

## 1 John 4:4-8

*You are of God, little children,  
and have overcome them,  
because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

*They are of the world.  
Therefore they speak as of the world,  
and the world hears them.*

*We are of God.  
He who knows God hears us;  
he who is not of God does not hear us.  
By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.*

*Beloved, let us love one another,  
for love is of God;  
and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.  
He who does not love does not know God,  
for God is love.*

### *Acknowledgements*

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, **LAVERNE** 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) 234-3600

## *Homegoing Service of*



## *LaVerne Newman McPherson*

SUNRISE: DECEMBER 20, 1920 ~ SUNSET: JUNE 2, 2024

### *Funeral Service*

Thursday, June 13, 2024 • 10:00 AM

**THE ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

132 Odell Clark Place • New York, NY 10030

**REVEREND DR. S. RASCHAAD HOGGARD**, *Executive Minister*

**REVEREND REGINALD L. BACHUS**, *Officiating/Eulogist*

### *Entombment*

**WOODLAWN CEMETERY**

Bronx, New York

# Order of Service

## PRELUDE

## INVOCATION

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN ..... “BLESSED ASSURANCE”

## SCRIPTURE READING

OLD TESTAMENT ..... PSALM 23

NEW TESTAMENT ..... II TIMOTHY 4:6-7

## PRAYER OF COMFORT

SOLO ..... “HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW”

TRIBUTES ..... BRIAN McPHERSON, WINSOME HENRY,  
NAIMAH McPHERSON, KIAMESHIA McPHERSON,  
CARLA CHERRY/KHARI RANDALL

THE OBITUARY READING ..... KIAMESHIA McPHERSON

SOLO ..... “GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU”

EULOGY ..... REVEREND REGINALD L. BACHUS

## BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL ..... “GOIN’ UP YONDER”

# Obituary

LAVERNE NEWMAN McPHERSON entered into eternal rest on Sunday, June 2, 2024.

She was a smart, beautiful, hard-working, generous soul. She was born in Brassfield, Kentucky on December 20, 1920 to James Milton Newman and Florence Bates Newman. Laverne was raised on the family farm with her two elder sisters, Marguerite Newman-Park (1900-1998) and Pauline Rogers Stephens Newman (1914-1995). Educated in the schools of Brassfield through the eighth grade, Laverne had to leave home to attend Richmond High School in Richmond, Kentucky because there was no high school for African Americans in Brassfield. Laverne worked as a nanny to pay her school fees and living expenses.

Upon her high school graduation, Laverne moved to New York City in 1938, and settled in Harlem. Laverne worked various jobs to support herself. On March 11, 1942, Laverne gave birth to her daughter, Sandra Laverne McPherson (1942-2002).

Laverne found work at Yale Registry for Nurses in 1942, where she helped dozens of women find work as nurses and home health aides until 2009. Laverne volunteered at the Y.M.C.A., and she met John McPherson around 1944 at one of their dances. They married on February 14, 1947 and this union was blessed with two sons, Darryl Darren “Chick” McPherson (January 26, 1949) and Brian Keith McPherson (May 25, 1956).

Laverne was intensely devoted to her family. In 1945, Laverne invited her sister Pauline and her five children to move up to New York City for a better life, and the two sisters and their children briefly lived together in Harlem until Pauline got on her feet. Laverne also took care of Marguerite in her home until Marguerite passed in 1998. An excellent cook, Laverne insisted on hosting Thanksgiving and other holiday dinners at her home, with meals served on her treasured china dishes.

A woman of deep faith, Laverne joined Abyssinian Baptist Church in 1952, where she sang in the sanctuary choir for a time, served as an usher with the Senior Ladies Usher Board, and was a member of the Floral Circle and the Mattie Fletcher Powell Ministry. Laverne was also civically engaged. She was an active member of the National Council of Negro Women where she once served as a chapter president. Laverne was also a poll worker for many years.

Although she was always busy with her family, professional, and civic endeavors, Laverne was also fun-loving and adventurous. She traveled extensively in her golden years, including trips to California, Hawaii, Aruba, Mexico, and Ireland.

Laverne leaves to cherish her memory: two sons, Darryl McPherson and Brian McPherson of the Bronx, NY; a sister-in-law, Sharon McPherson-Richardson of PA; a brother-in-law, Myron McPherson of GA; a brother-in-law Sylvester McPherson of NJ; a brother-in-law Gary McPherson of Matawan, NJ; four grandchildren: Eric McPherson of New York, NY, Kiameshia McPherson of Philadelphia, PA, Keith Zachary McPherson and Alicia McPherson of Los Angeles, CA; five great-grandchildren: Nasif McPherson-Murray of Austin, TX, Nailah McPherson-Murray, Geronimo McPherson-Murray, Freedom McPherson-Murray, and Naimah McPherson-Murray of Philadelphia, PA; a niece, Paula Laverne Cherry of Bronx, NY; three grandnieces: Wanda Ballew of Florida, Carla Michele Cherry of Bronx, NY, and Cortney Williams of Brooklyn, NY; one grandnephew, Mark Ballew and his wife Melanie Ballew of Queens, NY; a great-grandnephew, Khari N. Randall of Bronx, NY, and three great-grandnieces: Heather Lannaman of FL; Brianna Ballew of Knoxville, TN; and Anike Cherry of Bronx, NY; two goddaughters, Roberta Sanders of Southfield, MI, and Wallace Majors of SC, and a host of other relatives and friends.



