

*Service of Thanksgiving
and Requiem Eucharist
for the life of
Agnes Ruby Cheatham*



May 19, 1924 – March 25, 2014

Service

Thursday, April 3, 2014 - 11:00 a.m.

Church of the Epiphany

105 Main Street

City of Orange, New Jersey 07050

*The Reverend Father Joseph A. Harmon, Officiating
Stephen Hetzel, Organist*

Obituary

Agnes Ruby Cheatham, was born on May 19, 1924 in the town of Drakes Branch, Virginia in Charlotte County. She was the oldest daughter of her parents Wirt and Lucy Cheatham, who preceded her in death. Agnes was the oldest sister of two siblings, Elaine and Lillian, who predeceased her.


Agnes attended the schools in Charlotte County until she was sixteen years old when her parents moved up north to Montclair, New Jersey. She transferred to Montclair High School where she excelled and graduated. Agnes was then accepted into Howard University where she attended for three years, but had to return home to assist her Mom with her ailing sister, Elaine. Agnes often expressed that she had a very happy childhood. Her father worked very hard and provided everything her family needed to live very comfortably, which was extremely hard for others in those days. She continued on to receive her Bachelor's of Arts degree in Elementary Education at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Agnes taught in the Newark School System for over thirty years. She received her Master's Degree in Learning Disabilities from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, NJ. With her State Certification, she became a member of the Child Study Team in the Newark School System and remained in this position until her retirement in 1996 as a Learning Disabilities Teacher's Consultant.

Agnes enjoyed traveling tremendously. She traveled extensively to various parts of the world including Puerto Rico, Japan, China, London, Brazil, Jamaica, Bermuda, etc. but spent time with her family on the holidays because the love of her family especially her mom, was very important to her. Agnes was a staunch supporter of anyone in need and freely gave to numerous causes such as the Arthritis Foundation, food for the hungry children, Fire Department, Cancer Research, The Diabetes Foundation and other worthy causes. She was a member of the Newark Teachers Union, Essex County Retired Educators, New Jersey Education Association, National Education Association and AARP. Agnes was a member of the Church of the Epiphany, where she worshipped quietly, sat in the back of the church and would try to slip out without being noticed. She was a person who believed in fervent prayer and was always calling on Jesus - praying her way through the day.


She leaves to mourn: cousins, Lucy M. Hill, Allison Josephine Scott, Ann Pettway, Myrell Lewis; great nephew, William Johns, Jr.; brother-n-law, Tony Richards; goddaughter, Rosa Jackson; caregiver, Catherine Isaac and surviving relatives and friends. Much thanks to everyone who helped make Agnes comfortable, most especially the entire Grace Healthcare Team. Agnes suffered much and fought hard, reflecting on her mom's words to be strong. God knew she was tired and has called her home to rest where there is no suffering. May her soul and all the faithfully departed in Christ rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon her. Amen.



Amazing Grace



*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.*



*'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.*

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

*Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come.*

*'Twas grace that brought me safe thus far and
grace will lead me home.*

*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.*



Requiem

Organ Prelude

Rite of Reception and the Entrance Anthem

Hymn: “*Amazing Grace*”

Opening Prayer

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading: Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 *read by Cathy Isaac*

Psalms 23, from *The Temple* (1633), by George Herbert:

1. The God of love my shepherd is, and he that doth me feed,
while he is mine and I am his, what can I want or need?
2. He leads me to the tender grass, where I both feed and rest;
then to the streams that gently pass: in both I have the best.
3. Or if I stray, he doth convert, and bring my mind in frame:
and all this not for my dessert, but for his holy name.
4. Yea, in death's shady abode, well may I walk, not fear:
for thou art with me, and thy rod to guide, thy staff to bear.
5. Surely thy sweet and wondrous love shall measure all my days;
and as it never shall remove, so neither shall my praise.

Second Reading: Revelation 21:2-7 *read by Rosa Jackson*

Hymn: “*Precious Lord, take my hand*”

The Holy Gospel (please stand): John 14:1-6

The Obituary *read by William Johns, Jr.*

Homily Father Joseph A. Harmon

THE APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Solo: *Ave Maria* Dr. Ladylease White, soloist

The Great Thanksgiving and The Administration of Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive the Blessed Sacrament or to come forward for a blessing from the priest. To receive the Sacrament, please extend your hands, right hand over the left, and the priest will place the Host in your hand. True wine is used and those who desire to receive the Sacrament in this form are asked to help guide the chalice to your lips. Those desiring a blessing instead of Communion are asked to cross their arms over their chest so the priest knows you do not wish to receive Communion.

Solo During Communion: *The Lord's Prayer (Malotte)* Dr. Ladylease White, soloist

The Rite of Commendation

Closing Hymn: “*How Great Thou Art*”

Interment.....*Heavenly Rest Memorial Park
East Hanover, New Jersey*

***The Family invites guests to join them for a repast in the Parish Hall
Following their return from the cemetery***

How Great Thou Art

*O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!
When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.*

refrain

*And when I think of God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.*

refrain

*When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"*

refrain

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with sincere appreciation the many kind deeds and comforting expressions of sympathy extended to them at this time. May God bless each of you.

Professional Services by: **Whigham Funeral Home**

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Newark, New Jersey 07102
973-622-6872

Carolyn Whigham, Director

www.honoryou.com

