

Forever In Our Hearts
Courtney Selassie Parkes

March 18, 1945 - January 24, 2022



Homegoing Service
Saturday, February 12, 2022
Viewing - 8:00 am – 8:45 am
Service - 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Trinity Pentecostal Church of God
550 East 23rd Street, Paterson, New Jersey 07514
Pastor Cleveland Thomas, Officiant

Order of Service

WELCOME & PRAYER.....Pastor Cleveland Thomas

HYMN.....His Eye Is On the Sparrow

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.....Elvis Parkes

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 15:50-58.....Gabriella Johnson-Robinson

SOLO.....Kalief Fender

TRIBUTEAnthony Lloyd Parkes

TRIBUTELurline Parkes

TRIBUTE Simone Stewart

TRIBUTE.....Trinity Pentecostal

EULOGY..... Anthony Lloyd Parkes

A SPECIAL SONG.....Men's Choir

MESSAGE.....Pastor Cleveland Thomas

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....Pastor Cleveland Thomas

CLOSING INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Interment
Laurel Grove
295 Totowa Road
Totowa, NJ 07512

Ministry of the Word

Old Testament Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

A reading from the Book of Corinthians

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come, Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heav'n and home, When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He: His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Refrain

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free, For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear, And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears; Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Refrain

I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free, For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise, When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies, I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Eulogy

Courtney Selassie Parkes was born on March 18, 1945 in Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies. Courtney was the fourth of six children born to the late Joseph and Violet Parkes. He had three brothers, Ken (predeceased), Oscar (predeceased), and Evon (predeceased), and two sisters, Lynette (predeceased) and Sadie, aka Joyce.

Known affectionately as “Clovis,” Courtney grew up on his parents’ farm in Bowden Hill, St. Andrew where he played and worked hard alongside his siblings. He attended Bowden Hill Basic School and Bowden Hill Primary School. He went on to graduate from Kingston Technical High School in 1964. He became a Mason, a skill he maintained that was useful to many homeowners who knew him. He later went back to school to further his education and ultimately worked for the National Water Commission in Kingston for over 10 years.

Around 1980, Courtney migrated to the United States of America and settled in Paterson, New Jersey. In 1981, he began working at the Hackensack Water Company. For his professional growth, Courtney took the necessary courses and obtained the required licenses to earn several promotions. As a result, he was honored by the company for his 20 years of dedicated service. He also worked part-time for the New Jersey Transit for many years. After retirement, Courtney moved to Florida before returning to New Jersey to be close to family.

Courtney was a kind, quiet, soft-spoken, hardworking, and generous person who cared deeply for his family. Courtney’s children, Marcia (predeceased), Jacqueline, Elvis, and Frederick affectionately referred to him as “Dada.” He shared with them his strong belief in God. He instilled the importance of family, generosity, hard work, resiliency and diligence in every aspect of life. He taught them to set high goals and to navigate the paths to achieving them until they were successfully met. He was deeply grateful to the Parker family for the contributions they made to the upbringing of his children and

to his life.

