



*Homecoming Celebration*

*Michelle Pernie Gray*

**Sunrise**

**September 5, 1963**

**Sunset**

**April 7, 2019**

**Service**

**Thursday, April 18, 2019 ~ 11:00 a.m**

**Christ Church**

**Church Street & Trinity Place  
Montclair, NJ 07042**

***Rev. David D. Ireland, Ph.D., Lead Pastor***

***Rev. Jerisa Maseko, Officiating***



*When I come to  
the end of the  
road and the  
sun has set  
for me,  
I want no  
rites in a  
gloom  
filled room,  
Why cry for  
a soul set  
free?  
Miss me a  
little-but not  
too long,  
and not with  
your head bowed  
low.*

*Remember the love that  
we once shared,  
Miss me-but let me go.*

*For this is a journey that we all  
must take, And each must go alone.*

*It's all part of the Master's plan,  
A step on the road to home.*

*When you are lonely and sick at heart,*

*Go to the friends we know.*

*Laugh at the things we use to do*

*Miss me-but let me go.*

*Miss me, but let me go...*

## *Celebration of Life*

**Michelle Pernie (James) Gray**, lovingly known as “Chelle” was born on September 5, 1963 in Charleston, South Carolina to Robert James and the late Pernie Mae Jenkins James. Michelle was called home April 7, 2019.

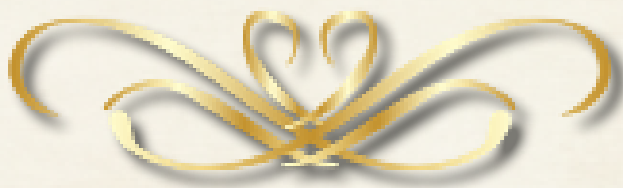
Michelle was raised in Brooklyn, New York, where she attended Clara Barton High School in Brooklyn, New York. She attended Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia, where she met her husband, the late Edward W. Gray. They married, and from that union two sons were born; Edward Alexander (Alex) Gray and Miles Xavier Gray.

Michelle resided in Bloomfield, New Jersey, where she raised her two sons. For over two decades, she was employed at Samuel L. Klein & Company accounting firm in Newark, New Jersey, where she was a valued member of the management team. In addition to a full-time career, Michelle pursued further education at Essex County College where she received an associate's degree in Business Administration with highest honors. At the time of her passing, Michelle was enrolled at Penn State University studying human resource management. Michelle was highly regarded for her academic achievement as she maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA and was even inducted into the New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Association Honor Society in 2016.

Michelle enjoyed life to the fullest. Her love of travel took her and her two sons on cruises throughout the Caribbean. Her warm smile and compassionate spirit

won her friends from all over. Her loving nature and personality led many to gravitate to her in times of need. Michelle is known for her strength, and courage; unwavering faith in God. It was those attributes that enabled her to endure her illness. She is admired for the grace and care she exhibited to family and friends during the most difficult days of her illness. Her faith in Christ, even in the midst of trials has been an encouragement to both her friends and family as Michelle confidently inherited eternity. It is her courage, strength and love of family that will live on in all who knew and loved her. A life well-lived in a brief period of time.

Left to celebrate her life and to keep her memory alive are her beloved sons, Edward Alexander Gray and Miles Xavier Gray; two sisters, Trica (James) Jean-Baptiste and Toni James; mother-in-law, Julia R. Gray; brothers-in-law, Ed Jean-Baptiste, Alphonso and Joseph Gray; sisters-in-law, Dulcina, Cheryl-Anne Gray-Ball, Yolanda Theresa Gray-Thomas, Delores R., Katherine and Julianne Gray, and Candy Blanks; nephews and nieces; Nicholas Jean-Baptiste, Alicia Blanks, Rosa Molina, Dawn Gray, Christopher and Elizabeth Ball, aunts, uncles and cousins, friends and colleagues.



# Order of Service

Processional.....	Pastor Ryan Faison
Prayer of Comfort .....	Rev. Jerisa Maseko
Musical Selection .....	Cornerstone
Scripture Reading I	
Old Test Psalm 91:1-2, 14-16 .....	Toni James
Scripture Reading II	
2 Timothy 4:6-8 .....	Alexander Gray
Family Tribute.....	Edith Deas
Sisters' Tribute .....	Trica Jean-Baptiste
Son's Tribute I .....	Alexander Gray
Son's Tribute II .....	Miles Gray
Remarks and Reflections .....	Open to Public
Reading of Obituary .....	Ed Jean-Baptiste
Musical Selection II .....	King of My Heart
Eulogy .....	Pastor Ryan Faison
Benediction .....	Pastor Ryan Faison
Recessional	

## **Interment**

Sunset Memorial Gardens  
North Charleston, SC

## **Repast**

Immediately following service all are welcome  
**Primavera Restorante**  
Wilshire Grand Hotel  
350 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, NJ



# *A Prayer from Michelle's Family*

*Father, we come to you with humble and heavy hearts, and thank you for gifting us your beautiful Angel, Michelle. We know that you are the Alpha and Omega, and that she now and has always belonged to you, long before she arrived here on earth. Father God, on Sunday, April 7, 2019, you welcomed Michelle into your heavenly home. We thank you for preparing a beautiful place for her in heaven as you promised. We thank you for allowing Michelle to fulfill her purpose here on earth. Father God, we, her family and friends celebrate Michelle's spiritual everlasting life. We thank your son for making her clean and spotless in your sight. We thank you Jesus for your resurrection as well as Michelle's. We are eternally grateful to you for a soul so beautiful. Thank you, Father God. Keep her in your loving embrace.*

## *Acknowledgements*

*The family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.*

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Service entrusted to:



*Caggiano Memorial*

