

Homegoing Celebration for



Gertrude (Johnson) Walker

Sunrise

May 27, 1918

Sunset

November 29, 2013

Service

Thursday, December 5, 2013 - 6:00 p.m.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

575 East 18th Street
Paterson, New Jersey

Rev. Dr. Albert P. Rowe, Officiating

Reflections of Life

Gertrude (Johnson) Walker was born on May 27, 1918 to the late Travis and Ophelia Johnson in the small historic town of Orange, VA. Early in life Gertrude was described as a quiet obedient, young person and this image carried her through her ninety-five years. During her formative years she grew up in the era of segregation when very few opportunities were available in education or industry for people of color. However, she did attend Orange Graded School and completed her studies. Throughout life God continued to educate her and bless her with wisdom and life skills that served her well for several decades.

At age 18, she married Isaiah Walker, Sr. She was mother to seven daughters and one son, early in her marriage she was a homemaker but later sought employment as a housekeeper to help support her family. With few work options in her small home town Gertrude decided to travel north to work. Since 1965, she has resided in Paterson, New Jersey and for several years she provided invaluable domestic services to a local doctor and his family.

Gertrude was a faithful member of two churches: Emmanuel Baptist Church, Orange, Virginia and Calvary Baptist Church, Paterson, New Jersey. She also sent contributions to support worthy organizations like the veterans.

Her life was guided by God and faith. The wisdom she often shared with family and friends was inspired by reading His daily words. She was known for writing letters and notes of encouragement to many and would always include a verse reference from her Bible. Even the last week of her life a few family and friends opened their mail and received her last written notes.

God blessed Gertrude with strength to care for herself for ninety-five years. Before each meal she would start by saying, "Thank you God for bringing me this far on this day." She cooked meals; she cared for her personal needs and she cleaned her room. She also kept up with the latest news like the Paterson City Council Meetings. Gertrude was quiet but opinionated and we quietly referred to our mom as "Judge Judy". She exercised her right to vote and took her civic duty very seriously. Recently, she voted in the New Jersey Senate Election and she just received her notice for jury duty. Her doctors and their staff were amazed by her understanding, communication skills and memory. During appointments she would answer questions about her health. She read medical books and looked up her prescriptions (especially focusing on the side effects.) Through it all her body was getting tired and she knew her time was near. But even at her bedside when God was quietly calling her home she had final orders to share with her love ones.

Today, we celebrate an extraordinary woman called upon by God to touch many lives. Today, we celebrate a woman who followed Gods rules. Today we celebrate a wonderful woman, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and more. She treated everyone fair and equal. She realized early on that no matter the circumstance God sees us all the same. Her one wish to all was, "Please let God in your life and for family to always love and support one another".

Gertrude Walker was predeceased by her husband, Isaiah Walker, Sr.; son, Isaiah Walker, Jr.; Daughters, Margaret Stewart and Carolyn Walker. She had to say goodbye to her five daughters, Alice Robinson, Sybil Harris, Selena Walker, Dolores Miles and Roberta Walker; her remaining wonderful sibling, Selena Brown; twenty grandchildren, and a host of great grandchildren and great great grandchildren; devoted son-in-law, Joseph Miles. She also had to say goodbye to wonderful nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, neighbors and long time friends.

Order of Service

*For I am ready to be offered, and
The time of my departure is at hand;
I have fought a good fight, I have
Finished my course, I have kept the faith
2 Timothy 4:6-7*

ORGAN PRELUDE Vincent McCray

PROCESSIONAL Scriptural Passages

INVOCATION AND

THE LORDS'S PRAYER Rev. Randall Lassiter, Co-Pastor

HYMN OF COMFORT "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" 431

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 23

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON John 11:20-28

Rev. Pamela Powell

WORDS OF COMFORT Deacon Jeanette S. Lyde,
Secretary Deacon Board
Deaconess Annabelle Jones, Chairwoman Deaconess Board

POEM Wreatha Anderson

SELECTION

RESOLUTIONS

& ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS Sandra Urquhart

REFLECTIONS OF LIFE Sandra Urquhart

SOLO Victoria McKenzie

EULOGY "CALLED BY GOD" PASTOR ROWE

CLOSING SELECTION When We All Get to Heaven 594

RECESSIONAL Scriptural Passages

Interment

West View Cemetery
Orange, Virginia

The Master Called

*I'm sorry I had to leave you.
My loved ones, oh so dear.
But you see, the Master called me,
His voice was very clear!
I had made my reservation
A heaven bound ticket for one,
And I knew that He would call me
When He felt my work was done.
I know that your hearts are heavy
Because I have gone away,
But when the Master called me,
I knew that I could not stay.
Yes, I'm sorry I had to leave you
My loved ones, oh so dear,
But, you see, the Master called me
And, now I'm resting here.
Yes, I've crossed on over to glory
And to you all I say
Just stay in the hands of Jesus
And we'll meet again someday.*

-Author unknown

Acknowledgement

*The family of the late **Gertrude (Johnson) Walker** wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this the hour of bereavement. May God Bless and Keep You!*

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