



Celebrating the **Black & Beautiful Life** of Sista



ETHEL MILDRED-JOSEPHINE BLACK

ALPHA

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025 AT 1:00 PM

OMEGA

FEBRUARY 1, 1950 THE ROCK OF AGES CHURCH FEBRUARY 28, 2025

1940 JOHN LEWIS RD. BIRMINGHAM, AL 36104

PASTOR MIKE JR., SENIOR PASTOR

OFFICIATING – BISHOP PAUL S. MORTON

The content of this booklet is for comical purposes only – for those who knew and loved **Brotha & Sista**. The names mentioned in this obituary were not involved in this fictional service in any way, and Gert is *Yet Alive!*

Order of Service



Processional	_____	Ministers and Family Bishop Vashti McKenzie
Musical Selection	_____	Sounds of Blackness
Old Testament Scripture	_____	Dr. Gina Stewart
New Testament Scripture	_____	Minister Denzel Washington
Prayer of Comfort	_____	Minister Iyanla Vanzant
Musical Selection	_____	Luther Barnes and Red Budd
Poetry & Praise	_____	The New Generation Amanda Gorman Kierra “Kiki” Sheard Jekalyn Carr
Special Selection	_____	Triump through Twinship Brotha with Special Guests... Pastor Shirley Caesar Vickie Winans Mosie Burks Mavis Staples Dottie Peoples Tramaine Hawkins

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Reflections

Leaders of Today
Dr. Jeremiah Wright, Jr.
Lauryn Hill
Derrick Johnson
Attorney Benjamin Crump
Barack and Michelle Obama
Stevie Wonder
Dionne Warwick
Rev. Al Sharpton

Musical Selection

John P. Kee & New Life

Sista's Charge - It's Still the Month!

Angela Davis

Congregational Hymn (See Obituary)

Richard Smallwood
Lift Every Voice and Sing

Musical Selection

The Clark Sisters

Obituary

Stacey Abrams

Musical Selection

Marvin Winans and
The Mississippi Mass Choir

Eulogy

Rev. William Barber
Sermon Title: Did Not Our Hearts Burn?

Mortician's Brief

Myers Mortuary & Cremation Services

Recessional

The Mississippi Mass Choir

Repast

Parker's BBQ

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SISTA'S LEGACY



BLACK *from the* **BEGINNING**

Ladies and gentlemen, gather close. Today, we celebrate the life of Sista, who gave us more **BLACK** pride than the world ever expected! Born Ethel Mildred-Josephine Black on February 1, 1950, Sista came into the world ready to take it by storm. From day one, she was designed for greatness, but more importantly, she was destined to be unapologetically Black and proud. Alongside her twin brother, Herbert Percy Ray Black—aka Brotha—she made sure no one ever forgot the power, beauty, and brilliance of Black culture.

As Sista grew, so did her commitment to spreading Black pride far and wide. She and Brotha weren't just double trouble in their childhood. They developed into warriors for the culture, spreading their love for everything Black across this nation and even encouraging the late John Lewis to get into "good trouble, necessary trouble." Their activism wasn't just confined to the streets. No, no. Sista (and her Brotha) took the music industry by storm with their hit single, "This is the Month"—a song so powerful, it went straight to number one and is currently being recorded by several artists, including Beyoncé, En Vogue, and the Truthettes. Their music spread joy, unity, and Holy Ghost fire all across the world. The Lord gave them that anthem, and with the royalties, they were able to fund their first two foundations that we know as "**Black Don't Crack, But Systems Do**" and "**We Invented it First.. the real history behind J.P. Knight, William Potts, and Garrett Morgan.**"

FROM *the* **PEW** *to the* **PROTEST**

Sista wasn't just present she was a force. Her Black pride was blacker than a cookout and louder than a revival. Whether teaching, preaching, singing, or educating the people on Black history, she did it with a passion that could wake up a sleepy congregation and turn any discussion into a movement. If there was ever a need for someone to stand up, speak out, or fight for justice, you better believe Sista was already three steps ahead, prayed up with a microphone in hand, and ready to advocate for equality. She didn't just love being Black; she lived it, breathed it, and made sure everybody else felt it too with some of her popular statements such as, "'Black excellence ain't a trend, baby—it's the blueprint!'"

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But let's not forget one of Sista's greatest contributions to history: she was the driving force behind Senator Edward Markey (D-MA) and the late Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) in making Juneteenth National Independence Day a federal holiday. That's right—without Sista's persistence, passion, and spirit-led persuasion, there's a good chance we'd still be acting like freedom rang for everybody on July 4 and barbecuing over a lie. If you ever got caught up in one of her fiery speeches on the matter, you either walked away enlightened, convicted, saved or have signed a petition!

