

*Celebrating The Life  
of*



*Laura Brown*

**JUNE 23, 1927 - DECEMBER 30, 2019**

**Friday, January 10, 2020 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

*Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension*  
4520 Lucas and Hunt Road ♦ St. Louis, Missouri 63121

# Life Reflections

**Laura La Verne Gray Brown** was born in Washington, D.C. on June 23, 1927, and died December 30, 2019. Laura was 92 years old. She was born to the late Thornton Hoard Gray and Leona Shaw Gray.

Laura married her college sweetheart, George W.C. Brown, Jr. of 62 years. They were always seen together enjoying each other's company. They had two children, the late George W.C. Brown, III of Norfolk, Virginia and Laura Brown Mabry of St. Louis, Missouri (Rickey T. Mabry) and two grandsons, Dorian A. Mabry (Ja'Lessa) also with a great grandson on the way and Terrance C. Mabry of Kansas City, Missouri.

Laura was baptized, confirmed and married at Calvary Episcopal Church located in Washington, D.C. She graduated from Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C and from Miner Teachers College in Washington, D.C. Laura taught briefly in Schenectady, New York, where she was the first "Black" teacher; She also taught in Pittsfield, Massachusetts and in Norfolk, Virginia.

She was a member of Grace Episcopal Church of Norfolk, Virginia, where she and her family attended for 60 years. After her husband and son passed, Laura moved to St. Louis, Missouri with her daughter and her family, where she joined All Saints Ascension Episcopal Church. Laura shared her family life with a variety of groups. These groups included: St. Doretha's Guild, Sunday School teacher, Daughter's of the King and Episcopal Church Women Grace Episcopal Church. She was also a member of Episcopal Church Women of All Saints Ascension. Laura was a Life member of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People; Women's Club of Norfolk; Trustee at Westminster Canterbury, Virginia Beach, Virginia and Trustee at Ballentine House Norfolk, Virginia.

Laura was dedicated to her Sorority - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. As a life-long Golden Soror in Iota Omega, Norfolk, Virginia. She served in many capacities. After moving to St Louis, she became active with Omicron Theta Omega. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. for 74 years.

Laura is also survived by: her sister-in-law ~ Yvette Brown Ridley, (wife of the late Isaac Ridley) of Jacksonville, Florida; the late Ruth Brown Blair, wife of the late Garnett Blair of Richmond, Virginia. Laura has several nieces, nephews, and god children that she also loved dearly. All of Laura's siblings preceded her in death, Evelyn Gray Lyles; Leona Gray Huguley and Richard Thornton Gray. Left to share a lifetime of memories are: her family, extended family, Church family and Sorority sisters.

# Order of Service

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN "STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS" HYMNAL 561

ANTHEMS

SALUTATION AND COLLECT

FIRST LESSON JOB 19:12 TERRANCE MABRY, READER

PSALM 29

SECOND READING REVELATION 21:2-7 DORIAN MABRY, READER

PSALM 23 (KJV)

THE GOSPEL JOHN 14:1-6

THE HOMILY REV. RENEE L. FENNER

THE APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

THE PEACE

OFFERTORY "NEARER, MY GOD, TO THEE" L-54

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD OF HOSTS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN)

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS "GOD HAS SMILED ON ME" L-52

"I MUST TELL JESUS" L-66

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

CLOSING HYMN "SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT" L-120

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS

PRESIDER AND PREACHER REV. RENEE L. FENNER, PRIEST IN CHARGE

WORSHIP LEADERS BETTY BROWN AND BETTY CONYERS PATTON

ACOLYTE ALEXIA DUKES

READERS TERRANCE MABRY AND DORIAN MABRY

USHERS ALLEN DUKES AND WILBUR LOWMAN

MUSICIAN/SOLOIST CHERYL WALKER

ALTAR GUILD BETTY CONYERS PATTON

# Repast

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF THE CHURCH

# I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call,  
I turned my back and left it all.

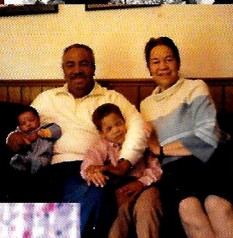
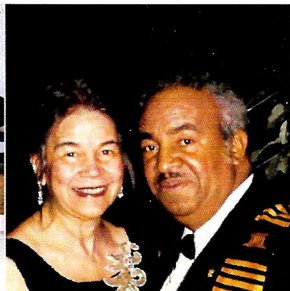
I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone, must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh yes, these things, I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I've savored much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts and share with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free!







*We Will Miss You Laura!*

When the trials of this life make you weary  
And your troubles seem too much to bear,  
There's a wonderful solace and comfort  
in the silent communion of prayer.  
From the magic of prayer there comes power  
That will minimize all of your care.  
And you'll gather new hope  
when you are able to cope  
with the troubles  
that once brought despair  
When you've searched for the sun without ceasing  
And the showers continue to fall.  
There's a heavenly lift,  
in this wonderful gift  
That God has extended to all.  
So lift up your heart to the heavens  
There's a loving and kind Father there  
who offers release,  
and comfort and peace  
In the silent communion of prayer

~ Leo Pierre La Bouve ~



Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart  
And try to love the questions themselves.  
Do not seek the answers that cannot be given you  
Because you would not be able to live them  
And the point is to live everything.  
Live the questions now  
Perhaps you will gradually without noticing it  
Live along some distant day into the answers.  
-Rainer Maria Rilke ~

## Acknowledgment

The family acknowledges with grateful appreciation any acts of kindness shown during the illness and passing of our loved one. ~ God Bless You All, The Family ~



Arrangements From Labor to Reward Were Handled By:

*William C. Harris Funeral Directors*

*Spanish Lake Chapel*

1645 Redman Road ♦ St. Louis, Missouri 63138

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