



Celebrating the Life of

Benjamin G. Washington, Sr.

Sunrise
August 12, 1936

Sunset
September 28, 2011

Service

Thursday, October 6, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.

WEST END PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

165 West 105th Street
New York City, New York

Rev. Alistair Drummond, Pastor
Rev. John David Warren, Pastor Emeritus
John Bowen, Minister of Music

Obituary

On September 28, 2011, **Benjamin Glary Washington, Sr.** after a lengthy illness was called home by his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Benjamin G. Washington, Sr. was born in Alcoa, Tennessee on August 12, 1936 to the late George and Elizabeth Washington. Three siblings George, Laurence and Margaret preceded him in death.

Benjamin was educated in the Tennessee Public School system and graduated from Austin High School. Benjamin had a passion for singing at an early age. In mid 1951 he joined a group called the Echoes the Original group consisted of Benjamin Washington, John Anderson, James Myers, Herbert Myers, John Myers, Charles Holloway and John Gibbs. The group went to the top with hit records but unfortunately they did not get any label credit or proceeds. The group did backup singing at the Savoy Manor for numerous famous singers. While attending high school in Knoxville, Tennessee they met Clifford Curry and he joined as a sixth member of the group. It was later changed to the "Five Pennies" even though there were six members. Benjamin and some group members were drafted into the United States Army and there he served for several years. While in the Army, he was a Welter Weight boxer and was awarded many medals.

Benjamin moved to New York after leaving the army and resumed his singing. At one of his favorite performances he met and married the love of his life, his devoted friend and wife of

over fifty years, Mattie Chambers. He was fondly known as “Benny” by his wife. From that union were born their beloved children, Maxine, Sheila, Dwayne, Benjamin Jr. and Kenneth.

Benjamin was employed by the Board of Education and was self-employed as a chauffeur until he became ill.

Benjamin was a quiet and humorous man, who loved and cared for his family. He was well liked and respected in the community; he always greeted you with a warm smile.

He leaves to cherish his fond memories: his wife, Mattie Washington; children, Maxine, Sheila, Dwayne (Stephanie), Benjamin Jr. (Josephine) and Kenneth (Sirtiary); grandchildren, Chanell, Andrew, Torino, Benjamin III, Ozias and Daniel; his cousins, Wanda and Kevin of Knoxville; close friends he grew up with, Clifford Perry, Claude Nance and John Myers; and a host of other relatives and friends.



“A LIFE WELL-LIVED”

A life well-lived is a precious gift of hope, strength and grace from someone who has made our world a brighter, better place. It's filled with moments sweet and sad, with smiles and sometimes tears, with friendships formed and good times shared and laughter through the years.

A life well-lived is a legacy of joy and pride and pleasure, a loving, lasting memory our grateful hearts will treasure.

*With Love,
Your Family*



Acknowledgement of Gratitude

The family gratefully acknowledges each expression of love and sympathy shown during our time of bereavement.



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Order of Service

Processional

Hymn No. 276 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

Prayer of Comfort

Psalm 23 (*In unison*)

Words of Remembrance *Poem by Thelma Bradley*

Solo *Sheila Washington*

Gospel Reading John 14:1–6

Gospel Choir

Acknowledgements and Obituary *Josephine Washington*

Eulogy.....*Rev. Margaret O. Thomas*

Hymn No. 280 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

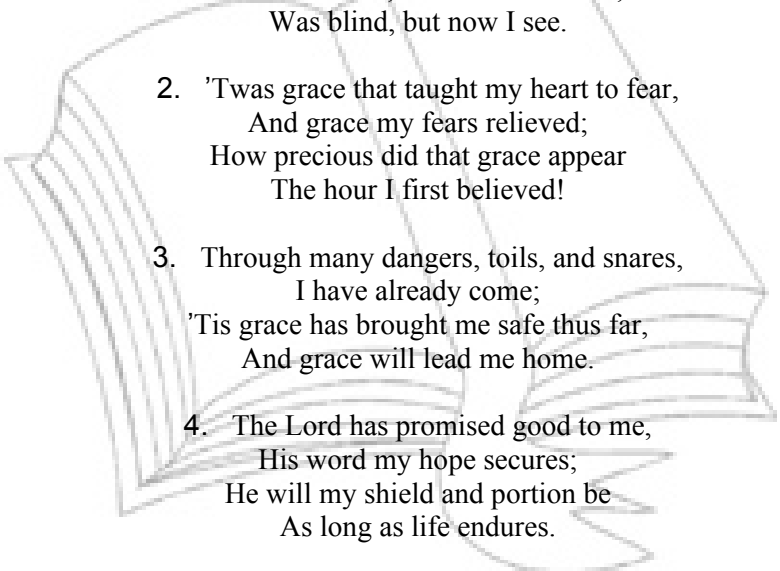
1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.



Benediction

Postlude

Reception following the service in the forum. All are welcome.

Interment
*Calverton National Cemetery
210 Princeton Road
Calverton, NY 11933
(Friday, October 7, 2011)*