

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

Celebrating the Life of



Acknowledgement

*Our family would like to express Their appreciation and gratitude
for the many acts of kindness during this time of bereavement.
May God bless you all for your concern.*

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Professional Services Provided By

Nesbitt Funeral Home

165 Madison Ave, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

Ph: (908) 352-7078

Shirley Johnson

1929-2021

Service

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 - 11:00am

Nesbitt Funeral Home

165 Madison Avenue • Elizabeth, NJ 07201

The Broken Chain

*We little knew that day,
God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly,
In death, we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you.
You did not go alone.
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.
You left us beautiful memories,
Your love is still our guide.
And although we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.*



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Order of Service

Opening Selection
"Precious Lord"

Prayer of Comfort

Prayer Response
"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Ecclesiastes 3:1-6
New Testament: John 14:1-7

Hymn

"Lord I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

Reflections

Mrs. Martha Sexton

Poem

Eleanor Fuller, "Don't Cry for Me"

Acknowledgements & Obituary

Ms. Lori Sexton

Hymn

"His Eye Is On the Sparrow"

Eulogy

Rev. George Britt

Benediction

Postlude

"Goin Up Yonder"

Recessional



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Mother

*You can only have one mother,
patient, kind and true;
no other friend in all the world,
When other friends forsake you,
to mother you will return,
for all her loving kindness, she
asks nothing in return.
As we look upon her picture,
sweet memories we recall,
of a face so full of sunshine, and
a smile for one and all. Sweet
Jesus, take this message, to our
dear mother up above; tell her
how we miss her,
and give her all our love.*

Shirley Johnson was born on December 19th, 1929, in Elizabeth, New Jersey to Ruben Grimsley and Mattie Grimsley Rose. She was raised in Elizabeth with her father, Ruben, and her mother Mattie, who lived in North Edison.

Shirley was educated in the Elizabeth Public School system, and continued to reside in Elizabeth for a number of years, where she met Nathaniel (Nate) Johnson, her husband of 63 years. Together, they raised a wonderful family of five children, Gregory, Gloria, Adele, Nathaniel Jr, and Lindsay.

Shirley was a kind and loving wife and mother who enjoyed taking care of her children, as well as her immediate and extended family. She always enjoyed the holidays, especially Christmas, because they were spent with her children, grandchildren, cousins, friends and sometimes even the many people who knew and loved her from the many places that she frequented. Her interests included painting, dancing, and she also briefly worked at a flower shop.

Shirley was someone whose smile could light up an entire room, and a personality and sense of humor that made her unforgettable. She enjoyed a healthy and happy life and always had a humorous tale of one of her favorite memories about her children, husband, or one of her siblings. Many of her stories, or sermons as she would call them, also had a lesson to learn from. Whenever she spoke with her family, she always made sure that we knew how much she loved and appreciated us all, and how grateful she was for her life, her family and friends, and all of the love that was shared.

Shirley was predeceased by her husband, Nathaniel Johnson, five siblings, William Grimsley Pierce, Robert Rose, Abraham Rose, Edward Rose, Margaret Rose, and Mattie Sue Rose.

Shirley departed this earthly life on April 29, 2021

Shirley is survived by her loving and caring children, Gregory Edwards (Lois), Gloria Johnson Pearson (Dennis), Adele Johnson, Nathaniel Johnson Jr. (Lynda), Lindsay Johnson (Jennifer); five grandchildren, Heather Jearld, Nicole Johnson, Nathaniel Johnson III, Andrew Edwards, and Gary Edwards; a great grandson, Ryan Fogle; three sisters, Pauline, Elizabeth, and Brenda; and many loving cousins, nieces, nephews, close relatives, and friends.