

*Home Going Celebration of  
Ezra Ree Gist*



**Sunrise**  
March 23, 1922



**Sunset**  
April 1, 2015

**Monday, April 6, 2015 - 6:00 p.m.**

**Metropolitan AME Zion Church**

597 Bergen Street  
Jersey City, New Jersey

## Obituary

**Ezra Browning Gist**, the daughter of John and Elmira Browning, both of whom preceded her in death, was born in Union, South Carolina, on March 23, 1922. On Wednesday, April 1, 2015, God withdrew her breath, the angels descended and her soul took flight with the angels back to Him. Heaven is now rejoicing, because Ezra has joined the heavenly host.

**Ezra** grew up and received her formal education at Sims High School in Union, S.C. At an early age, Ezra joined New Hope African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Sedalia, S.C. and was a faithful member. Soon she met and was joined in holy matrimony with Kind Gist. Two sons, Harry and Allan are loving products of this union.

**Ezra** and Kind along with their sons moved to Jersey City, NJ in 1947. At their longtime residence, Ezra served on the Jewett Avenue Block Association. She was employed by Protex Plastic Products for many years as a machine operator and Shop Steward. Later, she began working for the Visiting Homemaker Service of Hudson County as a home health care aide where she retired after twenty-five years of service.

**Ezra** joined Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church more than 60 years ago under the pastorate of the late Rev. David C. Lynch. She continued to be a devoted servant under pastors: the late Rev. Dr. Andrew W. Mapp, Rev. Dr. George W. Maize, III, and currently Rev. Nathaniel B. Legay. She was a faithful and dedicated member and served until her health declined. Often heard asking "what are they doing at my church today?" She had a great love for her church, the members and the God she served.

Throughout **Ezra's** Christian walk she served the Lord through many ministries which included: Class Leader, Senior Usher Board, Pastor's Aide, Missionary Society, Bereavement Committee, Children's Choir, Christian Education and Conference Workers. She held various positions in all of these ministries. She was a **PHENOMENAL WOMAN**.

**Ezra** was affectionately known as "*Momma Gist*", "*Ms. Bea*", "*Gist*", and "*Bobby Gist*". She exemplified the true Fruits of the Spirit: *kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self control, joy, peace, patience* and above all the spirit of **LOVE**. **Ezra** loved to cook and often times would invite you to "put your feet under her table".... and many did. A couple of her favorite dishes to cook were stuffed shells and baked macaroni and cheese. However, children were "Momma Gist's" first love. She gave birth to two, but was a parent to many. She was protective of her "children". She'd tell you 'don't mess with my children' when it came to the choir. She spent many years working with the children and youths.

She was a mentor, encourager, teacher, and disciplinarian (sweetened with peppermint candy) and she always led by example. Always giving kind words and a hug. She had a deep love for her family and devoted a lot of time with them. She was loved by all that knew her and by those who only heard of her deeds and acts of kindness. She had a heart of gold.

**Ezra** relished the applause as she participated in many fashion shows sponsored by the church, and today we continue to applaud her. She was named Woman of the Year multiple times at Metropolitan. She participated in many, if not all, programs and activities presented at the church.

On Wednesday, April 1, 2015, **Ezra** quietly took God's hand and departed this earth from the home of her loving Godchildren Marie and Daniel Kelly. She was predeceased by her sisters Ruth Gilliam, Juanita Greer, Mary Rice, Sarah Rice, Azalee Rice, Martha Browning, Jimmie Bryd, Jannie Johnson and brother Joseph Browning, Sr.

**Ezra** leaves to cherish her memory, two sons, Harry (Pauline) and Allan Gist, three grandchildren, Sharnare, Cheralyn and Shyanne Gist; nine great-grandchildren; brother, Walter Mack Browning of Union, South Carolina; Godchildren, Marie and Daniel Kelly, Rev. Vajaah Parker; nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends whose lives have been enriched by her.

### II TIMOTHY 4:7-8

*"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; Henceforth is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."*

# Order of Service



## **Organ Prelude**

Bro. Carl Washington & Bro. Dominique Bradford

## **Processional**

## **Invocation**

Sister Joyce Franklin

## **Hymn**

*"Blessed Assurance"*

## **Scriptures**

*Old Testament - Psalm 23:1-6*

Rev. Karen Scott

*New Testament - 1 Corinthians 15:51-58*

Rev. Vajaah Parker

## **Prayer of Consolation**

Rev. Dr. Thelma Gattis

## **Selection**

*"My Soul Is Anchored In The Lord"*

Sister Johnsilynn Maize-Daniels

## **Acknowledgements & Resolutions**

Bro. Donald Cohen

## **Selection**

*"If I Can Help Somebody"*

Metropolitan Mass Choir

## **Obituary**

Sister Tori Carter

## **Praise Dance**

Sister Kim Joyner

## **Selection**

*"I Won't Complain"*

Metropolitan Mass Choir

## **Eulogy**

Rev. Nathaniel B. Legay

## **Final Viewing**

## **Recessional**

## **Interment**

Forest Green Park Cemetery

Morganville, New Jersey



*The repast will follow immediately after the service inside the fellowship hall.*

# *In The Garden Of Flowers*

*In the garden of flowers grew  
with style and grace,  
I knew you were special  
when God shined down on your face.*

*When it was time God came down  
and picked you with grace,  
and washed all the pain  
away from your face.*

*Without a whimper or a sound  
You walked away strong and proud.  
We will miss you this is true  
But now you must rest  
because your work is through.  
God knows this and we know it too,  
For that is why He has chosen you.*



## *As We Look Back*

*By Unknown Author*

*As we look back over time  
We find ourselves wondering ....  
Did we remember to thank you enough  
For all you have done for us?  
For all the times you were by our sides  
To help and support us...  
To celebrate our successes  
To understand our problems  
And accept our defeats?  
Or for teaching us by your example,  
The value of hard work, good judgment,  
Courage and integrity?  
We wonder if we thanked you  
For the sacrifices you made.  
To let us have the very best?  
And for the simple things  
Like laughter, smiles and times we shared?  
If we have forgotten to show our  
Gratitude enough for all the things you did,  
We're thanking you now.  
And we are hoping you knew all along,  
How much you meant to us.*

## *Acknowledgement*

The family of **Mrs. Ezra Gist** gratefully appreciates all acts of kindness. We would like to THANK YOU ALL for your endless prayers and support during our time of bereavement. Special thanks to Patricia Nelson, Demetrius Archibald, Sandra Jones and the entire Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church Family, Dr. John T. DeDousis and his Medical Staff, Carolyn of Cardiology Department in Bayonne Hospital, and the Caring Hospice Services in Edison, N.J.

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