

A Celebration Of Life For
Rosetta Mae Lawson

SEPTEMBER 8, 1937 - SEPTEMBER 9, 2023



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

VIEWING: 9:30AM

SERVICE: 11:00AM

From the Heart Church Ministries®
Annex at 5055 Allentown Road | Suitland, Maryland 20746
Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor



Rosetta Mae Lawson

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 To everything there is a season...

A Time to Be Born: Rosetta Mae Lawson, affectionately known as "Sis" or "Sister," was born on September 8, 1937, in Washington, D.C., as the oldest of three children of Andrew and Lelia Bell Seigler.

A Time to Live: Raised in the nation's capital, Rosetta pursued her education within the District of Columbia Public Schools attending Dunbar High School.

Her spiritual journey began early in life, influenced by her father, a Baptist minister. Her deep connection with the church would persist throughout her lifetime. She often joked about spending so much time in church that attending became a lifestyle rather than a requirement, adding that it was a wonder she wanted to still attend church as an adult.

The values instilled in Rosetta during her formative years remained at the core of her life. She became an active member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, uniting in harmony with the "Friendly Five" in 1954 later named the Friendly Gospel Singers. The group became an integral part of her life, and her children were fortunate to be guided and inspired by them all. For more than 60 years, Rosetta engaged in various church ministries to include the Helping Hands Club, Missionary Ministry, Progressive Club and Volunteer Choir until her health failed. Her exceptional financial acumen positioned her as the ideal choice for the role of treasurer. Those closest to her often teased that she could get "Two dollars out of one."

While waiting for the bus around the corner from her house, she met the love of her life, Porter "Bobby" Lawson, Sr. Porter went to the bus stop early every day to see her, later learning that they lived on the same block. Their daily encounters sparked a romance that led to their marriage in 1963, marking the beginning of their shared journey in raising seven children: Leander, Antonio, Hermond, Ronnie, Porter Jr., Linda, and Carletta. Rosetta's unwavering strength and resilience truly shone as she embraced the challenge of raising the Lawson children. She was forever reminded of the Scripture, Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Finding guidance and inspiration in her faith she instilled values and love in her children. Rosetta's blend of tough love and unwavering support molded her children into who they are today. Her dedication, coupled with her unyielding belief in the potential of her offspring, ensured that each of them grew into responsible, compassionate individuals who will continue to carry her legacy forward, a testament to the power of a mother's love and determination.

In addition to being the family matriarch, Rosetta was a member of the Sheridan Street Block Club and other community groups. As an active participant, she engaged in various philanthropic activities and community service efforts, embodying the organization's values. Her commitment to the Sheridan Street Block Club further showcased her dedication to improving her immediate neighborhood. Rosetta not only demonstrated her strong sense of community but also contributed her time and energy to initiatives that promoted social welfare and a stronger sense of unity among her fellow members and neighbors.

A Time to Work: Driven by her inherent love for others and an unyielding passion to make a difference in people's lives, Rosetta's career path naturally led her to the field of nursing. She embarked on her nursing journey by attending nursing school and initially taking on various nursing roles. However, her path took a turn when she briefly worked as a tour guide for seven years at the 4-H Center. With the addition of several new family members, Rosetta decided to pause her professional life to focus on raising her growing family.

After dedicating several years to nurturing her children at home, Rosetta's unwavering commitment to nursing was reignited when she accepted a one-day nursing job. Little did she know that this single-day commitment would evolve into a remarkable 30-year career as a private duty nurse. Her dedication to her patients was so profound that many families not only entrusted her with their loved ones' well-being, but also expressed their gratitude by paying for her vacations and continued support after their relatives no longer required care.

Rosetta's name became synonymous with compassionate care during her 25-year service at the Hebrew Home in Rockville, Maryland. Her commitment extended beyond her professional duties, as she also cared for both of her parents and other relatives until their final moments.

