

A woman with dark curly hair, wearing a black, short-sleeved, ruffled dress and a necklace, stands in a church lobby. To her left is a white grand piano. The background shows a modern church interior with glass railings and warm lighting. The top of the image features a large, stylized rose graphic.

*Celebrating the Life of*  
*Sis. Norma Louise Sparkes*

*December 24, 1942 - November 6, 2016*

*Viewing - 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.*  
*Friday, November 18, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.*

**NEW TESTAMENT TEMPLE COG**

3356 Seymour Avenue • Bronx, NY 10469

*Officiating Ministers*

*Rev. Paul A. Peart*

*Rev. Gladstone Johnson*

*Minister Wayne, Eulogist*

*Rev. Ingrid Peart, Organist*



## *Obituary*

**Norma Louise Crooks** aka “**Sis Sparkes**” was born in Riverside, Jamaica W.I. on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 1942 to parents, Evelyn Rose and the late Duval Crooks.

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1970 in Kingston, Jamaica, Norma married the late Easton Sparkes, a union lasting forty-two years. She then immigrated to Brooklyn, New York on July 26, 1971 to start a new life. Norma has always cared for others and was employed as a nurse at Split Rock Nursing Home where she served for twenty-one years.

Norma was best known for her charitable character. She was a prayer warrior and friend to many. Every male was a ‘prince charming’ and every female a ‘princess’. Many knew her as a mother. Norma has been a faithful member of New Testament Temple church family and was a Certified Chaplain.

Sister Sparkes served at New Testament Temple in various roles but most notably as our all time best greeter. She was extremely generous with her hugs and was very loving. Her warm smiles and courteous greeting will be greatly missed.

Her passing was a surprise to all. Norma went home to be with the Lord on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016. She leaves behind her mother, Evelyn Rose, six children, Everett, Hugo, Lavern, Susan, Annie and Lori, several grandchildren, brothers, Noel, Roy, Val, Rubenson and Errol, six sisters, Rena, Edna, Peggy, Carol, Barbara and Claudette and a host of other relatives and friends.

Thank you for the hugs.  
May her soul rest in peace.



A woman with dark hair, wearing a pink off-the-shoulder dress and a floral headpiece, is holding a large bouquet of white and pink flowers. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

**Pall Bearers**

Everett Donaldson Jr.  
Desmond Decker  
Fitzroy Benjamin

Mark Donaldson  
Ralph Spence  
Caquan Palmer

***Acknowledgement***

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

***Eternity***   
*Funeral Services*

**Eternity Funeral Services, LLC**

Karrie O. Harvey-Edwards  
Owner / Licensed Manager

725 East Gun Hill Road • Bronx, NY 10467  
ph (718) 231-8737 • fax (718) 231-3169

EternityFS@aol.com • [www.EternityFuneralServicesNY.com](http://www.EternityFuneralServicesNY.com)



## Order of Service

Organ Prelude..... Rev. Ingrid Peart  
Processional ..... Clergy & Family  
Opening Hymn ..... “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”  
Opening Prayer ..... Rev. Paul Peart  
1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading ..... Psalm 116:12-15  
Jason Williams (grandson)  
Song Selection  
2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:1-8  
Rita Crooks (sister-in-law)  
Item ..... Maude Gladys (friend)  
Remarks ..... Clergy members

### *Special Tributes*

Bishop Julian Stephenson  
Rev. Brown

Open Tributes ..... 2 min. each  
Special Thank You ..... Lavern Palmer (daughter)  
Obituary ..... Caquan Palmer (grandson)  
Selection ..... New Testament Temple Choir  
Eulogy..... Minister Wayne (son)  
Prayer of Comfort ..... Rev. Gladstone Johnson  
Closing Hymn..... “Rock of Ages”  
Final Viewing/ Instructions ..... *Eternity Funeral Services Director*  
Recessional

### *Repast*

*Please join the family for repast in the fellowship hall after the service.*

*Saturday, November 19, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.*

*Meeting at Eternity Funeral Services located at 725 E Gun Hill Road  
Bronx, NY 10467 for morning devotion and funeral procession.*

### Interment

*Pinelawn Memorial Park • Farmingdale, New York*

## *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray;  
take all my guilt away.  
O let me from this day  
be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire.  
As thou hast died for me,  
O may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be,  
a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread  
and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day,  
wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray  
from thee aside.

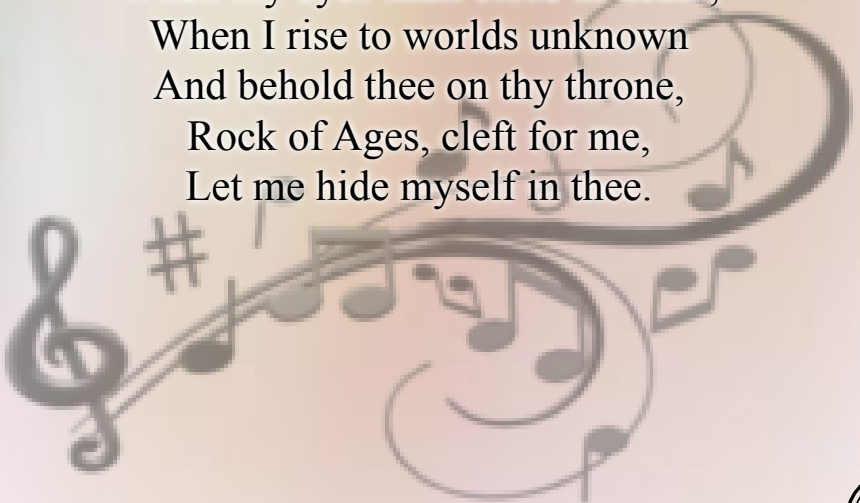
When ends life's passing dream,  
When death's cold, threatening stream  
Shall o'er me roll,  
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;  
O lift me safe above,  
A ransomed soul!

# *Rock of Ages*

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From thy wounded side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,  
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Could my tears forever flow,  
Could my zeal no languor know,  
These for sin could not atone--  
Thou must save, and thou alone:  
In my hand no price I bring,  
Simply to thy cross I cling.

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When my eyes shall close in death,  
When I rise to worlds unknown  
And behold thee on thy throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in thee.





## *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.