

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!*



Acknowledgement

The family wishes to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks to our friends for the many acts of kindness, love, and concern shown to them during the passing of their loved one, Ismay Matilda Braithwaite.
May God continue to bless everyone of you.

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted to:
Unity Funeral Chapel Inc.
2352 Frederick Douglass Boulevard
New York, New York 10027
(212) 666-8300

INTERMENT
Woodlawn Cemetery - Bronx, New York



Celebration of Life *for* *Ismay Matilda Braithwaite*



Sunrise: March 20, 1926 ~ Sunset: March 23, 2021

Monday, April 5, 2021
Viewing 4:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
Service 6:30 P.M.
Canaan Baptist Church of Christ
132 West 116th Street
New York, New York 10026
The Reverend T. Allan Jackson, Priest-in-Charge
Officiant

Obituary

Ismay Matilda Braithwaite “Queen Mother” was the oldest of eight children born in New York City to Adelaide and William Braithwaite. Ismay attended the New York City Public School System and graduated from Julia Richmond High School. Ismay furthered her education at New York University where she completed Sociology and Psychology courses. In addition, she attended and graduated from the Manhattan Bible Institute.

With her family, Ismay attended the Harlem Pentecostal Church where she played the piano, sang in the church quartet, and taught Sunday School. Later, she joined and was confirmed at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, where she would become an active and faithful member. After teaching Church School for 5 years, Ismay was then appointed to serve as the Director of St. Andrew’s Church School, a position she held from 1968 until her resignation in 1989. She was a member of the youth group, Entertainment Committee, and the Episcopal Church Women. She also led the Fundraising Committee, planned bus rides and Labor Day cruises, as well as college gospel choir and steel band concerts. Ismay initiated and organized annual celebration events during Black History Month, commemorating contributions made by Afro-Americans at the New York Veterans Administration Medical Center. Ismay retired from VA Medical Center after 42 years as the Secretary to Chief of Staff and as an Account Adjuster after 20 years at Macy’s Department Store. Volunteer work was important to Ismay and she volunteered at Harlem Hospital, VA Medical Center, United Jewish Appeal, and St. Andrew’s Church.

During a tribute service held at St. Andrew’s Church on May 20, 2011, Ismay was assigned the title of **“Queen Mother”** and was the recipient of three awards: Director of Church School, Recognition for 21 years as Administrative Assistant and 10 years as a Volunteer, and Recognition for Outstanding Commitment to St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church from the Episcopal Church Women. Ismay’s two great interests were the youth and seniors, and her messages were: To the youth – our future church: Proverbs 22:6: *“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not turn from it.”* To the seniors - *Be encouraged. God did not bring us this far to leave us. We are always in His care.* Ismay’s favorite Bible verses were John 3:16 and 17.



God gave Ismay the gift of motherhood as a “surrogate” mother to her nieces and nephews. She will be deeply missed. She leaves to cherish her memory: her beloved sisters, Ermine and Isalene; a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, Godchildren, extended family, her St. Andrew’s family, and lifelong friends.



You have fought a good fight, You have finished your course, You have kept the faith.
~ Lovingly Submitted, The Family

Order of Service

Opening Anthem

Collect Prayer

Song Selection.....Sonja Welch

Old Testament.....Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33.....Andy Thomas

Psalms 91:1-16 Yvonne Weekes-Sturges

New Testament.....Revelation 7:9-17..... Dejeuné Campbell

Poem Created by Zarinah Conry.....Sharvon Lee

The Gospel.....John 14:1-6.....The Rev. T. Allan Jackson

The Homily.....The Rev. T. Allan Jackson

The Apostles’ Creed..... The Rev. T. Allan Jackson

Prayer LitanyRichard Sutherland, Jr.

The Lord’s PrayerJuanita Faulkner

The Commendation.....The Rev. T. Allan Jackson

The Blessing.....The Rev. T. Allan Jackson

Hymn.....”Goin’ Up Yonder”.....Juanita Faulkner

Poem.....Kendra Braithwaite

The Obituary.....Lahteasha Campbell
Reflections (2 minutes please)