

In Loving Memory of
Shirley Gray



Sunrise
July 16, 1938

Sunset
August 11, 2015

Service
Saturday, August 15, 2015 - 3:00 p.m.

Christian Love Baptist Church
830 Lyons Avenue • Irvington, New Jersey
Rev. Ronald B. Christian, Officiating

Obituary

Shirley Gray, 77, returned to her heavenly home on August 11, 2015 after a valiant battle with a long illness. Her devotion to her family and her firm belief in God supported her in her struggle and ultimately gave her peace.

Shirley was born to the late Emmeline Baugh Gray and Adrian Henderson Gray, a homemaker and a butcher/cultivator respectively, in Swift River, Portland, Jamaica on July 16, 1938. She was a hard working woman with strong ambitions that led her to immigrate to the United States to seek better opportunities for her children.

Shirley was an accomplished seamstress and a passionate cook. She was generous, witty and dedicated and always had a smile for anyone who greeted her. She was a strong woman and is dearly missed by her loved ones, who know she is at peace with her creator.

Shirley is survived by: her son and daughter-in-law, Derrick and Doreth Johnson; her daughter and son-in-law, Allison and Frank Rowley; her grandchildren, Jason, Duane, Melisia, Samantha, Andrew and Abigail; her great-grandchildren, Tashiya and Julyan; her brother, Norman; her sisters, Norma, Claudette and Joy; her nephews, Michael, Gary and Colin; her nieces, Jennifer, Marcia, Heather, Kathy, Carolyn, Marianna and Isabelle. Her sister, Madge, preceded her in death.

The family gratefully declines flowers and donations, but prayers, condolences and memories are gladly accepted.

Order of Service

Processional	Clergy
Presider	Rev. Barbara Bryan
Invocation	Rev. Melissa Rawlins
Musical Selection	“ <i>Old Rugged Cross</i> ” Min. Steven Hill
Prayer of Comfort	Rev. Sherwin Lawrence
Scripture	
First Lesson	Psalm 91 Melisia McGill-Dixon & Samantha Johnson (Granddaughters)
Second Lesson	1 Thess 4:13-18 Jason Johnson (Grandson)
Selection	“ <i>The Lord’s Prayer</i> ” Min. Steven Hill
Reading of Resolution and Cards	
Reflections & Remarks	One Minute Please
Obituary	Rev. Heather Greene
Special Tribute	“ <i>How Great Thou Art</i> ” Dionne Lawrence
Eulogy	Rev. Ronald B. Christian
Recessional Hymn	“ <i>Precious Lord</i> ” Min. Steven Hill

Pallbearers

Derrick Johnson	Frank Rowley
Jason Johnson	Troy Lawrence
Samuel Hussey	Sean Rowley

Repast

Following service friends are invited to join the family for a repast at church.

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!

Acknowledgement

*The family wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation
for all acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy that was
shown to them during this time of bereavement.*

Professional Services by:
Whigham Funeral Home

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Carolyn Whigham, Director

