

A portrait of Martha Thompson, a woman with dark, curly hair, wearing a blue top and a necklace with a large white flower. The background is a soft, warm-toned wall. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

*In Loving
Memory
of*

Martha Thompson

“Ma”

Sunrise: December 23, 1922

Sunset: November 16, 2018

Service

Monday, November 26, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

SECOND ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH

141 W. 118th Street • New York, NY 10027

Rev. Wayland Williams, Officiating

Obituary

Martha (Ma) was born on December 23, 1922 to Tony and Mittie Key Bemby in Hawkinsville, Georgia. She was the youngest of four children.

At an early age she joined Macedonia Baptist Church in Hawkinsville where she served on the Usher Board and taught Bible Classes.

In 1942, Martha graduated from Hawkinsville High School and went to Georgia State College in Savannah, GA for two years. She also attended Fort Valley State College in Georgia for a short time. Her love of children led her to teach at Hawkinsville and Rock Hill Elementary schools.

Martha married her high school sweetheart (George Thompson) in 1948. He moved to New York City shortly after to find employment. In 1949, she moved to NYC and was reunited with the love of her life. Their union was blessed with two sons, George Kenneth (Kenny) and Carlton (Tookie).

Martha was a hard and conscientious worker at the Etra Handbag Company for over 20 years and retired in 1989. A woman of great faith and love for her Savior, Martha became a member of LaGree Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor J. R. Bryant in 1991. There she met and cherished many friends including her First Lady and Deaconess, Sister Lillian Bryant, Sister Eva, Sister Williams, and Deacon Bell to name a few. Martha never failed to attend Sunday services. She always enjoyed the fellowship of her church family. When it became too difficult for her to walk to church she would take a cab.

Martha had a warm and welcoming nature. Everyone who met her was drawn to her. She showed genuine love and care for her neighbors, her sons' friends, as well as their parents. Many of her children's friends visited or made regular calls to her even after her sons no longer lived at home. The community lovingly called her "Ma".

Ma enjoyed cooking and baking. She was fond of hosting the yearly Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Resurrection Sunday dinners. With a

Order of Service

Organ Prelude.....Brother Darnell White

Processional.....Clergy

Presiding.....Reverend Laura Rivers

Hymnal Selection.....“Hold To God’s Unchanging Hand”

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament - Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.....Minister Barbara Oliver

New Testament - St. John 14:1-6.....Omari K. Thompson, Grandson

Prayer of Comfort.....Elder Renaldo Watkis
House of the Lord Church

Musical Selection.....“Amazing Grace” Saxophone
Harold Robinson

Acknowledgements/Resolutions.....Reverend Laura Rivers

Reading of The Obituary.....Yulet Richards, sister-in-law of George (Kenny)

Remarks from the Church.....Deacon Onetha Bell
Deacon Lillian Bryant

Expressions.....Family & Friends (Two Minutes Please)
Almer and Joyce Bemby, Nephew and Niece
Gary Stubb, Family/Friend
Dr. Lila Miller, Family/Friend
Imani A. Thompson, Granddaughter
George K. and Carlton Thompson, Sons

Musical Selection.....LaGree Baptist Church Choir

Eulogy.....Reverend Wayland Williams, Jr.
Poplar Probe Baptist Church, Gaithersburg Maryland

Viewing

Committal

Recessional

Interment

Calverton National Cemetery
Calverton, New York

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

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smile she would insist on feeding everyone who stepped through her door. She was content when her visitors ate and would fuss if they didn't asked for seconds. It was common to hear her say, "Go fix yourself a plate" or "Did you have some pie?"

We were blessed by her leadership, her guidance and her love. She was the matriarch of the family; the one who made us realize the importance of God, hope, family and faith. She taught us by example. To know Ma was truly to love her.

Due to her failing health her son Carlton (Tookie) became her primary caregiver. He diligently cared for her daily needs. He was her companion, cook, confidant and escort.

Ma went home to be with the Lord on Friday, November 16, 2018. She was predeceased by her sisters, Cora and Amy; brother, Arthur; and husband, George.

She is survived by: her sons, George (Vinnette) of New Hempstead, NY and Carlton of New York, NY; step daughter, Barbara Wynn of Chesapeake, Virginia; four grandchildren, Stefon Valencia of Bowie, MD, Carlton Thompson of Norfolk, VA, Imani Thompson of Nyack, NY and Omari Thompson of Cheektowaga, NY; great granddaughter, Hendrix Thompson of Rockville, MD; nieces, Joyce Bembry of Newark, DE, Lillian Lawson (Samuel Harris) of New York, NY, Debra Miller of Anchorage, AK, Barbara Brooks and Carol Hardy of Montclair, NJ, and Marsha Bryant of Los Angeles, CA; cousin, Evelyn Long (Kenneth) of McDonough, GA; nephews, Almer Bembry (Marian) of Gilroy, CA and Loyer Bryant (Bert) of Newark, NJ; great nieces, Constance and Linda Brooks of Montclair, NJ and Teresa Mitchell (Ray) of Brockton, MA; great nephews, Lloyd Bembry (Lisa) of Oakland, CA and Aaron Bembry (Deanna) of Gilroy, CA; great-great nieces, Tanisha Brooks of Montclair, NJ, Nastassia Haskins (Marc) of Mount Holly, NJ, Jazmin Bembry and Sydney Bembry of Concord, CA, and Alexis Bembry of Gilroy, CA; and a host of other nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors.

We will always love and miss Ma greatly, but we know she is with her Savior, the one who has welcomed her home to Glory with open arms! May we all be ready to be in that place and be welcomed home one day!



Brothers and sister, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.

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