

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

A portrait of an elderly woman with short, styled brown hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a light-colored, textured blazer over a dark top with a lace-like pattern, and a multi-strand pearl necklace. The background is a bright blue sky with soft white clouds.

*Geraldine*  
DRAKE

APRIL 7, 1930 — DECEMBER 9, 2024

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2024

10:00 A.M. VIEWING | 11:00 A.M. SERVICE

FROM THE HEART CHURCH MINISTRIES•  
4949 ALLENTOWN ROAD | SUITLAND, MARYLAND 20746  
BISHOP JOHN A. CHERRY, II — PASTOR



# THE LIFE AND LEGACY

**Geraldine Gloria Williamson Drake** was born on April 7, 1930, in Washington, D.C., to Elijah Williamson and Dorothea Davis Williamson. She was the third of six children.

Geraldine attended the District of Columbia Public Schools namely Logan Elementary, Terrell Junior High, and Dunbar High School. Later, she married her high school sweetheart, James Edward Drake, whom she affectionately called “Jim Edward,” and together they had five children. While the marriage ended in divorce, Geraldine and Drake remained friends, and the two enjoyed many family gatherings.

As a native Washingtonian she enjoyed the real (non-tourist) city. One of her fondest memories was seeing her father get dressed up for church every Sunday, decked out in a three-piece suit, a hat, and a gold watch and chain that he placed in the watch pocket of his vest. Geraldine really enjoyed going to church with him. In 2013, she was led by the Lord Jesus Christ to join From the Heart Church Ministries, where she was active in the Seniors and Helps Ministries.

Geraldine, who was called “Annabelle” by her two eldest siblings, had a lifelong love of reading, which she passed on to her children. As a child, she sat around the table, listening to her big brother, Marvin, reading aloud from books like *David Copperfield*. She later read aloud to her own children, encouraging them to memorize and recite poems. Moreover, she regularly took them to the public library and worked a part-time job to pay for a complete set of Childcraft reference books and *The World Book Encyclopedia* to keep in the home.

After her older children reached school age, Geraldine returned to the workforce, eventually retiring as a patent examiner with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Once her children were grown, Geraldine indulged in her second passion—traveling. She joined Soul Journey, an African American travel club, and traveled all over the country by bus, train, car, and plane. With her long-time friend and travel buddy, Marcia Smith, affectionately called “Smith,” she cruised to various ports in the Caribbean and to Alaska. At the time of her illness, she and Smith had booked a dream cruise to Hawaii, but that dream was not realized.

At the same time, Geraldine discovered yet a third passion—the theater. She and Smith traveled to New York City, where they would meet up with Marie Bragg, and the three would attend all manner of plays and musicals, both on and off Broadway. She also enjoyed going to the Sight and Sound Theatre in Pennsylvania to experience their Bible-based productions.

In her later years, Geraldine, also known as “Aunt Jack” or “G-baby,” became the cultural director for her extended family. She had relationships with both the Kennedy Center and Arena Stage. It was not unusual for her to organize a party of ten or more for a matinee show, followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant. This lively mix of friends, children, nieces, nephews, and siblings made for a wonderful outing. Her taste ranged from the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Shen Yun Performing Arts Company (Chinese dance) to the musical *Hamilton* and the opera *La Boheme*. She was especially proud of the fact that she had experienced eight of the ten “Pittsburgh Cycle” plays written by August Wilson, some of them several times.

Geraldine will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. She leaves to cherish her memory, her children: Toni Drake, Donna Drake-Clark, Cedric “Ricky” (Mary) Drake, Paul (Annette) Drake, and James “Jimmy” Drake, Jr.; grandchildren: Winston (Arielle) Drake, Jessica Drake (William) Edwards, Monet Drake, and Miles (Mari) Drake; great-grandchildren: Donte Drake, Mason Edwards, Carter Edwards, Liam Edwards, and Kingston Crowell; sister, Harlene Matthews; best friend, Marcia Smith; former husband, James Drake; daughters-in-Christ, Valerie Spears Drake and Monique Gillis; neighbors: Betty and Jerry Reaves, Tim Green, Marshall Boulter, and Dormer Wilson; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

Geraldine was preceded in death by her parents, and siblings: Marvin, Arthur, Myrna and Dorothea.



# ORDER of SERVICE



## *Invocation*

*Congregational Hymn* ..... “At the Cross”

## *Scripture Reading*

*Old Testament: Psalm 121*  
*New Testament: I Corinthians 1:3-9*

## *Prayer of Comfort*

*Selection*.....FTH Psalmist

## *Acknowledgements*

## *Remarks*

*Mr. Sidney Davis, Nephew*  
*Ms. Gloria Fuller, Niece*  
*Mr. Tommy Smith, Friend*

*Obituary (Read Aloud)*.....Mrs. Donna Drake-Clark

*Song of Preparation* .....FTH Psalmist

*Message of Hope* .....Minister Bonnie Rampersaud

## *Call to Christ*

## *Recessional*

*Interment:*  
*Cedar Hill Cemetery*  
*4111 Pennsylvania Avenue | Suitland, MD 20746*



# *Congregational Hymn*

## AT THE CROSS

*Alas! And did my Savior bleed?  
And did my Sovereign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head  
for such a one as I?*

### CHORUS:

*At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,  
And the burden of my heart rolled away.  
It was there by faith I received my sight,  
And now I am happy all the day.*

*Was it for crimes that I have done,  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!  
And love beyond degree!*

### CHORUS

*Well might the sun in darkness hide,  
and shut his glories in,  
When Christ, the mighty Maker  
died for man the creature's sin.*

### CHORUS

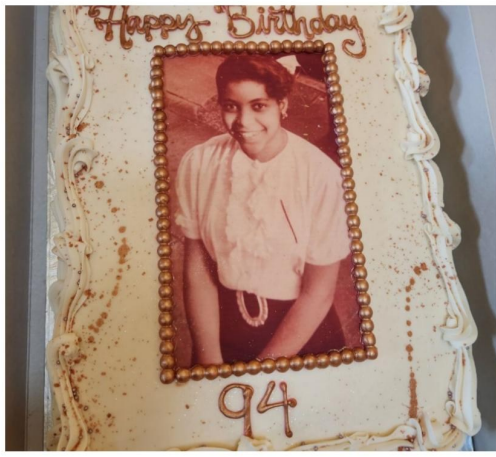
*But drops of grief can ne'er repay,  
the debt of love I owe:  
Here, Lord, I give myself away, 'Tis all that I can do!*

### CHORUS















# *Acknowledgements*

*The family of Geraldine acknowledges with deep appreciation and heartfelt gratitude the love, support, and kindness you have shown to us during this time of loss in the midst of the holiday season. Your comforting words and prayers have been a source of strength and peace for us.*

*May your kindness return to you in abundance.*

*The Family*

## *Pallbearers*

*Cedric Drake, James Drake, Jr.,  
Winston Drake, Miles Drake, Donte Drake,  
and William Edwards*

## *Flower Bearers*

*Family and Friends*

## *Services Entrusted to:*

*Wiseman Funeral Home  
4591 Allentown Road  
Suitland, MD 20762*

