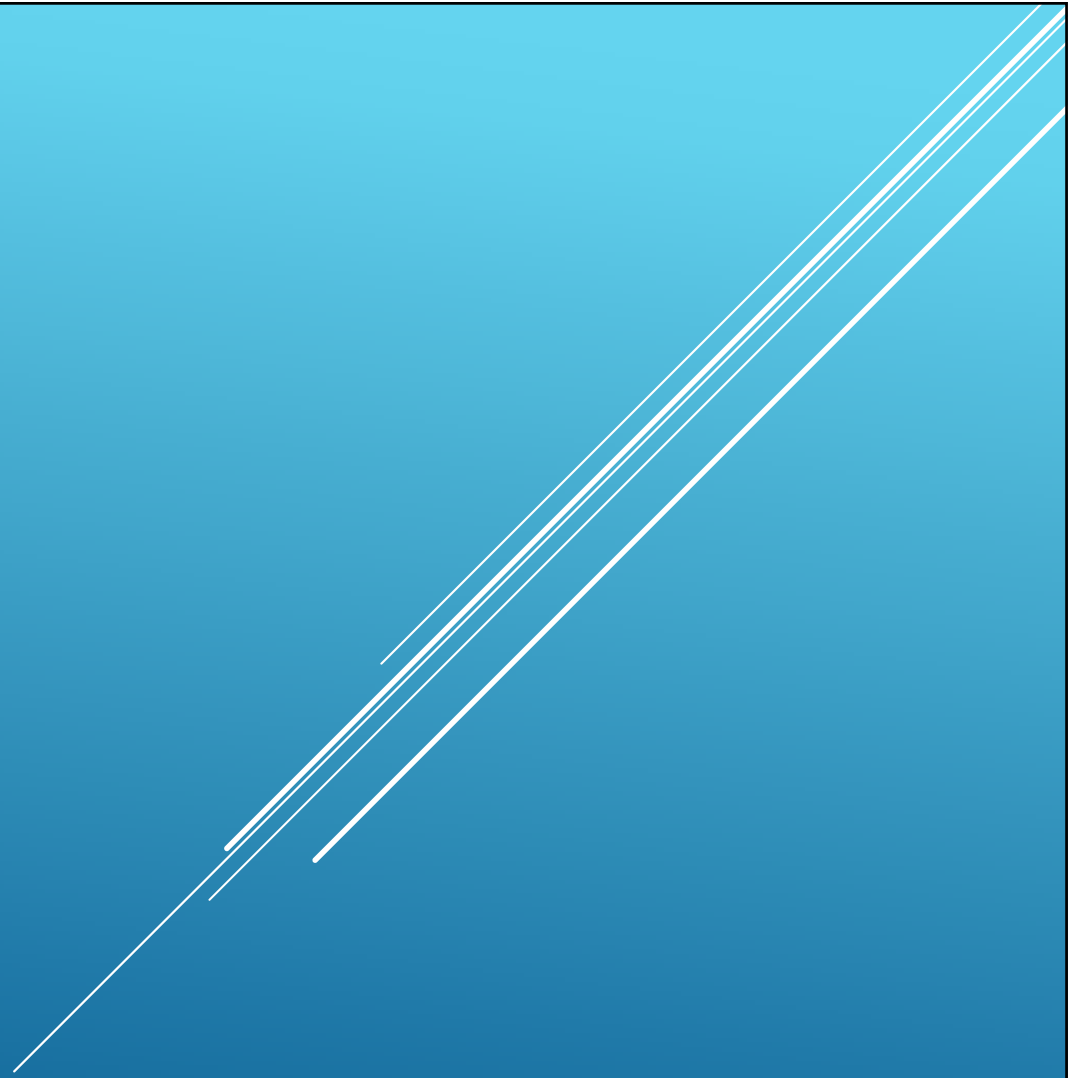
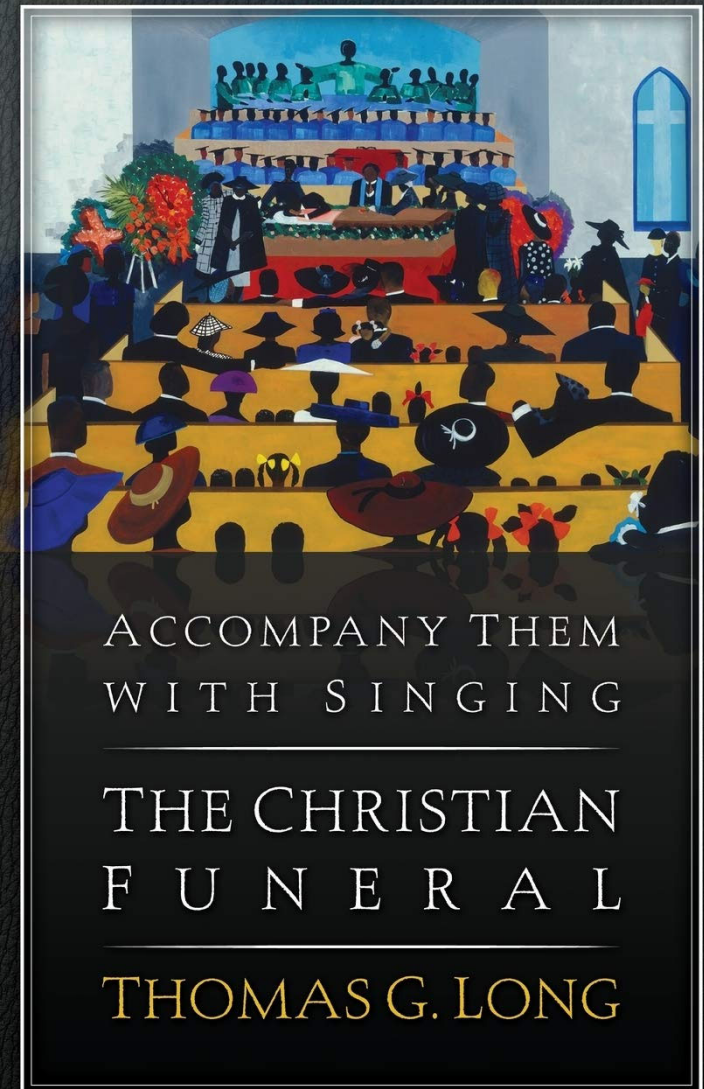