Her **BLACK EXCELLENCE** *Never* **CLOCKED** *Out*

As Sista got older and blacker, she and Brotha didn't travel as much. Instead, they spent most of their time in deep prayer and consultations, mentoring the forerunners of the next generation—some who would later begin movements such as "Black Lives Matter." They also met with world leaders—usually over a good Parker's meal—strategizing ways to uplift and educate Black people. Whether it was bringing awareness to the plight of the Black community or simply sharing their wisdom, they were always at the forefront of the struggle for Black empowerment.

Sista had a contagious joy and laughter. Her confidence was graceful, steady, and unmatched. She could make any situation sparkle with her charm and beautiful smile. Perfectly balanced with fun and games, Sista's life was also a lesson in perseverance and poise. Her passion for haircare, hats, and turbans stirred up the CROWN Act when her Goddaughter's son, Andrew Johnson, was forced to cut his locs before a wrestling match.

Sista often said, "My body may have to rest, but my black excellence never clocks out." And then she'd say, "CHIREN!!! There is more work to do!" So, to the kings, queens, and children in stride—remember her words, remember her pride. This is the month, but every day is an opportunity to stand tall, strong, and brave. Sista's legacy is one of love, joy, unity, and good music! Let us carry that torch forward, just as she would want us to. Thank you, Sista. You lived well, you loved well, and now we celebrate you well—with honor and gratitude.



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SISTA'S CHARGE

IT'S STILL *the* MONTH!

This is the month when we stand up tall,
For ancestors who lived, loved, and fought for us all.
From the cradle of Africa, majestic and grand,
To the struggles and triumphs here in this land.

We remember our queens, like Cleopatra's grace,
And kings like Shaka, who set the pace.
The pyramids whisper with gold in their air,
The roots of our history are beyond compare.

But let's not forget the ones who broke every chain,
Not Tasha, but Rosa who sat, and the movement gained.
Martin marched, his head held high,
And Harriet ran, never asking why.

George Washington Carver, peanuts in hand,
Invented solutions with a master's plan.
Madame C.J. Walker, with her hair care dream,
Blessed us all, got us looking like the Supremes.

And then came Sista, who sang with such might,
Her voice blazed like the stars in the night.
An advocate, a queen, like the Clark Sisters'... **Cold!**
Tried in the fire, but came out as pure gold.

She lived like Langston wrote in verse,
“Hold fast to dreams”—and she made them burst!
Her soul cut through, sharp as a knife,
With a spirit that sparkled, always giving us life.

February's the month to honor, reflect, and explore,
But all year long, **WE STILL BLACK!** so let's do more.
Black history's a story we all get to tell,
From the darkest of nights to the sun's bright swell.

And as we honor our dear Sista, let us never forget—
To stay black, stay proud, with no arrogance or regret.
Sista taught us well, and we'll honor her name,
For she was the spark, and we'll keep the flame.

So, to the kings, queens, and children in stride—
Remember, we stand tall, with strength as our guide.
This is the month, but every day we see,
The power of Black History launch our destiny!

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PALLBEARERS

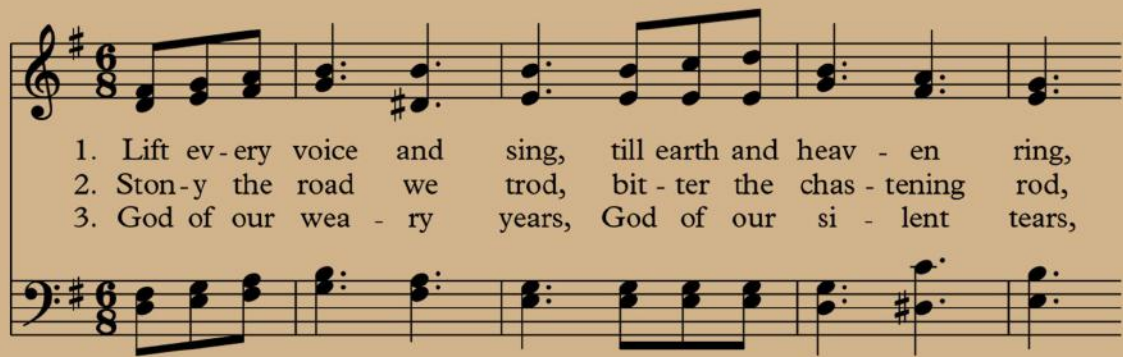
- Cedric the Entertainer
- David Mann
- Doug Williams
- Forest Whitaker
- Fred Hammond
- Laurence Fishburne
- Marvin Sapp
- Melvin Williams
- Samuel L. Jackson
- Steve Harvey

