

*A Celebration of Life  
for  
Fernie Russell*

*Sunrise  
September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1926*

*Sunset  
May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



*Friday, June 2, 2023  
12:00 P.M.*

## ORDER OF SERVICE



HYMN

Sweet Will of God

OPENING ANTHEM

*Rev. Anne-Marie Jeffery*

*\*All stand while the following anthem is said.*

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die. And everyone who has life, and has committed himself to me in faith, shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives and that at the last he will stand upon the earth. After my awaking, he will raise me up; and in my body I shall see God. I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself, and none becomes his own master when he dies. For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord, and if we die, we die in the Lord. So, then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord! So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

*\*When all are in place, the Presider may address the congregation, acknowledging briefly the purpose of their gathering, and bidding their prayers for the deceased and the bereaved.*

THE COLLECT

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Silence may be kept; after which the Presider says the following Collect.*

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister, Fernie. We thank you for giving her to us, her family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

**Revelation 21:2-7**

PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd; \* I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; \*

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; \* he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; \*

for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

\* thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

\* and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

REMEMBERNCES

HYMN

In The Garden

SECOND READING

John 14:1-6

HOMILY

*Rev. Anne-Marie Jeffery*

APOSTLES CREED

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

Presider In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,  
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe 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.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at 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

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

Presider For our sister, Fernie, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

*Presider* Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Fernie, and dry the tears of those who weep.

*People* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Presider* You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

*People* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Presider* You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life.

*People* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Presider* You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our sister to the joys of heaven.

*People* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Presider* Our sister was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give *her* fellowship with all your saints.

*People* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Presider* She was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant *her* a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

*People* **Hear us, Lord.**

*Presider* Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our sister; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

*\*Silence is kept. The Presider concludes with the following prayer.*

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our sister, Fernie, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that her death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

## THE COMMENDATION

*\*The Presider and other ministers stand at the front of the body.*

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

*People* **where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

*Presider* You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*People* **Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

*\*The Presider, facing the body, says*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Fernie. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive *her* into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

## BLESSING & DISMISSAL



## OBITUARY

Fernie (Fern) Camacho was born September 26, 1926, in the parish of Saint John, on the Island of Antigua to the late Lydia Gould, better known as 'Mama,' and Clyde Camacho. As Fern grew into young adulthood, she was also known and affectionately called 'Dada' by her siblings, other family and friends. The second eldest of

seven children, including Morbrie, Clarence (Pete), Eddie, Leila, Violet (Queen), and Wesley, Fern shared a love and support for her family that would fuel generations. Clarence and Fern were also siblings to Erma and George, who shared the same father. Driven to create greater opportunities for her family, Fern was the first of Lydia's family to leave Antigua in 1947 for life in America, sponsored by Cousin Ivy and Irving Gilkes.

Alphonso Russell (Al), Fern's husband, served in the Air Force following high school graduation. While he was on Furlough, Al and Fern met after being stationed in Alaska for three years. Once Al was discharged from the Air Force, the couple married in 1950. In 1954, Fern had Lynda, the first to be born in America. Fern's first born, Theel Gore (Junie), born in Antigua, later came to America in 1961. By 1963, all of Lydia's family left Antigua. During this era of mass global emigration, Fernie sponsored nearly half of her siblings and her mother coming to the United States.

Fern's life was rich with energy, beauty, and strength. In addition to her work as a talented seamstress, she began a second career as a group home counselor at St. Cabrini's Home in New York. She was devoted to God and her family, a frequent world traveler, and had a powerhouse of a voice. Fern started attending Pentecostal church at an early age with her grandmother, Brinnette, who was affectionally called "Gran" by all her grandchildren. Her love of God was constant throughout her life, as she sought out church and community in Antigua, singing hymns with Erma and Queen, even when she moved to New York and Maryland.

Fern was a loving, giving, and caring person who helped family, friends, and acquaintances alike in many aspects – establishing new lives, managing their families, discovering employment opportunities, and more. Towards the end of her life, she was increasingly impacted by Alzheimer's. On May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Fern returned home to be with the Lord.

God gave Fernie many blessings and gifts that sustained her throughout her long life. Her loving, generous, kind nature touched so many people. She was a parent figure, caretaker, nurse, matriarch, advisor, mentor, and a positive influence in the lives of many.

Of her many attributes, she was very well known for her culinary skills. Everybody who has ever tasted any of the food she made can attest to her exceptional abilities; simply a fabulous cook! She kept her culinary secrets to herself, making sure to share no recipes, but family and friends would come from far and wide for the experience.

Fernie is survived by her sisters, Erma and Queen, her brothers, Eddie and Wesley, two children, Lynda and Junie, along with a host of grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends to treasure the blessed life she lived. Join us in celebrating the amazing life of Fernie Russell!

Funeral Services were entrusted to the Beall Funeral Home.