

# *Homegoing Service*

*Gary Steven Franklin*

Sunrise  
July 9, 1965

Sunset  
July 8, 2019

Thursday - July 18, 2019  
Viewing 9:30 am - 11:00 am  
Service 11:00 am

**Brown Memorial Baptist Church**  
484 Washington Avenue  
Brooklyn NY 11238



## *Obituary*

**Gary Steven Franklin** was born on July 9, 1965 in Valley Stream, Long Island, New York to the marriage union of the late Rudolph Ardsley Franklin and Lorraine Roberta Graves. Mr. Franklin's paternal grandparents were the late George Conrad Franklin (born in Bridgetown, Barbados, West Indies) and the late Marie Eugenie Inesse Newsam (born in Basse-Terre, Guadeloupe, French West Indies). His maternal grandparents were the late John Herbert Graves (born in Warfield, Virginia) and the late Lorraine Lucille Valentine (born in Dewitt, Virginia).

Beginning at the age of three until the age of sixteen, Mr. Franklin attended, as a day student, The Nassau Center for the Developmentally Disabled (currently known as The Center for Developmental Disabilities). In 1982, when Mr. Franklin was seventeen years old, he became a student at The Devereux Foundation School located in Villanova, Pennsylvania. After graduating from the Devereux School in 1989, Mr. Franklin was relocated to a residential program in the Capital Region of New York. From 1989 until his transition, Mr. Franklin attended a day program at Maple Ridge, a part of the Schenectady ARC System, located in Rotterdam, New York. Maple Ridge is also the home of the Schenectady ARC Horticulture Center where Mr. Franklin volunteered and relaxed in a sea of plants. During his time at Maple Ridge, Mr. Franklin also participated in outreach projects that included helping to serve meals to the needy during the holidays and giving out treats to animals at the local animal shelters.

Mr. Franklin was a music aficionado with an incredible memory, a discerning ear, and a God given ability to quickly identify the names of songs and the respective artists from a wide range of musical genres. Two songs he treasured were "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" by Aretha Franklin and "Oh What Love Is This" from the album of the same name by The Watoto Children's Choir. At Maple Ridge, Mr. Franklin enjoyed his daily read of The Times Union newspaper always with a particular focus on the sports pages. He also enjoyed watching comedic films, attending sports events, and watching sports on television. Mr. Franklin was a strong, resilient, kind, and loving man who stoically handled being "differently-abled" with a quiet dignity and a resounding grace.

# Order of Service

- Organ Prelude.....Mr. Paul Engram  
Processional Hymn ... “The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done”  
(Congregation)
- Prayer..... Reverend Clinton M. Miller, Senior Pastor  
Vocal Solo..... “Amazing Grace” (Mr. Jerome Bell)  
Scripture Reading..... Matthew 22:34-40  
Rev. Clinton M. Miller, Senior Pastor
- Violin Solo..... “Fragile” (Ms. Chiara Fasi)  
Violin Solo..... “Don’t Explain” (Ms. Chiara Fasi)  
Scripture Reading..... 2 Corinthians 4:7-12  
Rev. Clinton M. Miller, Senior Pastor
- Guitar Solo..... “Shape of My Heart” (Mr. Carl Burnett)  
Obituary..... Mr. Philip Drew Benson, Cousin  
Guitar Solo..... “Dust in the Wind” (Mr. Carl Burnett)  
Hymn Reading..... “I Would Be True”  
Dr. Phillip Maynard Smith, Long-Time Friend of the Family
- Vocal Solo..... “I Don’t Feel No Ways Tired”  
(Mr. Jerome Bell)
- Reflections.....Mr. Maurice W. Dobson, Esq.  
Brother-in-law
- Vocal Solo..... “Ave Maria” (Ms. Diane Johnson)  
Vocal Solo..... “His Eye Is On the Sparrow”  
(Ms. Diane Johnson)
- Eulogy ..... Reverend Dr. Bessie W. Duncan  
Hymn #189..... “It Is Well with My Soul” (Congregation)  
Benediction.....Reverend Clinton M. Miller, Senior Pastor  
Recessional ..... “Fragile” (Mr. Carl Burnett)

## **Interment**

Cypress Hills Cemetery  
Brooklyn, New York

# *“The Strife Is O’er, The Battle Done”*

Refrain:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The strife is o’er, the battle done;  
The victory of life is won;  
The song of triumph has begun:  
Alleluia!

The pow’rs of death have done their worst;  
But Christ their legions has dispersed;  
Let shouts of holy joy outburst:  
Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped;  
He rises glorious from the dead;  
All glory to our risen Head:  
Alleluia!

He closed the yawning gates of hell;  
The bars from heav’n’s high portals fell;  
Let hymns of praise His triumphs tell:  
Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded You,  
In us You’ve won the vict’ry too,  
That we may live, and sing to You:  
Alleluia!

