Mercy, to take unto Himself our beloved “(.....)”, we therefore commit his/her body to be cremated(buried), earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall change our servile body that it may be like unto His glorious Body, according to the mighty working, whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself.”

“I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, write, from henceforth blessed are the dead which die in the Lord: even so says the Spirit, for they rest from their labours.” (May use *Heb 13:20,21*).

3. **Benediction.** *Num 6:24,25,26 (KJV).*

**N.B.** Meet with the family well before the funeral to prepare hymns, solos, eulogy speakers. Prepare a sheet with the words to the hymns and photocopy enough copies for the congregation.

It pays to write out the whole service beforehand, prayers, sermon etc.