FLOWER GIRLS

- Alice Walker
- Alfre Woodard
- Angela Bassett
- Anita Baker
- Aunjanue Ellis
- Ava DuVernay
- Bernice King
- CeCe Winans
- Chaka Khan
- Debbie Allen
- Denise Williams
- Diana Ross
- Gladys Knight
- Ilyasah Shabazz
- Loretta Devine
- Mary J. Blige
- Melba Moore
- Patti LaBelle
- Phylicia Rashad
- Ruby Bridges
- Sheila E.
- Sheryl Lee Ralph
- Tabitha Brown
- Tamela Mann
- Tichina Arnold
- Tisha Campbell
- Vanessa Bell Armstrong
- Viola Davis
- Whoopi Goldberg
- Yolanda Adams

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Lift Every Voice and Sing



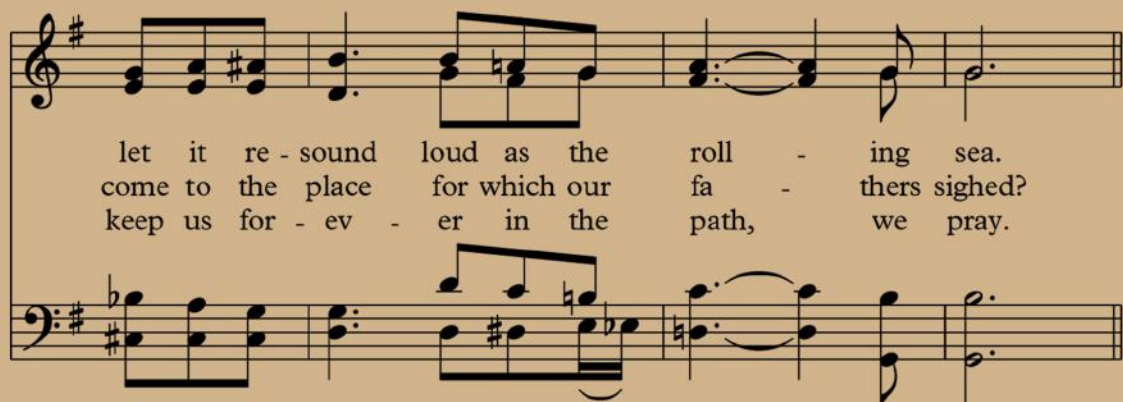
1. Lift ev - ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring,
 2. Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening rod,
 3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty;
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,

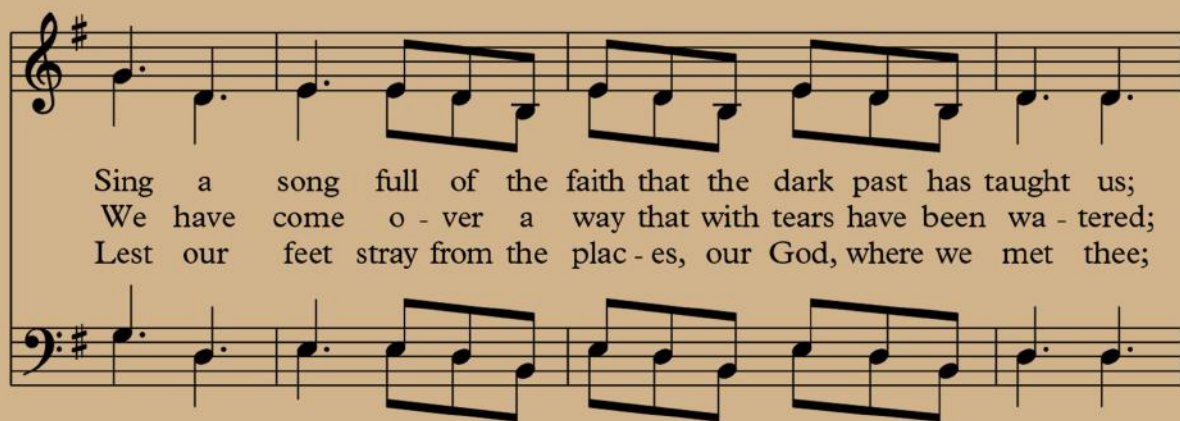


let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our fa - thers sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