Refrain 5:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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Brooklyn, New York

Mr. Franklin leaves to mourn his mother, Mrs. Lorraine R. Stephens of Clinton Hill, Brooklyn; his sister, Mrs. Sheryl Renee Dobson, Esq. and his brother-in-law, Mr. Maurice W. Dobson, Esq. of Staten Island; his sister, Ms. Lisa Diane Franklin, his nephew, Mr. Ronan Franklin Davis, of Williamsburg, Brooklyn; his uncle, Mr. George Ronald Franklin of Hilton Head, South Carolina; his aunt, Mrs. Jacqueline Edith Murphy of Roosevelt, New York; his cousins: Mr. Bruce A. Benson of Brooklyn, New York; Mr. Philip Drew Benson, (Mrs. Brenda Elaine Ellison, Esq.), Ms. Sydney Megan Ellison Benson, of Potomac, Maryland; Mr. Ron K. Franklin; Ms. Rachel Franklin, Ms. Maya Franklin, of Chicago, Illinois; Mr. Brian Jay Murphy, PhD (Mrs. Pamela Murphy, MD), Mr. Matthew Murphy of Phoenix, Arizona; Mrs. Judith Adriane Thornton (Mr. Craig Cecil Thornton) of Queens, New York; Mr. Justin Arthur Daniel Thornton of Queens, New York; Ms. Alicia Lynn Byer of Cedar Grove, New Jersey; Ms. Florence Parkinson of Washington, D.C.; Mr. Peter H. Heere (Mr. Jan M.M. van den Bos) of Zaandam, The Netherlands; Mr. Richard Newsam (Mrs. Meg Newsam) of Vancouver British Columbia; Ms. Carla Newsam of Jamaica, West Indies; Mr. Patrick Newsam (Mrs. Norma Newsam) of Plaistow, London; Mr. Milton Newsam of London, England; Mrs. Margery Newsam Badaloo of London, England; Mr. Robert Newsam of London, England; Mr. Charles Newsam of London, England; Mrs. Dory Newsam Lloyd of Jamaica West Indies; Mrs. Jacqueline Newsam Cook, (Mr. Roy Cook) of London, England; Ms. Dianne Nelson of Santa Anna, California; Mr. Mark Anthony Graves (Mrs. Alfreda Cooper Graves) of Maryland; Mr. Michael Graves of Maryland; Ms. Nicole Graves of Maryland; Ms. Doris G. McCray of Virginia; Mr. Brian McCray of Maryland; Mr. Leon Royster Graves (Mrs. Annette Graves) of Virginia; Mr. J.D. Graves of Durham North Carolina; Mr. Chris Graves of Virginia; Ms. Candice Graves of Virginia; Mr. Arthur Brooks of Wilmington, Ohio; Ms. Sandra Brooks Bailey of Ohio; Mr. Barry Graves of Brooklyn, New York; Mr. Orim Graves of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Mr. Michael Wilkins of Amherst, Massachusetts; Ms. Kim M. DeShields and Ms. Alexis Reid of Amherst, Massachusetts; Mr. Gavin Rollins of Amherst, Massachusetts; Mr. James Haynes (Mrs. Marjy Haynes) of Sierra Vista, Arizona; and a host of other relatives and friends.

*I Would Be True*  
by Howard A. Walter

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;  
I would be pure, for there are those who care;  
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;  
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.  
I would be friend of all—the foe, the friendless;  
I would be giving, and forget the gift;  
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;  
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift.  
I would be faithful through each passing moment;  
I would be constantly in touch with God;  
I would be strong to follow where He leads me;  
I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.  
Who is so low that I am not his brother?  
Who is so high that I've no path to him?  
Who is so poor I may not feel his hunger?  
Who is so rich I may not pity him?  
Who is so hurt I may not know his heartache?  
Who sings for joy my heart may never share?  
Who in God's heav'n has passed beyond my vision?  
Who to hell's depths where I may never fare?  
May none, then, call on me for understanding,  
May none, then, turn to me for help in pain,  
And drain alone his bitter cup of sorrow,  
Or find he knocks upon my heart in vain.

*Acknowledgement*

The family wishes to express their heartfelt appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them in their time of sorrow.

**With deep gratitude, the family would like to especially thank the following people for blessing the family with their God given gifts:**

Dr. Ingrid Allard, Mr. Jerome Bell, Mr. Carl Burnett, Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Cole, Reverend Dr. Bessie W. Duncan, Mr. Raymond Duncan, Mr. Paul Ingram, Ms. Chiara Fasi, Ms. Bobbi Gant, Ms. Diane Johnson, Ms. Shannon McLaughlin, Reverend Clinton M. Miller, Ms. Nyota Muhammad, Mr. Leslie H. Powell, Dr. Phillip M. Smith, Mr. Cory J. Vaughn-Daniel.

Professional Services by:



**CORY J. VAUGHN-DANIEL**

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