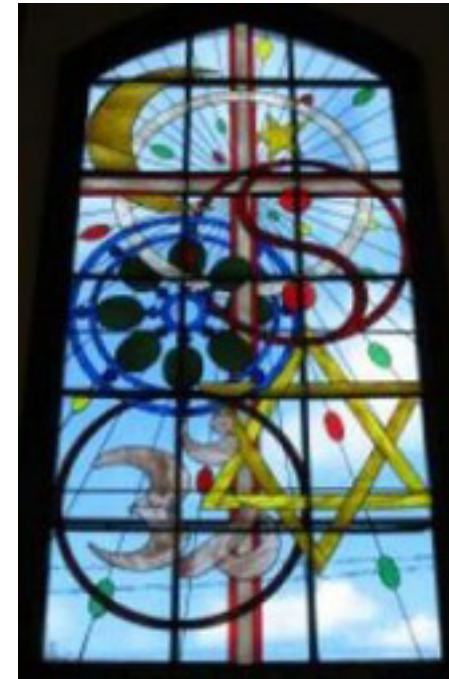


# *Death and Dying*

Helpful Answers To Common Questions



**ST. ELIZABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**Honolulu, Hawai'i**

<https://www.stelizabeth720.org>

Bereavement Guide

# When a loved one dies



## **Preparing for the loss of a loved one**

Whether because of a lingering illness or a sudden catastrophic event, or old age, death touches us all at some point. We can each make things easier on those we leave behind by letting our wishes for end-of-life matters be known in advance, and in writing. And we can encourage those we care for to also make decisions that best fit their beliefs and desires.

This Q and A is designed to help.

## **Q. Has your loved one made a Living Will and Advanced Care Directive that discusses end of life wants such as whether to resuscitate or whether life support such as ventilators are desired or not?**

A: This is a difficult but necessary conversation to have with our loved ones BEFORE the need arises. And it's important to use the correct forms so medical personnel will honor it. This website has those forms: <https://livingwillforms.org/hi/>

## **Q: When may I call for the priest?**

A: Any time pastoral care is desired. It may be just for the comfort of a prayer and blessing or it may be to request Last Rites because the end seems near. Both shortly before and after death, our tradition has important prayers to be prayed. Never hesitate to call a priest.

## **Q. Memorial gifts**

Think about leaving a bequest to your church in your Will or Trust. You can leave a designated gift (i.e. you wish the sums to be used for outreach, scholarship, worship, etc.) or undesignated, which allows the Vestry and Rector to spend the funds on the greatest needs. In addition, memorial gifts in lieu of/in addition to flowers may be directed to:

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church  
Other institutions/nonprofits

## **Q. Funeral or memorial service. Should one plan it in advance? Choose scripture readings? Hymns?**

That is entirely an individual decision. If you do so, we will of course honor it. If not, we will meet with family before the service to choose appropriate readings, prayers and hymns. Please feel free to look through the Book of Common Prayer, pp 491-503, which is the Rite II Burial Service.

## **Q. In this age of COVID19, what can one expect in terms of a "funeral" or "memorial" service?**

Currently all funerals are on hold until we can safely gather again.



**Q. What are the options for mortuary services?**

Aloha Mortuary Honolulu, HI  
· Cremation and Funeral Services  
(808) 470-3445

O'ahu Mortuary Honolulu, HI  
· Funeral home. Cemetery.  
Open 24 hours · (808) 538-1538

Borthwick Mortuary Honolulu, HI  
· Funeral home  
Open 24 hours · (808) 522-5200

Mililani Memorial Park & Mortuary Honolulu, HI  
· Funeral home  
(808) 538-6207

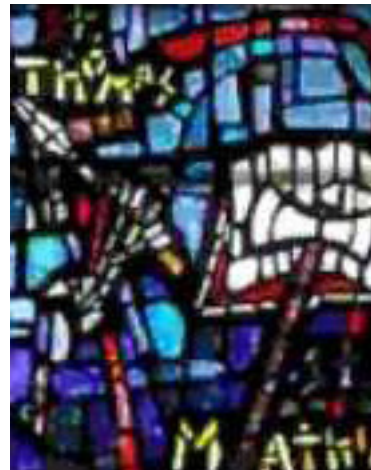
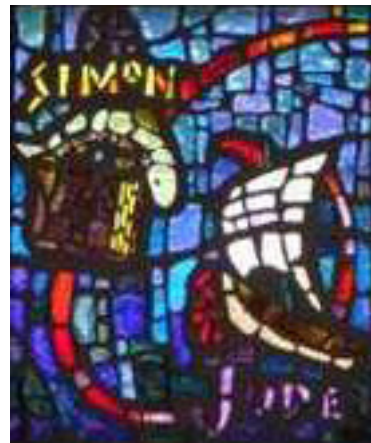
Nu'uanu Memorial Park & Mortuary Honolulu, HI  
· Cemetery  
Open · Closes 4PM · (808) 537-5255

