



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*Geraldine Ndidi Okparaekwe*

*Sunrise*

*November 24, 1979*

*Sunset*

*January 15, 2022*

*Service*

*Monday, February 7, 2022 • 11:00 a.m.*

**Whigham Funeral Home**

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. • Newark, New Jersey

*Rev. Keith Oden II, Officiating*

## *Reflection of Life*

**Geraldine Ndidì Okparaeké**, age 42, of Hillside, NJ passed away Saturday, January 15, 2022. She is survived by her father Godey Okparaeké, brothers Valentine, Richard, Princewill, Walter and Eugene; Nieces Olivia, Precious, Naomi, Kardyn, Amara, and Camdyn; Nephews Ike, Daniel, Jason, Brian and her loyal dog Duchess as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Preceding her in death was her mother, Regina Okparaeké and her brother Samuel Okparaeké.

Geraldine was born in Sokoto State Nigeria on November 24, 1979 to Godey and Regina Okparaeké, the only girl of seven children. When she was eight years old, she moved to the United States settling in Orange, New Jersey. Geraldine attended high school at Benedictine Academy in Elizabeth, NJ where she graduated on the honor roll. She later attended and graduated from Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Geraldine always excelled in school, so it was only natural for her to seek her graduate education by attending Capella University where she graduated with honors with an MBA in 2007. Geraldine loved people and the joy she got from helping them. As a result, she chose to go into public service as a career. In her career, she worked with the County of Essex for over 10 years as well as at Volunteers of America and Youth Consultation Services. She believed in working with people and communities that were underserved and underdeveloped.

Geraldine was so much more than her education and career. She loved to cook and often fielded requests from her loved ones for her special meals. She was always out and about, never staying still, going above and beyond for family and friends. And she loved her nieces and nephews fiercely, spoiling them with time, super stylish outfits and the best toys and gifts. She never knew a stranger and would always make you feel welcome. She was one of the funniest people you could ever meet and could keep you laughing for hours. Anyone that truly knew her knew she had such a big heart. She would give you anything even if it wasn't hers to give. She loved and served those around her deeply and we take comfort in knowing that Geraldine is now at peace surrounded by the light of our Lord.

# *Order of Service*

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## **Processional**

**Opening Prayer**  
Rev. Keith Oden II

**Scripture Reading**  
Job 19 25-27  
John 14 1-3  
Mahkan Taylor

**Musical Selection**  
Denzel Mac

**Reading of Obituary**  
Joy Collazo

**Remarks & Acknowledgements**  
Eugene Okparaeké

**Reflections of Life**  
Walter Okparaeké

**Musical Selection**  
Denzel Mac

**Words of Comfort**  
Rev. Keith Oden II

**Committal and Benediction**  
Rev. Keith Oden II

<p><b><i>Interment</i></b> <i>Rosedale Cemetery</i> <i>Orange, New Jersey</i></p>
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# *Afterglow*

*I'd like the memory of me  
To be a happy one,  
I'd like to leave an afterglow  
Of smiles when day is done.  
I'd like to leave an echo  
Whispering softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times  
And bright and sunny days.  
I'd like the tears of those who grieve  
To dry before the sun  
Of happy memories that I leave behind,  
When the day is done.*

*-Helen Lowrie Marshall*

## *Acknowledgements*

*The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation  
the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown  
to their family during this hour of bereavement.*

*May God Bless and Keep You!*

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Professional Services by:  
**Whigham Funeral Home**

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Newark, New Jersey 07102  
973-622-6872  
*Carolyn Whigham, Director*