FUNERALS

A Service of Death and Resurrection



- ▶ Thomas Long "Accompany them with Singing"
- ▶ Long claims that, ultimately, "A pastor, no matter how wise or pastorally sensitive, cannot alone make a 'good' funeral. A good funeral is something the people of God must do together" (122). The faithful funeral, Long argues, includes four key elements.
 - ▶ Long calls these a holy person (the deceased),
 - ▶ a holy or sacred place,
 - ▶ holy people (the believers),
 - ▶ and a holy script (the gospel narrative).
- ▶ "The thing that finally was the figure/ground shift for me was doing the research on the history of the first five centuries of the Christian practice about funeral. I realized that I kept looking for what they did at the funeral. What did they do at the funeral? There was all this about how they would wash and anoint the body and sing and dress it in baptismal garments. They would carry it in broad daylight singing psalms to the cemetery and have Eucharist at the cemetery. Yeah that's interesting, but what did they do at the funeral? And it suddenly dawned on me that that was the funeral. The drama of carrying the body to the place of farewell, with tear-soaked psalms of gratitude and thanksgiving, to give it back to God and to gather at the table with the saints—that was the funeral."



▶ Preservice visitations:

- ▶ Ask for favorite hymns, scripture passages,
- ▶ I always ask that the family speak about their faith
- ▶ Pastor of a community. There are no such thing as small church pastors, only pastors of small gatherings. But every pastor is appointed to a community
- ▶ If you are to preach a sermon, proclaim the gospel! Proclaim resurrection! Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ!
- ▶ Have a Service bulletin ready to bring with you.

VISITATION

- ▶ This is a Christian worship service, emphasizing both death AND resurrection!
- ▶ BOW 139
- ▶ UMH 870
- ▶ Church or Funeral Home? “Church if at all possible..” But really, it depends. But highlight Christian symbols!

A SERVICE OF DEATH AND RESURRECTION

- ▶ Primarily intended for the burial into the ground, but can be adopted for cremation or interment of ashes, burial above ground or at sea, or for donation of body for medical purposes
- ▶ Military and/or fraternal rites are an addition to the service, only approval of the pastor and usually at the end of the service.

A SERVICE OF COMMITTAL

- ▶ I will usually follow up with the family 1 month (Take Holy Communion), 6 months and on the anniversary. Letting them know that I'm thinking of them and praying for them
- ▶ Continue to support the family in their long-term grieving process
- ▶ All Saints Day!

FOLLOW-UP

- ▶ BOW 139
- ▶ UMH 870

PRACTICE!