A Time to Love: *Rosetta embodied the qualities of the Proverbs 31 Woman, a true servant whose children held her in high esteem, rising up to call her blessed. She not only imparted valuable lessons about being children of God but also guided them on the paths to responsible adulthood and financial stewardship. The Lawsons' home was a haven for neighborhood children and friends alike, as Rosetta and her family extended their care, effectively gaining numerous adopted children and godchildren along the way. Rosetta's love, rules, and expectations were abundantly clear, whether it meant the weekly ritual of dusting the same walls and furniture every Saturday before leaving the house or the non-negotiable commitment to attend church on Sunday mornings, regardless of Saturday's activities. Despite her petite stature, she made it unmistakably clear who was in charge, and the importance of family was a constant theme, evident in their cherished Sunday family dinners. As her children matured, they began to appreciate the uniqueness of these Sunday gatherings and recognized that this tradition set their family apart from others, as it wasn't a common practice in most households.*

Rosetta had a love for hats and flowers. She had a distinctive collection of hats for every occasion in a wide range of colors. Whether she was attending a church service, a sophisticated event, a casual outing, or even a themed party, she effortlessly complimented her outfits with the perfect hat. Her collection showcased her impeccable fashion sense and her dedication to making a stylish statement, even in the most sacred of settings. By example, she instilled in her children to "always look your best." While attending a tea party, she was photographed and later featured in a Hat Exhibit in the Anacostia Museum. Her love for flowers was evident in her nurturing flowers for every season. She always reminded family and friends to "give me my flowers while I am living." In her spare time, she loved to travel taking bus trips to Reading, Pennsylvania, for shopping and Sight and Sound for Christian plays. Family trips were an important part of her life. Although she preferred to take the bus or train, she eventually flew to various locations. Even with seven children, she was afforded the opportunity to travel the world with her dear friends, Gilbretta Jones the late Lila "Sis" Saunders, and Judy Carpenter.

A Time to Die: *Rosetta marked her 86th birthday joyously on Friday, September 8, 2023. However, early the following day on Saturday, September 9, 2023, after enduring years of battling dementia, she made her peaceful transition in the comfort of her own home, as she had always wished. As she moved from this life to the next, her unwavering faith in God undoubtedly carried her into a new existence, where her spirit can find solace.*

A Time to Mourn: *Rosetta leaves behind a legacy of love, dedication, and service. She leaves to cherish her memory children: Leander; Antonio (Terry); Hermond (Pat); Ronnie (Jene); Porter Jr. (Karen); Linda Gray (Dennis); Carletta Marrow (Rick); grandchildren: Michael, Luvenier, Michael, Tamika, LeeToya, Shawnise, Dennis, Ashlee, Ashley and Zyon; 19 great-grandchildren; and a host of cousins and friends. She was the oldest of three matriarchs of the family (Lillian Love and Roberta).*

Rosetta was preceded in death by her parents, Andrew and Lelia Belle Seigler; brothers, James and Wade Seigler; cousin, Hampton Gathers; and her devoted husband, Porter "Bobby" Lawson, Sr.

In remembering Rosetta Mae Lawson, let us celebrate her life, her unwavering faith, her dedication to her family and community, and the countless lives she touched with her kindness and care. Though she may be gone from our sight, her memory will forever live in our hearts.

"To be absent from the body means to be present with the Lord" (II Corinthians 5:8)



Order of Service

Invocation

Congregational Hymn “Amazing Grace”

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 90:4-12
New Testament: I Corinthians 15:50-58

Prayer of Comfort

Selection Mrs. Linda Gray, Daughter

Remarks

Deaconess Charlotte Clipper, Emmanuel Baptist Church
Gloria Veney, Friend and Colleague
Lillie Love, First Cousin
Ronnie Lawson, Son
Carletta Marrow, Daughter

Obituary (Read Aloud) Mr. Dennis Gray, Jr., Grandson

Song of Preparation..... Mrs. Linda Gray, Daughter
Ms. Tamika Saunders, Granddaughter

Message of Hope Reverend Porter L. Lawson, Jr.

Call to Christ

Recessional

Interment:
National Harmony Memorial Park
7101 Sheriff Road
Hyattsville, Maryland 20785



Family Sentiments



Dear Mother,

A piece of me leaves with you today, but I'm grateful for the time we had together and for a mother like you. Thank you for loving me all these years, teaching me how to cook and clean. It is because of you that I am a good father and the man I am today. You forgave all of my flaws, stood by me and loved me despite my mistakes. You will forever be in my heart and I'm going to miss you dearly... I love you!

