

In Loving Memory of



Emma Ellis

Sunrise: February 8, 1926

Sunset: November 11, 2016

Service

Friday, November 18, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.

CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH

132 W. 116th Street • New York, NY

Obituary

On Friday, November 11, 2016, the Lord received **Emma Ellis** into his kingdom. Emma Ellis was born on February 8, 1926 in Fort Mott, South Carolina to Thomas and Emma Ellis. As the youngest of fourteen children, she was given the nickname, “Essie”, due to several family members having the name of, “Emma”.

At a young age she became a member of New Bethany Baptist Church. There she discovered her love for singing and joined the mass choir. Later, she joined the gospel choir Freedom Four Quartette, toured many southern states and became the lead soloist throughout her high school career. In 1942, Emma (Essie) graduated from Wilkinson High School in Orangeburg, South Carolina. She attended the University of South Carolina, formerly South Carolina State College, for approximately two and a half years until her vision failed. During the late forties she migrated to New York City to pursue her singing career. While living in New York she started singing jazz and blues at nightclubs throughout the city. Emma won first prize at the Apollo Theater in 1950. She eventually gave up her singing career as a jazz and blues singer, returning to Canaan Baptist Church of Christ. She then devoted her time to singing gospel with the Young Adult Choir, Mass Choir and Gospel Choir. Emma was also a member of the E.M. Moore club for over forty years.

In the fifties, Emma had three children named Wendy, Diane and Marshall. Emma relied on her sisters, Rebecca and Sara, and niece, Emma Feaster to assist with the children because of her sight. Emma however was very involved and active in her children’s education. As an advocate for education, Emma was a member of several committees of the Board of Education. One of her favorite saying was, “if you want to get the green power you must get an education and through that education you will gain knowledge to accomplish what you want in life.” Emma also made Black History a priority in the home. Due to her love for Black History, once a month she held open discussions with her children and their friends concerning Blacks in society and the political and economic conditions that affected them. She insisted that they researched the topics that we wanted addressed. In addition, Emma had an open door policy with the youth in the community, which allowed them to seek advice about their problems. However, she always encouraged them to discuss their problems with their parents. Although Emma was legally blind, she had great insight, was open-minded and brutally frank.

Emma leaves behind: one sister, Rebecca Jackson of Long Island, NY; sister in Christ, Mervin Adams of Bronx NY; two daughters, Wendy Boamah-Canty (son-in-law, Gregory Canty) Bronx NY and Diane Claiborne of New York; five grandchildren, Kaismir Wainwright, Kamilla Claiborne, Kalina Claiborne, Stephen Boamah and Shelby Boamah; one great grandson, Jayden Sharp; a host of nieces, nephews and friends; and her best friend, Mr. Rayfield Abrams.

Order of Service

Processional Family

Hymn of Consolation “Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand”

Affirmation of Faith

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 23

New Testament - John 16:33

Prayer of Consolation Deacon Fred Crowder

Solo Rayfield Abrams “God Specializes”

Reflection Deacon Johnnie Davis

Reflection Deacon Walter Mayo

Remarks

Obituary

Solo

Eulogy Rev. Dr. Thomas D. Johnson, Sr.

Benediction

Recessional Family

Interment

*Pinelawn Memorial Park
Farmingdale, New York*

Life

Life is but a stopping place, a pause in what's to be, a resting place along the road, to Sweet Eternity. We all have different journeys, different paths along the way, we all were meant to learn some things, but never meant to stay... Our destination is a place, far greater than we know. For some the journey's quicker, for some the journey's slow. And when the journey finally ends, we'll claim a great reward, and find an Everlasting Peace, together with the Lord.

Acknowledgement

The Family of Emma Ellis extends their sincere appreciation. Thank you for your acts of kindness.

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