

A Tribute To A Great Lady



Afterglow

by Helen Lowrie Marshall

*"I'd like the memory of me
To be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow
Of smiles when life is done.*

*I'd like to leave an echo
Whispering softly
Down the ways,
Of happy times and
Laughing times
And bright and
Sunny days.*

*"I'd like the tears of those Who grieve,
To dry before the sun
Of happy memories
That I leave when life is done."*



Floral / Pall Bearers

Family and Friends

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (KJV)

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."



Acknowledgment

We, the family of the late Mrs. Gloria Eleanor Sharper Merritt, wish to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concerns and kindness shown to us during this hour of bereavement. May God bless and keep each of you.

The Resting Place

Carolina Biblical Gardens
1530 Creech Road
Garner, North Carolina
(919) 833-8631

- Please turn on flashers and headlights, as we travel with our beloved Gloria the 'Last Mile of the Way' to the Cemetery. -

Final Arrangements Entrusted To:



Haywood Funeral Home
2415 Wilmington Street - Raleigh, North Carolina
www.haywoodfh.com - 919/832-2835

PRECIOUS MOMENTS BY D VYNLY D ZYND GRAPHICS (919) 878-0344

The Burial Rite

For

*Mrs. Gloria Eleanor
Sharper Merritt*



"Death is not putting out the light. It is extinguishing the candle, because the dawn has come."

Thursday, February 8, 2018

1:00 PM

St. Ambrose Episcopal Church
813 Darby Street - Raleigh, NC

The Reverend Jemonde Taylor
Officiating

Burial of the Dead: Rite 11

Anthems	Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 491
Prayers	BCP 493
Opening Hymn	L-189 "Great is Thy Faithfulness"
Old Testament Reading	Lamentations 3:23-26, 31-33
Psalms 121	BCP Page 779
New Testament Reading	II Corinthians 4:16-5:9
Sequence Hymn	L-191 "His Eye is on the Sparrow"
The Holy Gospel	John 14:1-6
Homily	The Reverend Jemonde Taylor, Rector
The Apostles' Creed	

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

The Prayers Respond with Amen after each prayer

The Peace

The Hymn L-181 "Amazing Grace"

The Holy Communion BCP 361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

[The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer]

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

[The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer]

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

[The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer]

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

All are welcome to come forward to stand or kneel at the altar. Place your right hand over your left to make a cup for the clergy to place a wafer, the Body of Christ. You may eat the wafer alone, without drinking from the chalice. We believe Jesus is equally present both in the Bread and Wine. If you choose to drink from the cup, you may keep the wafer in your hand, dipping the wafer as the cup passes.

This is intinction. You may also eat the wafer and drink from the common cup, which is real wine. If you decide not to take Communion for any reason, we welcome you to come forward. Place your arms across your chest to receive a prayer blessing.

Communion Music (L-188) "It Is Well with My Soul"; (L-154) "Taste and See"

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Hymn L-106 "Precious Lord, Take my Hand"

The Commendation

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

Where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Dismissal

Leader Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Response **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn L-18 "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"



I Do Not Go Alone

If Death should beckon me
With outstretched hand
And whisper softly of "An Unknown Land";

I shall not be
Afraid to go.

For though the path I do not know,
I take Death's Hand
Without a fear,

For He who safely brought me here
Will also take me safely back.

And though in many things I lack,
He will not let me go alone
Into the "Valley That's Unknown".

So I reach out
And take Death's Hand
And journey to the "Promise Land".

-Helen Steiner Rice



Her Life's Journey

Gloria Eleanor Sharper Merritt was born in Raleigh, North Carolina. Her parents were Robert and Sara Burns Sharper. She received her early education at St. Monica's Catholic School from 1st - 8th grade. She completed high school at J. W. Ligon High. Gloria received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education at St. Augustine's College ("The Aug"). She also studied at North Carolina Central University and North Carolina State University.

For thirty-one years *Gloria* was an Elementary School Teacher with the State of North Carolina. Twenty-three of those years were spent at North Ridge Elementary School, where she retired in 1995.

Mrs. Merritt held membership in various organizations. She was a member of North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) and National Education Association (NEA). She was a member and former President of the Raleigh Branch of the National Association of University Women (NAUW). Member and former vice-president of St. Augustine's College Retired Alumni Chapter, and member and former Secretary Wake County Library Commission. She was also a member of The Music Educators of NC (MENC), as well as held a position of Chief Judge of her voting precinct 01-22 for eight years. Mrs. Merritt was a dedicated member of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church of Raleigh. She and her husband, Benjamin (also a St. Augustine's graduate) made the decision to join the Episcopal Church and were confirmed together in 1965.

Gloria served St. Ambrose in many capacities. She was a Sunday School Teacher, former St. Ambrose Episcopal Church Women's President, served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and Lector, choir member, and served two terms on the St. Ambrose Vestry. In addition, she served as the Church Clerk, Junior Warden and Senior Warden for St. Ambrose.

Mrs. Merritt met her husband the first day she arrived at the "Aug," and they were married for 56 years.

Mrs. Merritt was the proud mother of one daughter, Benita; the grandmother of two beautiful granddaughters, Adonya and Daniele, and the great-grandmother of triplet girls, Alex, Kayli, and Jordyn.

Mrs. Merritt also leaves behind nephews, Bennett Merritt, Osei Delano Sharper and Kevin M. Sharper, as well as nieces, Cynthia Allen, Cassandra Merritt, Andrea Bagwell; sisters-in-love, Johnsie Snipes, Betsy Bryant, Carolyn "Room" Crosby; sisters-in-law, Laura Sharper and Lucille Merritt, and a host of family, friends and neighbors.

Gloria Eleanor Sharper Merritt was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Sara Burns Sharper, and brothers Robert Sharper, Jr. and Alton Sharper.