

FILADELPHIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY SERVICES (1.5 hrs. long normally)

*People will be welcomed as they arrive to the Service Hall
Time countdown will start 5 minutes before.*

Opening Song by the worship team

Welcome and Introduction by the service leader

Short welcome & greetings by one another in the congregation

Personal Testimony or Special Presentation

Exhortation for Collection of tithes and offerings

Song or Music while collecting the offering

Worship and Congregational Singing (2-3 songs)

Message by the pastor or church leader or guest

Prayer for those who are sick or in need of prayer

Church News and Announcements

Closing and Celebration Song by the worship team

Dismissal

Coffee and Cake Fellowship at the dining hall will follow. (1.5 hrs. long)

WATER BAPTISM

After orientation and clear understanding of what water baptism is all about, the believer who decided to follow Jesus and publicly declare his faith in Christ and His saving works at the Cross, will be asked to come down to the almost waist deep water (either in the church baptismal pool or in the agreed public place) and confess...

Minister: Do you believe in Jesus Christ and his sacrificial death on the cross for you?

Believer: Yes, I do.

Minister: Do you want to follow Jesus and be identified with Him?

Believer: Yes, I do.

Minister: (After a short prayer) *"Name of the believer", according to your confession and decision to follow Jesus, I now baptize you in the name of the Father of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

The believer will then be brought down under the water until every part of the body is completely submerged, and then immediately raised up out of the water again.

Then, a certification of water baptism will be handed to the believer after the ceremony.

COMMUNION

Every 2nd Sunday of the month the communion is celebrated during the Sunday Service. Communion elements will be prepared beforehand.

Introduction and reason for communion

Broken Bread and Fruit of the Vine (non-alcoholic) will be distributed or will be individually collected from tables.

(Only for Christian believers who have received Christ's forgiveness and salvation)

Scripture Reading about the communion like...

Minister:

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 26:26-28 (NIV)

Minister: Let us pray...

After the prayer the believers will eat the small piece of bread and drink the fruit of the vine..

BABY DEDICATION

While the baby is still small the baby can be brought to the church to be dedicated to the Lord. During one of the Services a baby or babies can be scheduled for Baby Dedication or it can be done in a local venue arranged and decided by the baby's parents.

The Ceremony

Baby will be brought forward together with the parents and 2 or more witnesses

A Scripture passage will be read by the Minister

The baby will be received by the minister and prayed for 3 reasons.

- To thank God for giving the couple their own child to care and for the life of the baby.
- To bless the baby in prayer together with the parents and the witnesses.
- To entrust the future of the baby to God and the parent's care

After the prayer the Baby will be returned to the parents

WEDDING

After a series of marriage counseling (at least 2 sessions). Then, the place of wedding and celebration venue and date will be finalized.

The common ceremony looks like this:

Entrance of the Entourage with a song or music to be played as they enter

Dramatic Entrance of the Bride

The Bride will be received by the Groom from the Father or the Guardian

The Bride will be accompanied by the Groom to the Altar

Welcome and Introduction by the Minister

Short Sermon by the Minister to the Couple

Couple will be asked to declare their intents

Song can be sung here...

Couple will exchange Vows and Promises to each other

Couple will exchange rings.

Couple will kneel.

Veil and cord will be placed on the couple's shoulders. *(Optional Filipino tradition)*

Couple will be prayed for marriage blessings by the Minister together with the couple's parents or guardians

Couple and Minister will sign the Marriage Contact *(Music will be played in the background)*

Veil and cord will be removed.

Couple will exchange Bible and Coins *(Optional Filipino tradition)*

Couple will appreciate their parents *(Optional)*

Couple will be presented to the congregation as Married.

Picture-taking follows

Couple and entourage will leave the church or venue followed by the congregation...

Reception and dinner follows afterwards...

FUNERAL SERVICE

*The body of the deceased will be placed ready before the service starts
Relatives and visitors will arrive and be seated*

Opening song or music will be played

Welcome and Introduction by the Minister

Song (*Requested by the family*)

Message and honoring of the deceased

Congregational Song

Message from the family or friends of the deceased

Prayer for the family of the deceased

Turning over of the body of the deceased to God

Giving of flowers and last viewing by the family, relatives and visitors (*only if for cremation*)

Coffin will be carried out of the church for cremation or burial.

Short ceremony and final viewing at the burial site will be done (*Only if not for cremation*)

Refreshment for all the guests and visitors will follow afterwards.