

*A Celebration of Life  
Homegoing Service for*



*Essie Sylvia Johnson*

*Sunrise*  
July 2, 1921

*Sunset*  
November 1, 2015

Service

*Saturday, November 7, 2015 - 5:00 p.m.*

**CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

732 Donlon Place • West Hempstead, New York

*Rev. Dorett J. Johnson-Agu*

*Rev. Mendis Brown*

*Rev. David Henry, Officiating*

## Obituary

**Miss Essie** passed peacefully, after a long steady decline, in the loving presence of her children on November 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.

Essie Johnson affectionately called “Miss Essie” was born July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1921, the fourth of eleven children born to Charles and Melvina Plummer at Mt. Moriah, St. Ann, Jamaica.

She was raised in Manchester and she received her early religious education at Fairfield Morvavian Church. She attended Fairfield Moravian School in Manchester. As a young woman, she returned to St. Ann where she would move to Tabernacle where she married Aquilla Johnson and raised twelve children together. They operated a family business together until the early nineties. She was widowed in 1997. She split her time between Jamaica and New York and in 2000 she moved to New York. She made annual trips to Jamaica until 2011 when her health deteriorated.

Miss Essie was fiercely independent, opinionated and fastidious. She raised her children to be hard working and independent and insisted that daughters and granddaughters develop the means to stand on their own feet. One of her favorite pieces of advice were “Let your husband’s money be your pocket change”. But it was her compassion and kindness that was the hallmark of her character. You could trust her to be a fair arbiter in settling disputes.

Miss Essie was a good cook and it was routine for her to feed twenty children. She had really big pots which prompted one little boy to say “What a big pot! It bigger’s than the whole world.” She heeded Christ’s call to feed the hungry. She cooked and fed all the elderly people in the community who had no one to care for them, sending her children to make deliveries often before they had their own dinner. When her own children left home she sent the grandchildren and when they were not available she borrowed the neighbor’s children.

Miss Essie was a caring grandmother not only to her own but to the young people in the community who sought her counsel and lovingly called her “grandma”. She provided school supplies and lunch money to multiple generations of children in the community. She paid school fees for children when their families could not afford it. She taught her family to care for others.

She read the newspaper daily until recently and watched the nightly news. She had a passion for politics and followed political debates on TV. She was a jeopardy fan and she would not take phone calls as long as the program was on.

She was a faithful member of the Zion AME Church at Tabernacle St. Ann, Jamaica. She continued to support her church in Jamaica although she lived in New York. She worshipped at South Floral Park United Methodist Church until 2012 when her health declined.

Miss Essie is survived by her children, Ruby, Lyn, Thomas, Elaine, Mary, Cynthia, Lance, Dorett, Doreen, Hugh and Leslie. David predeceased her in 2008. She leaves sons-in-law, Alton, Ken and Rowland, daughters-in-law, Gee and Carol, sisters, Cecelia, Enid, Lydia and Ernestina, brothers, Benjamin and Arthur, grandchildren, great and great great grandchildren and many other relatives.

Order of Service

- Prelude ..... Minister Denese Joyner
- Processional/Entrance.....Pastors and Family Members
- Word of Grace ..... Pastor Johnson-Agu
- Greeting ..... Pastor Johnson-Agu
- Hymn ..... “Precious Lord Take My Hand”
- Prayer ..... Pastor Mendis Brown
- Musical Selection..... Lorna Simpson
- Scripture Readings
- Old Testament - Psalm 23 ..... Marsha Williams
- Psalm 27 ..... Daniel/Tiana
- New Testament - 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:1-8 ..... Carlos
- Hymn ..... “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”
- Eulogy ..... Pastor Johnson-Agu
- Hymn ..... “It Is Well With My Soul”
- Obituary ..... Mrs. Dorothy Simpson
- Witness Reflection ..... Family, Church, Friends
- Hymn ..... “When We All Get To Heaven” UMH #801
- Prayer/Words of Comfort ..... Pastor Mendis Brown  
(based on John 14 Denese 1-8)
- Committal ..... Pastor Agu/Brown
- Dismissal with Blessings ..... Pastor Mendis Brown
- Recessional ..... “Soon And Very Soon”

**Interment**  
*Friday, November 20, 2015*  
Family Plot, Jamaica, WI

**Pallbearers**

- |               |                |                |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Brandon Allen | Carlos Johnson | Thomas Johnson |
| Daniel Holung | Chike Agu      | Chinedu Agu    |

# *This Train I'm Riding*

This train I'm riding they say it's leaving  
To a place where we'll never die  
And the pilot will be my king Jesus  
In that mansion way up in the sky

## **Chorus**

So don't be grieving  
Because I'm leaving  
And don't you cry  
When I say goodbye  
There'll be no weeping  
Where I'm going  
In that mansion way up in the sky



## *Acknowledgements*

*The family of the late **Essie Sylvia Johnson** expresses their deepest appreciation to everyone for their varied acts of kindness demonstrated during this time of loss and sadness.*

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Professional Services Provided By:

***E.L. George Funeral Services***

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