

*Celebrating the Life of*  
*Joy Louise Simms*

*February 16, 1918 - September 6, 2016*

***“Essie”***



*Viewing - 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.*  
*Tuesday, September 13, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.*

**OLIVET GOSPEL CHURCH**  
3900 Dyre Avenue • Bronx, NY 10467  
*Rev. Dr. Russell McLeod, Officiating*

## Obituary

For almost 99 years, **Joy Louise Simms**, lovingly known as **Essie**, lived a life full of faith, family, and community.

She was born in St. Mary Jamaica, the daughter of Matthew and Viola Anderson. She was a caring sister to siblings Kenneth, Abram, John, Eva (Bunny) and Rainer (Taylor).

Growing up we were privileged to hear about her youth, her experiences at Kingston Technical School and playing and working in the countryside of St. Mary's Fellowship Hall.

On October 11, 1939, she entered into marriage with LeFranc Simms. Mrs. Simms was a homemaker, housewife, teacher, mentor, and seamstress and her husband worked for the Ministry of Housing. Mrs. Simms was a wonderful wife to LeFranc and a loving mother to their children Pansy and Raymond.

In May of 1977, Joy migrated from Jamaica to the United States with her husband and son. Eventually, they lived with her daughter, Pansy and her granddaughters, Michele and Neisha. These were great years for our family.

Grandma loved to be in the kitchen cooking and baking. I remember Grandma making us iced tea and homemade apple pie as we rode our bikes or played on the swings. A prayerful woman, she would often read the Bible, Daily Word and Daily Bread with us nightly.

Joy and LeFranc lived in the United States for many years, and they were happy ones as our family expanded. She

became a mother in law to Pansy's husband, Sam and Raymond's wife, Donna and a grandmother again to Matthew Simms.

Eventually, she and LeFranc moved back to Jamaica in 1988. After his passing in 1996, she continued to live in Kingston until April 2006. At this time, she returned to New York City to live with her daughter. Once again she bound us closer as a family, bringing us back to our heritage and faith.

Mrs. Simms was an exceptional woman whose kind demeanor made people gravitate towards her. As a result, she was able to make many new friends including the Smith family and her Olivet Church family. She was baptized into the church at the age of 95 and took great pleasure in attending services.

She returned to be with the Lord on September 6, 2016, leaving behind her immediate family, nieces, nephews and many friends.

In the final days of Mrs. Simms life, she maintained a strong commitment to the things she believed in: family, friends and God. We are all blessed to have been part of her faith and joy-filled life.



*Order of Service*

Processional

Hymn ..... “How Great Thou Art”

Prayer ..... Brother Mangaroo

Scripture: Psalm 121 ..... Matthew Simms

Hymn ..... “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Scripture: Psalm 91 ..... Michele Hamilton

*Remembrances*

Ivorene Smith  
Raymond Simms

Special Music

Obituary..... Neisha Hamilton

Praise and Worship

Homily ..... Rev. Dr. Russell McLeod

Prayer of Comfort

Benediction

Recessional

*Interment*

Saturday, September 17, 2016  
Providence Methodist Church Cemetery  
Kingston, Jamaica

## *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 hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:

### *Refrain*

And when I think that 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 there proclaim, My God, how great thou art!

## *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

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 will 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!*

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]*

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!

## *Psalm 121*

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.



## *Psalm 91*

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.



## *A Mother's Love*

A Mother's love is something  
that no one can explain,  
It is made of deep devotion  
and of sacrifice and pain,  
It is endless and unselfish  
and enduring come what may  
For nothing can destroy it  
or take that love away . . .  
It is patient and forgiving  
when all others are forsaking,  
And it never fails or falters  
even though the heart is breaking . . .  
It believes beyond believing  
when the world around condemns,  
And it glows with all the beauty  
of the rarest, brightest gems . . .  
It is far beyond defining,  
it defies all explanation,  
And it still remains a secret  
like the mysteries of creation . . .  
A many splendored miracle  
man cannot understand  
And another wondrous evidence  
of God's tender guiding hand.

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family Joy Louise Simms acknowledges with great appreciation all acts of kindness, sympathy and love extended to us during this time of bereavement.*



## **Eternity Funeral Services, LLC**

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