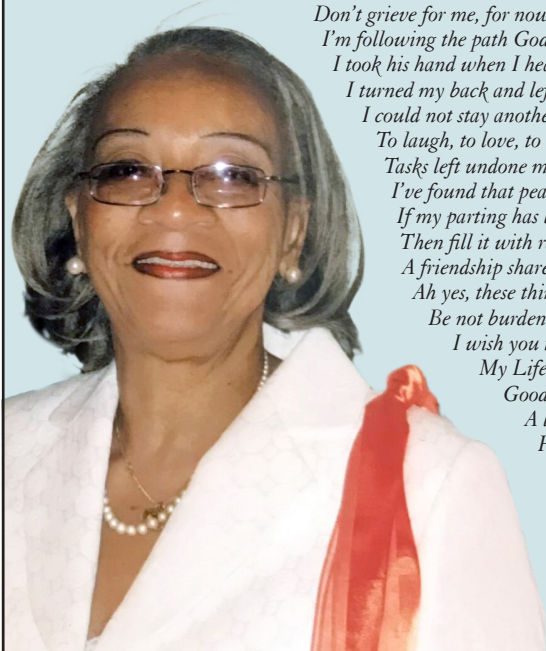


*Worry does not empty
tomorrow of its sorrow;
it empties today of
its strength.*

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'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 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

Our family wishes to extend our profound and sincere gratitude for the outpouring of love, support, and prayers during this difficult time. Through our cherished memories, **ESTHER** will live on in our hearts forever. May we continue to celebrate her life by living freely and with gratitude every single day that we have the ability to take a breath.

Arrangements Entrusted to:



630 St. Nicholas Avenue
New York, NY 10030
Phone: (212) 281-8850
Fax: (212) 294-3600



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Esther Mae Middleton

SUNRISE: FEBRUARY 1, 1942 SUNSET: DECEMBER 5, 2024

Funeral Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2024 • 11:00 A.M.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

240 West 145th Street • New York, NY

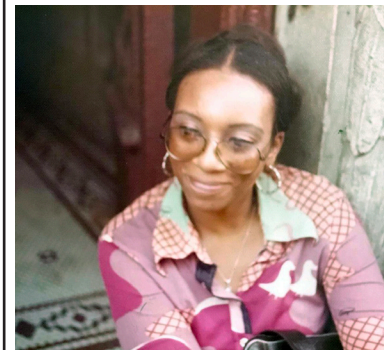
REVEREND BRIAN D. SCOTT, *Pastor*

Interment

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024

SELEETA BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY

Alexander City, AL



Order of Service

HYMN OF PRAISE..... CHOIR SELECTION

SCRIPTURE READING

OLD TESTAMENT.....PSALMS 16: 8-11

NEW TESTAMENTCORINTHIANS 5: 1-5

CONSOLATION PRAYER.....JOHN 14: 1-3

TRIBUTES/CONSOLATIONSJOANNE SWAINE

CYNTHIA FOULKS

RESOLUTIONS.....CHURCH CLERK

THE OBITUARY.....KENISHA WATSON

THE EULOGY.....REVEREND BRIAN D. SCOTT

BENEDICTION.....REVEREND BRIAN D. SCOTT

RECESSION HYMN.....CHOIR SELECTION

Obituary

ESTHER ‘PATE’ MIDDLETON graced her parents Osborne and Ethel Hicks, and the world, with her presence on February 1, 1942, in Alexander City, Alabama. Esther peacefully chose to rest in her longtime home of Harlem, New York on December 5, 2024.

Pate, as she was affectionately called, was united in holy matrimony with the late Clinton Maynard Middleton. Upon migrating from Alabama, she found success in New York City through 30 years of employment within the telephone company Bell Atlantic, known more recently as Verizon. She was a devoted mother, sister, friend, and longtime member of Union Baptist Church as an Auxiliary Usher.

Esther was preceded in death by her husband, Clinton Maynard Middleton, affectionately called ‘Bernard’, parents Osborne and Ethel Hicks, four brothers, three sisters, in-laws James Middleton Sr. and Rosa Lee, one-sister-in-law, and four brothers-in-law.

Pate is survived by: daughter, Antigua Middleton (NY); sisters Emma Jean Hicks-Osborne (NY), Ruth Burns (AL), Christine McKinney (AL), Nora Baker (GA), Trecia Harkins (AL), brother Darcy Hicks (MS), sister-in law Sheila West (NY), and a host of in-laws, cousins, nieces, and nephews.



