

THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR  
REVEREND WILLIS L. MCGHEE III



**SUNRISE: April 29, 1951 - SUNSET: September 9, 2021**

**Home Going Service  
Monday, September 27, 2021 - 10AM**

**East Ward Missionary Baptist Church**

**2011 First Avenue, New York, New York 10029**

**(212) 410-9073**

**Reverend Dr. Sean P. Gardner, Sr., Senior Pastor  
Officiating**

# OBITUARY

**Reverend Willis L. McGhee III**, 70, of New York, NY, departed for his Heavenly home on September 9, 2021. He was born on April 29, 1951 in Chicago, Illinois to Reverend Willis McGhee II and Cleo Taylor McGhee.

Willis gave his heart to the Lord Jesus Christ at Progressive Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois.

He spent most of his life living in New York where he worked for the New York Transit Authority. He studied at The College of New Rochelle and graduated from the New York Theological Seminary. He was licensed as a minister in 2003 while at the First Corinthian Baptist Church and ordained as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in 2015 while at the Manhattan Missionary Baptist Church. His father, Rev. Willis McGhee II, and grandfather, Rev. Willis McGhee I, were also ordained ministers of the Gospel.

He was a frequent spiritual volunteer at Riker's Island and volunteered at many events to assist those in need of food support.

He, also, was a member and participant in various ministerial organizations, including the Baptist Ministers' Evening Conference of New York City & Vicinity.

Rev. McGhee became a member of East Ward Missionary Baptist Church on March 10, 2019 under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Sean P. Gardner, Sr. Rev. McGhee was the video photographer at East Ward. He participated in the Sunday morning Prayer Group. He assisted with various events of the Health & Wholeness Ministry. He assisted Pastor Gardner as required. Rev. McGhee was a willing worker, ready to assist wherever needed.

He enjoyed worshiping, praising and serving the Lord.

Willis was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Barbara Anderson, and his youngest son, Sheraz Keyes.

He is survived by: his loving daughter, Sabrina (Michael) Hembrick of Wilkes-Barre of PA; sons, Robert Keyes and Keith Keyes; sister-in-law, Cheryl Young (Squirt) of NY; grandkids, Sheraz Keyes II, Scheherezade Bryant, Kashif Alston and Sharif Alston, Cherise Keyes and Chantel Keyes; great grands, Deatema Bryant and Sannari Bryant; nieces, Janae Bullock, Camille Anderson, Ayanna Lewis, Dara Lewis and Jori Lewis-Gebayen; nephews, Terell Thompson and Preston Lewis; a sister, Judy Lewis (Theodis) of Chatham, IL; three aunts, Bernice Taylor of Dayton, Ohio, Nancy Taylor and Angeles Taylor both of California.

Lovingly Submitted  
By The Family

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Processional..... The Clergy and The Family

Invocation

Hymn of Praise.....“Blessed Assurance”

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Psalm 27:1-6

New Testament - Matthew 12:22-38

Prayer of Comfort

Selection.....“His Eye Is On the Sparrow”

Acknowledgements

Reflections (2 Minutes Please)..... Kashif Alston  
Judy McGhee Lewis

The Obituary.....Sister Cheryl Young

Selection.....“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

The Eulogy..... Reverend Dr. Sean P. Gardner, Sr.  
Senior Pastor, East Ward Missionary Baptist Church

The Benediction..... Reverend Dr. Sean P. Gardner, Sr.

Recessional.....“I’ll Fly Away”

**INTERMENT:**  
Rosehill Cemetery  
Linden, 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.

*With fond memories of how you lived your life,  
we bid farewell as you take flight,  
Angels will serve as your guide for you stand by the Lord's side.  
Your smile so loving, pure and true with loving memories, we bid  
farewell to you!*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

***The family of Reverend Willis L. McGhee III would like to  
extend our sincere gratitude for your expressions of love. Your  
many acts of kindness shown in prayer, word and deed have been  
most comforting. May God forever bless each of you.  
Amen!***

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