

# *I'm Free*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day.*

*To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it up with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.*

*My life's been full, I savored much.  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief, Don't  
lengthen it now with undue grief.*

*Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free!*

*-author unknown*

## *Acknowledgement*

*Our family would like to express their appreciation and gratitude for  
the many acts of kindness during this time of bereavement.  
May God bless you all for your concern.*

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### **Nesbitt Funeral Home**

165 Madison Ave, Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
Ms. Kim Nesbitt Good, Manager NJ | LIC: 3658  
Ph: (908) 352-7078

## *Celebrating the Life of*



## *Joan Coleman Larkins*

June 9, 1938 - September 6, 2022

### **Service**

Thursday, September 15, 2022 - 10:00 AM

**BETHLEHEM MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

1002 Rivington Street • Roselle, NJ

**Rev. Jeffrey Bryan, Pastor**

# God's Garden

God looked around his garden  
And found an empty place,  
He then looked down upon the earth  
And saw your tired face.  
He put his arms around you  
And lifted you to rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful  
He always takes the best.  
He knew that you were suffering  
He knew you were in pain.  
He knew that you would never  
Get well on earth again.  
He saw the road was getting rough  
And the hills were hard to climb.  
So he closed your weary eyelids  
And whispered, 'Peace be thine'.  
It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you didn't go alone,  
For part of us went with you  
The day God called you home.



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# Order of Service

**Organ Prelude**

**Parting View**

**Selection**  
BMBC Music Ministry

**Scriptures**  
Old Testament  
New Testament

**Prayer of Comfort**

**Selection**  
BMBC Music Ministry

**Reflections**  
Family and Friends (3 min please)

**Acknowledgement of Condolences**

**Obituary**  
(To be read silently)  
Ms. Lolita Harris

**Selection**  
BMBC Music Ministry

**Eulogy**  
Rev. Gilbert C. Young, Jr.

**Recessional**

**Interment**  
Rosehill Cemetery  
Linden, NJ

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**Joan Coleman Larkins** was born on June 9th, 1938 in Elizabeth, NJ to the late John Henry Coleman and Minnie Lee Harris Coleman.

Joan was educated in the Linden Public School system.

Joan was a true believer of the lord. As a child she dedicated her life to Christ by joining Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Roselle, NJ. Joan then married Lewis G. Chapman in 1954 and had 3 beautiful children, Lewis G. Jr, Jeanean and Wanda Michelle.

She began her working career at Metal Textile, Western Electric and General Motors. Joan was one of the first women to be hired at General Motors in Linden where she later retired. In the midst of her working career she married Charles Lee Larkins and began a whirlwind life of fun. With the union of Charles Larkins she gained 5 additional children, Willam, Lisa, Theriss, Teresa and LaSalle.

Joan and Charles traveled the world together, from Super Bowls to exotic trips in Hawaii. She had a heart bigger than life itself. Joan would open her door to any and everyone treating them with kindness and love. If you knew Joan, you knew not to tell her your secrets because everyone would know your secrets by the end of the day.

Joan had many friends but 4 extremely close friends Esther, Betty, Geraldine aka Jerry and Haddy aka Snookie. Joan, Jerry and Snookie were known as the Golden Girls.

On Tuesday, September 6, 2022 Joan was called home to be with the lord and she will truly be missed by all.

Joan was predeceased by her parents, her husband Charles Lee Larkins, her brothers Jerome, Douglass, Lawrence, Tillman, Linten, and Marvin Coleman, her sisters Dorris Hicks and Louise Chase, her sons Lewis G. Chapman Jr, William Larkins and daughter Lisa Rose.

She leaves to mourn 4 daughters Jeanean Chapman (Flint, Michigan), Wanda Michelle Lee (Linden, NJ), Theriss Green (Elizabeth, NJ), Teresa Scott (Colonia, NJ), son LaSalle Rose (Maryland), grandchildren MarQuis Green, LaQuatta Simmons, ShaRese Green, TaShonda Law, Kia Hardy, Pierre Chapman, Kevin Tillman, Achante Saxton, Nicole Smith, Jelana Smith and a host of other family members and loving friends.