
*Most of us share an intense
love and bond with our
animal companions,
so it is natural to feel
grief and sadness when
a cherished pet dies.*

*If you wish to offer prayers,
conduct a funeral, or bury
the ashes of your pet in the
Pet Memorial Garden at
Christ Church, resources are
included in this brochure.*



*The Christ Church Pet Memorial Garden
is located around a bench in a green
space in the upper parking lot.*



Christ Church Charlotte
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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When a Beloved Pet Dies

**CHRIST CHURCH
PET MEMORIAL
GARDEN**



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Your Christ Church family understands that the death of a pet is a deep loss, and we encourage pet owners to trust that God cares for all of creation in life and in death.

If you wish to offer prayers or to conduct a funeral for your pet, resources are included in this brochure. Please notify the church of the date and time you wish to bury your pet's ashes to be certain it is not a time that conflicts with other events at Church.

Note that only pets that have been cremated may be buried in the Christ Church Pet Memorial Garden. No urns, boxes, or other containers may be buried in the garden, and nothing can be buried along with the ashes (i.e.; collar, pet toy). The ashes must be placed directly into the ground. Pet owners are responsible for digging a hole 6 - 12 inches deep in any of the mulched areas of the garden for placement of the ashes. Pet owners, their families, and friends are expected to handle all matters related to the burial and/or service, including bringing a shovel.

LITURGY FOR BURIAL

God, you created all that is, and you love all that you have made: we come to you this day in grief and with thanksgiving. We grieve the death of our beloved [...], who has been our companion on the way, and we thank you for the gift of her presence among us as a loving sign of the richness of your creation and the generosity of your love. Comfort us in our grief. Surround us with your love, that we may not be overwhelmed by our loss, but have confidence in your goodness. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.

God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.'

- GENESIS 9: 9, 11-16

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgements are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.

- PSALM 36:5-6

If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

- MATTHEW 18: 12-14

BURIAL

The ashes are placed in the ground. Those assembled can take turns covering the ashes with dirt until the hole is filled.

Most merciful God, we return to you [...], a creature of your own making and your gift into our lives. We thank you for his faithfulness in our joys and sorrows; and we bless you for the time during which you entrusted him into our care. We now entrust him back into your hands. Amen.

REMEMBRANCE AND PRAYERS

If desired, those assembled may share favorite memories of the beloved pet.

God our Maker, from the beginning you have permitted us, the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, to name our brother and sister creatures of earth, sea, and sky. Thank you that the name of [...] will always bring us smiles and glad memories.

Christ, the great Shepherd, you teach us to tend and care lovingly for one another. We give thanks for how [...] cared for and tended to us.

Holy Spirit and Comforter, abide with us in our sadness and sustain us in the hope that we may yet again rejoice in the companionship of [...] in the world to come. Amen.

Your pet's name can be included in a pet burial registry book kept in the Church office.