Ballard Family Moanalua Mortuary Honolulu, HI  
· Funeral home  
Open · Closes 5PM · (808) 833-8811

Hosoi Garden Mortuary Honolulu, HI  
· Funeral home  
(808) 538-3877

Right Star Nuuanu Mortuary Honolulu, HI  
· Funeral home  
(808) 537-3907

Diamond Head Mortuary & Williams Funeral Services  
Honolulu, HI  
· Cemetery  
Open 24 hours · (808) 379-3503



**Q. Visitation before the burial/cremation? Yes or No?**

Most mortuaries provide for such visits.

**Q. Does the individual qualify for veteran's access to certain services eg. Punchbowl Cemetery?**

One of these must be true. The person qualifying for burial benefits is: A Veteran who didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, or a service member who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty for training, or the spouse or minor child of a Veteran, even if the Veteran died first, or In some cases, the unmarried adult dependent child of a Veteran. Call (808) 369-3575 for questions about VA burial at Honolulu's Veterans Cemeteries.

**Q. If burial, what are the options for cemetery plots?**

These vary with each cemetery so please ask them for the details.

**Q. If cremation, what are the options for inurnment?**

Most cemeteries have separate inurnment areas called a columbarium. Generally, these are walls which allow for remains to be placed in a small, locked niche.

**Q. What are the church-related costs of a funeral/memorial service?**

This varies by Church. At St Elizabeth's there is no fee for the burial service at church and/or at graveside for church members. The only cost is for the organist which the family pays (currently \$150). For non-church members, there is no mandatory fee, but a \$300 donation to the church is requested to offset costs such as electricity, A/C, etc.

**Q. Do I need to make arrangements with a funeral home or mortuary before a death occurs?**

If you are able to make such arrangements prior to death that is advisable. These are of course the most difficult times in our life, and making such arrangements can be emotional and distressing. Reach out to others (family, friends) and ask for help. If arrangements can be made beforehand, you will have the help of the mortuary in taking care of your loved one's remains at the time of death.



**Q. Will a priest join family services at home in accordance with cultural customs? (eg 7 Day nightly vigil, 30th Day family prayers/refreshments after the death)**

Yes, upon request.

**Q. Documents that will be needed for the recording of the death and funeral service.**

Birth certificate, marriage certificate, military papers, photograph. Be sure to give the mortuary a photo of your loved one so they can appropriately make up the deceased as you remember them. Talk to your loved one about preparing a will, if one has not been made. A Revocable Living Trust is another way to dispose of one's bounty after death, and it avoids having your survivors go to Probate Court.

**Q. What are the reporting requirements associated with a death?**

If a death occurs at home or at the workplace while others are present, call the deceased's physician and emergency personnel (EMT/Police). If the death occurs when no one is home, call the police. If the death is expected and funeral arrangements have been made, call the mortuary and they will help you determine who else to contact.

Here are our contact numbers:

St Elizabeth's Episcopal Church  
720 North King Street  
Honolulu HI 96817  
808-845-2112

The Rev David J Gierlach, SCP  
Rector  
808-673-8930

Mother Imelda Padasdao  
808-256-9277

Fr. Peter Fan  
808-428-1562

**Q: Whom do I call first when someone dies?**

Please call your priest. If your loved one dies at home, you may want to call the deceased's doctor so that the death can be attested to by a medical professional. Call the mortuary if prior burial arrangements have been made. If no burial arrangements have been made, call the coroner's office. They may keep the remains until funeral services are arranged.

**Q: Should I make sure the body is blessed before it is removed from the home?**

Yes, if that is your desire. The prayers after death bid our loved one on to the next world. Yet, we are a resurrection people and the body matters. Thus, many people wish to have the remains blessed before burial or cremation.

