

# A CELEBRATION OF LIFE



## REVEREND LUCILLE WITHERSPOON WITHERS

April 5, 1937 - June 13, 2020

Saturday, June 20, 2020 - 10am

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.  
2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

# Obituary

**Lucille Witherspoon Gilliard Withers** departed this life on Saturday, June 13, 2020, in Bronx, New York. Lucille was born in Moncks Corner, South Carolina to Charles and Julia Witherspoon and was one of eleven children. She attended a public elementary school and graduated from Berkeley Training High School in Moncks Corner, South Carolina. Lucille Witherspoon was known for being a talented and dynamic basketball player. She could sink a basket from any place on the court and was frequently the “top scorer”. She was the Michael Jordan of her day.

She moved to New York and worked for various companies to ensure that her family was financially supported.

Lucille developed a relationship with God at an early age and attended Emmanuel AME Church in her hometown. Her relationship with God continued when she joined the Trinity AME Church in Harlem, New York on East 126 Street under the leadership of Reverend C. Majors in 1967. Later she served under Reverend Leon Schuler. During that time, she served as an usher, choir member, youth leader, missionary and in other capacities.

Over time, she responded to the call from God into the ministry, and she was ordained as Reverend Lucille Withers. Reverend Withers served as an interim pastor at Trinity AME and as the pastor of Christian Church in Brooklyn, New York. She was passionate about the things of God. She attended Bible School, certificate enrichment classes and was awarded Woman of The Year by various organizations.

Reverend Withers passion was to serve the people; this was manifested by the zeal with which she managed the food pantry on 125th Street in Harlem, New York for many years. Even when she was ill, she would call to ensure that the pantry was being run properly. She wanted to make sure that the food was distributed equitably.

Her family and friends came to know her as strong-willed, passionate, and yes — bossy. When she spoke, she expected everyone to listen. She planned many bus trips which included Sight and Sound so that everyone could have rich cultural experiences. During her lifetime she was married to Charles Gilliard and Flenoy Withers. Flenoy preceded her in death in 2018. Also preceding her in death was her daughter, Sharon Middleton; siblings, Ella Mae Barnes, Charles Witherspoon, Jr., Alberta Segar, Emmerline Limehouse, Janie Osborne, Cleveland Witherspoon, and Harold Witherspoon.

She leaves to celebrate her life: her sons, Keith Witherspoon of Upper Hanover Marlboro, Maryland; Charles Gilliard, Jr. of Moncks Corner, South Carolina; her siblings, Rufus Witherspoon of Bronx, NY, Clarence Witherspoon, Sr. (Shirley Witherspoon) of Queens, NY, and Blanche Cordes (James Cordes) of Neptune, NJ; nine grandchildren, three great grandchildren, a bucket load of nieces, nephews, extended relatives, adopted daughters, adopted sons; and many friends.

We will miss your affectionate words and terms of endearment — “sweetie, snookum, squeeze-up, and baby”.

Farewell my: sister, mom, grandma, auntie, and friend. No more pain and no more suffering.

# *Order of Service*

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## **Selection**

### **Scripture Readings**

Old Testament - Clarence Witherspoon  
New Testament - Yvonne Cordes-Turner

## **Prayer**

## **Selection**

## **Acknowledgements**

## **Remarks**

## **Obituary**

## **Eulogy**

Rev. Marlo Washington

## **Committal**

## *Interment*

George Washington Memorial Park  
Paramus, New Jersey

# *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 his call,  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I've found that peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah 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 savoured 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.

## *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.***

2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300  
1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY • (718) 774-1023  
1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833



*Clifford V. James, President & CEO*

[www.unityfuneralchapels.com](http://www.unityfuneralchapels.com)

email: [unityfc@aol.com](mailto:unityfc@aol.com)

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