

## **Funeral or Memorial Service Guidelines of The Book of Common Prayer**

The funeral or memorial service follows the guidelines of The Book of Common Prayer, Page 468-507. Family members and friends are invited to take part in the service by reading lessons and the prayers. One or two remembrances by family members or friends may be offered. A homily or sermon, which emphasizes the comfort of our faith may also be preached. It should be remembered that the funeral service is a public statement of the Christian Faith and hope in the Resurrection.

Floral arrangements for a funeral or memorial service should not be more elaborate than on a normal Sunday. The coffin is sealed before it is brought into the church. During the funeral the coffin is covered with the pall, not a floral arrangement (The Book of Common Prayer, page 468). Floral arrangements sent to the family by friends will be placed at the baptismal font or in the vestibule.

At the request of the family, clergy from other churches may be invited to take part in a funeral or memorial service. An invitation to participate will be extended by the clergy of St. Mary's. Many families wish to have a collation (reception after the funeral to greet friends). The church is happy to provide space for this in the Parish House. A collation group is usually happy to provide food for this occasion.