~ **Your Son, Hermond**

When I think about mom, I think about a real mom not just because she is my mother, but how you took care of all of us. You made sure we were fed and that we had everything that we needed. From day one, you made sure we knew the Lord and how to be a real family. You always seemed in control – even during your sickness, you were strong. You showed me how to deal with my own sickness and not to give up.

~ **Love Your Son, Tony**

Today as we remember our grandmother, Rosetta Mae Lawson, we would like to celebrate the outstanding life that she lived, and the legacy she left for us to cherish. Thank you, grandma for being the pillar, and matriarch of our family; but most importantly for instilling Jesus in all of us. Above all, Grandma stressed the importance of going to church and having a relationship with God. And let's not forget she went to church every Sunday wearing a stunning hat, complimented by a popping color lipstick, usually red or purple, a fresh suit to match, and her pocketbook! We will forever cherish the values she instilled in us by following her example of strength, courage, and resilience. So, Grandma, thank you for every lesson learned, the wisdom you imparted to us, and of course thank you for loving us all unconditionally - and It wouldn't be grandma if she didn't pat you on the head and say, "I love you." For every memory we've made, may we cherish them forever. Of course, we will miss you but now you're at home in heaven.

~ **We love you grandma!**

Mrs. Lawson,

Today we are celebrating your remarkable life. You marched to your own beat, did everything on your own terms, and you embodied everything of a God-fearing woman. From you, I learned the importance of compassion and unconditional love by watching you care for your father and countless others in your home. From you, I learned the importance of hard work by watching how you cared for your family after working long hours while keeping "all of us in line." You were stern but your heart was bigger than life and the love that you gave us will never be forgotten. I will always remember all the mandatory Saturday chores that had to be completed before we could leave the house. We learned the importance of "doing it right" the first time and keeping a clean home. Those who know, know... I will forever remember those Sunday car rides to church and watching you read your Bible every night. You made us strong in our faith especially when times were hard. Thank you for being there for me at monumental times in my life and for always encouraging me to do well and to keep God at the center of my life. Thank you for all of those "Motherly" prayers that helped to sustain many of us throughout our lives. I was truly blessed to have you as a special part of my life, and I thank God for sharing you with me. Until we meet again...

~ **Tamiko Washington (Goddaughter)**

To Mom,

Although mere words can't begin to express the depth of our feelings and emotions, still we will strive to pay tribute to the phenomenal woman that you are! We speak in the present tense because your presence will forever live in our hearts as cherished memories. Of course we will miss your charm and your wit, and how you refused to start your day before putting on your favorite lipstick. And shucks Mom, if we had it our way we'd have kept you with us for ever, but the place God has prepared for you is so much better. So you've fought a good fight and you've finished your race. You've taught us to live life with courage and grace. Take your rest because we know this is not a goodbye, but just a see you later. With eternal love....

~ **Karen and Porter**





Congregational Hymn

Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound;
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind but now I see*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear,
the hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come, 'tis grace hath
brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise,
than when we first begun.*

Pallbearers

*Dennis Gray, Jr., Antonio Lawson, Hermond Lawson,
Ronnie Lawson, Rickey Marrow, Jr., and Marqui Williams*

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

The entire Lawson family sincerely thank all of you for your prayers, comfort, love and support. Your many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy have been a blessing to us. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless and keep you in perfect peace!

Special Acknowledgement

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the many caregivers who dedicated their time and hearts to caring for our beloved mom. Your tireless efforts went far beyond what could be expected in a job—it was an expression of genuine love and tenderness.

A very special thank you goes out to Capital Caring Health Home Hospice, Visiting Angels, Home Partners, and the exceptional individuals who made a difference in our mom's life: Xaverie, Mulu, Marci, Tyronne, and Val. Your unwavering commitment to her comfort and well-being was truly remarkable. During a challenging time for our family, you provided not only skilled care but also warmth, companionship, and a sense of security. You were there to offer comfort and support not just as caregivers, but as friends and confidants. Your kindness and compassion were deeply felt and greatly appreciated. Your presence in our mom's life brought her comfort and happiness during her final days. Your dedication was a source of strength for us all.

Services Rendered by:

*Hodges and Edwards Funeral Home
3910 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746*