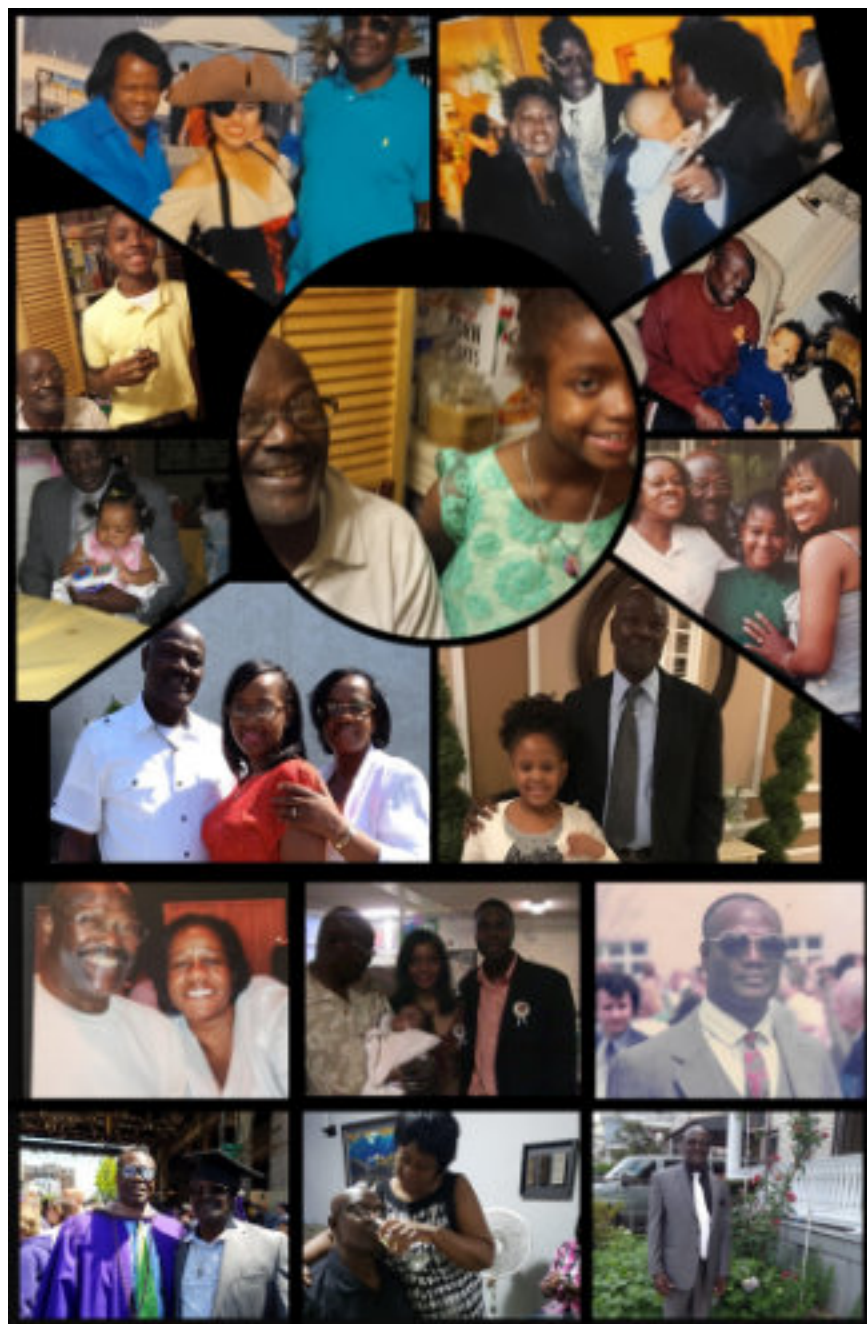
In 2012, Courtney married his dear wife, Dawn who referred to him as “Mr. C.” They worshipped at Trinity Pentecostal Church of God, where Courtney was baptized in 2015. He became a faithful member of the church and surprised many when he joined the Men’s Choir to praise God in song. Who knew he could sing?

Courtney had a vast collection of vinyl records of old school reggae, country music, and R&B that was inspirational. On Sundays, he and his wife, Dawn, took great delight in listening to gospel music. Courtney also enjoyed watching baseball (go Mets), cricket, and the Andy Griffith show. He played dominos. He loved farming in his backyard. Callaloo, corn and tomatoes were among the crops he grew. He had a passion for the medicinal power of plants. There was always a “bush” that he could boil into a tea for a washout or to make an ailment go away.

Courtney had a distinctive laugh. It stood out in a crowd and could be heard from afar. When heard, one knew Courtney, Clovis, Dada, Mr. C., or Mr. Parkes, was nearby. If we listen keenly now, we could hear his laugh from heaven as a praise to God.

On Monday, January 24, 2022, Courtney passed away at Northshore LIJ Hospital in New York. He departed this life surrounded by his family. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. He will be missed.

Courtney is survived by his wife, Dawn; sibling, Joyce; daughter, Jacqueline and her partner Eric; his sons, Elvis and his wife Tanita, Fred and his wife Kerry-Ann, and Rawlin and his wife Marie; his grandchildren, Jordan, Demetri, Dylan, Madison, Zoe, and Rakeem; stepchildren, Christopher, Sophia, Olisia, Lorraine, and Simone; step-grandchildren, DJ and Lacey. He was predeceased by his daughter Marcia; brothers, Ken, Oscar, Evon and sister, Lynette. He also leaves to remember his life nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.







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

Acknowledgment

The family of the late **Courtney Selassie Parkes** acknowledges
with deep appreciation your prayers and the many expressions of
love and kindness shown to them during this time of bereavement.

God bless and keep you.

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