

Memorial Order of Service Worksheet

<http://uuprairie.org/talks/MakingMemorialServicesMeaningful.htm>

Who is the service for?

A first piece of advice is NOT to overplay your own arrangements because “room must be left to accommodate the feelings of those who are left.” The booklet Final Choices also warns against demanding that there be no service or fuss of any kind. It eloquently states this:

You should remember that these ceremonies are for the living...” that a “final ceremony is often seen by survivors as ‘the right thing to do’ as a way of satisfying many needs - saying farewell, expressing and assuaging grief, reaffirming your life and the things you stood for, and giving your friends an opportunity to let your survivors know that you mattered to them, a gesture that is often very important to people. (p. 11)

Final Choices poses 3 questions to consider in planning a memorial service:

- What will comfort your friends and relatives?
- What will help restore their belief in the integrity of life?
- What will help them recover their perspective of the meaning of life and death?

Location	
Officiant	
Who Leads my Memorial Service?	
Other Participants Identify who you'd like to serve as pallbearers and deliver eulogies and other readings. Participants may also sing songs, play music, or offer other tributes.	
Guest List <u>Make a list of guests to invite:</u> If there are specific people you would like to have invited to the service, write down their names and contact information so that the person managing the service will be sure to invite them.	<i>Use back or separate sheet.</i>
<u>Design other elements of your funeral or memorial service:</u> Let your family know how you'd like the service to look and feel. Choose flowers, music, and other personal	

touches.	
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The Order of Service Included here is a typical Order of Service for either a funeral service or a memorial service. The Hymns are optional, depending on the number of people expected at the service and the musical preferences of those organizing the service. The Tributes, typically composed in advance, may be delivered by any combination of family and friends; an appropriate number of tributes would be anything up to about six. A graveside service taking place after a memorial or funeral service would typically consist of three of four short readings.

Prelude	
Welcome and Call to Worship (Chalice Lighting, Call Directions, etc)	
Opening Hymn	
Readings	
Reflection or Prayer or Responsive Reading	
Silence	
Music	

Tributes	
Informal Tributes	
Eulogy	
Closing Hymn	
Benediction , Farewell Directions, Ext Chalice, etc	
Postlude	

Some appropriate hymns are: Morning Has Broken, #38; Blessed Spirit of My Life, #86; Spirit of Life, #123; Precious Lord, Take My Hand, #199; Amazing Grace, #205; A Promise through the Ages Rings, #344; Come Sing a Song with Me, #346; We Laugh, We Cry, #354; Here We Have Gathered, #360

Some appropriate responsive readings are: We Need One Another, #468; We Remember Them, #720