

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

*If tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not there to see,
If the sun should rise and find your eyes all filled with tears for me;
I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today,
while thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.
I know how much you care for me, and how much I care for you,
and each time that you think of me I know you'll miss me too;
But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand,
that an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand,
and said my place was ready in heaven far above,
and that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.
But as I turned to walk away, a tear fell from my eye,
for all life, I'd always thought I didn't want to die.
I had so much to live for and so much yet to do.
it seemed almost impossible that I was leaving you.
I thought of all the love we shared and all the fun we had.
If I could relive yesterday, I thought, just for a while,
I'd say goodbye and hug you and maybe see you smile.
But then I fully realized that this could never be,
for emptiness and memories would take the place of me.
And when I thought of worldly things that I'd miss come tomorrow.
I thought of you, and when I did, my heart was filled with sorrow.
But when I walked through Heaven's gates, I felt so much at home.
When God looked down and smiled at me, from His great golden throne,
He said, "This is eternity and all I've promised you,
Today your life on earth is past but here it starts anew.
I promise no tomorrow, but today will always last.
and since each day's the same, there's no longing for the past.
But you have been so faithful, so trusting, so true.
Though there were times you did some things you shouldn't do.
And you have been forgiven and now, at last, you're free.
So won't you come and take my hand and share my life with me?"
So if tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart,
for every time you think of me, please know I'm in your heart.*

Acknowledgments

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, Mabel 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:


BENTA'S
Funerals & Cremation
630 St. Nicholas Avenue
New York, NY 10030
Phone: (212) 281-8850
Fax: (212) 234-3600

In Loving Memory of



Mabel Betsy Pinckney

SUNRISE: AUGUST 5, 1923 - SUNSET: JUNE 21, 2024

Funeral Service

Thursday, June 27, 2024 • 7:00 P.M.

ST. PAUL COMMUNITY CHURCH

256 West 145th Street • New York, NY

REVEREND HORACE A. STEWART, Officiating

Interment

Friday, June 28, 2024 • 9:00 A.M.

CALVERTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Calverton, New York

Order of Service

ORGAN PRELUDE

INVOCATION

SELECTION “ON CHRIST THE SOLID ROCK I STAND”

SCRIPTURE:

OLD TESTAMENT PSALMS 23

NEW TESTAMENT 1 THESSALONIANS 4:15-18

PRAYER OF COMFORT

SELECTION “HOW I GOT OVER”

REFLECTIONS FAMILY & FRIENDS
(TWO MINUTES PLEASE)

CHURCH RESOLUTIONS

OBITUARY CONNIE PRESCOTT

SELECTION “THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG”

EULOGY REV. HORACE A. STEWART

BENEDICTION REV. HORACE A. STEWART

RECESSIONAL

Obituary

MABEL BETSY KIRKLAND, one of 14 children, was born on August 5, 1923, to Frank and Elizabeth Kirkland on Edisto Island, SC, where she spent her early years. She migrated to New York City with her family at a young age.

Mabel devoted herself to raising her two sons as a stay-at-home mom before entering the workforce. She served as a Cafeteria Worker at St. Charles Catholic School and later as Head Cook at Resurrection School, both in Harlem, NY. Known for her helpful, giving, and nurturing nature, Mabel left a lasting impression on colleagues and children alike.

On June 3, 1950, Mabel married Lee Pinckney Jr. From their union, she was blessed with three children: Lee III, Calvin, and a daughter who passed shortly after birth. A spiritual woman, Mabel became an active member of the Usher Board at St. Paul Community Church, where she faithfully ushered well into her 80s. On Saturdays, she could often be found baking cakes and pies for church events, family gatherings, and friends. In earlier times, she also used her kitchen as a salon, sharing her talents as a beautician with her community. Mabel attended Tuesday night Bible Study and was a former singer in the church choir.

Stylish and creative, Mabel was a self-taught seamstress who made many of her own dresses. She had a profound love for her grandsons, Drew and Denzel, who affectionately called her “Nana.” She actively participated in their lives, including becoming involved with Linda’s Learning Works Daycare to care for Denzel. Her culinary skills were legendary, with dishes like red rice, okra soup, shrimp in brown gravy over rice for Lee III and Calvin, and macaroni and cheese for Drew and Denzel being cherished favorites.

Mabel leaves behind a legacy of love and devotion. She is survived by her youngest sister, Loretta Huggins; her sons, Lee III and Calvin; daughters-in-law, Linda and Katha; grandsons Drew and Denzel; and a large extended family of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and many friends from St. Paul Community Church and beyond.

Mabel will be deeply missed but forever remembered for her warmth, generosity, and unwavering faith.

EVERYONE LOVES MABEL