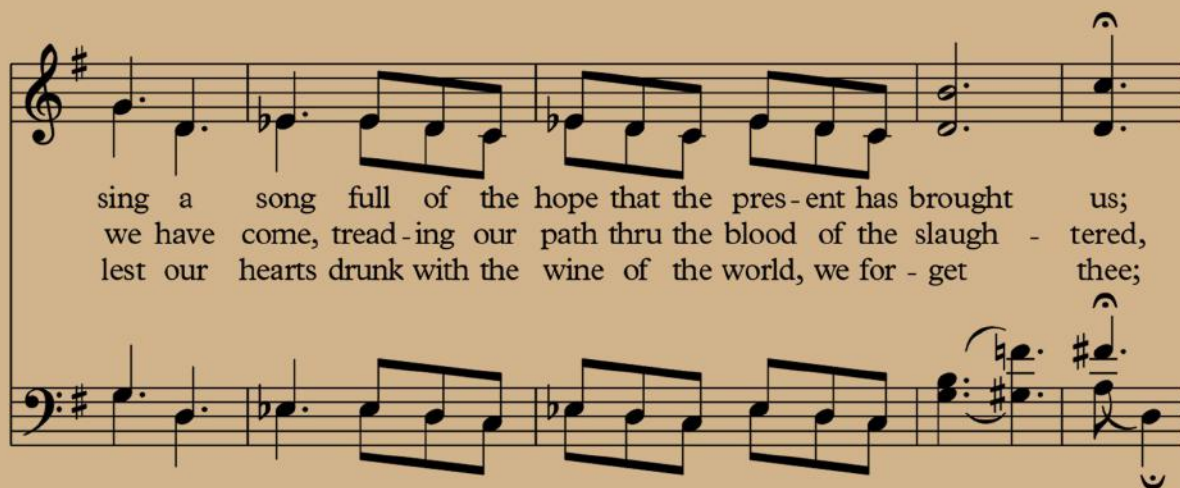
WORDS: James Weldon Johnson, ca. 1900
 MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, ca. 1905

LIFT EVERY VOICE
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Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears have been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path thru the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - tor - y is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

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FAMILY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the family, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude for the love, prayers, and support shown during the unexpected and incredibly unique passing of Sista. To our friends and the various organizations and ministries that have supported us as we laid God's oracle to rest, we truly appreciate you. Every hug, every plate of food, and every piece-a-money was right on time! And all those **"if y'all need anything, let me know"** texts will be cashed in before tax season is over. Your kindness and love remind us that while we mourn, the Holy Ghost is yet comforting and prospering! Your presence, calls, texts, and acts of kindness have meant the world to us—just as Black history, Black excellence, and Black lives meant the world to Sista. If she was here, she would encourage us to never forget our great ancestors and beseech us to lean on The Holy Ghost in these last and evil days. We know she is in Heaven right now giving Harriet Tubman high-five and reuniting with her dear friend, Shirley Chisholm, while rejoicing and singing around the altar in her diadem. As we say goodbye to Sista, let us keep Brotha in prayer as he will be on a hiatus for quite some time. Many have asked, but Brotha has sought the Lord and decided not to continue as a solo artist to respect and honor the great heights of ministry he and his twin Sista soared to together. So, in true Brotha & Sista fashion, let's celebrate what our most beloved duo has already contributed to the world, which is enough to inspire and motivate us until Jesus comes! In the words of Brotha & Sista, "Stay Black, Stay Proud, and Stay Prayed Up!" Cause **THIS IS THE MONTH AND WE GONE CELEBRATE!**

Thank you all, again, for your love and support.



SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO

Myers Mortuary & Cremation Services

Address: 2654 Apple Road | Columbia, SC 29633

Phone: 873-735-1605

Website: myerssmortuarync.com

BURIAL

Sista will be laid to rest with other black greats at the Oak Hill Cemetery.

Oak Hill Cemetery

1120 19th St. N Birmingham, AL 35234

REPAST

The family of Sista invites you to join us for the repast (back at the church) immediately following the committal. We will gather to share memories, a meal, and laughter over a catered Parker's buffet. We ask everyone to come with a heart full of love, a story to share, and, if you feel led, a song to sing! All are welcome to join us in our continual celebration of this mighty vessel of God!

LOOK HEA, SAINTS

Please do not come back and get in line before the family. And there won't be no carryout trays available if you are not in the Black family. - Hospitality

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