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Thanksgiving Service for the Life of

Egbert Arny Smith

5th May 1922 – 16th March 2022



Pall Bearers

Wayne Smith, Wade (Bing) Smith, Kirk Smith,
Shaun Parker, Hanif Henry, Kyle Henry

Interment

City of London Cemetery
Aldersbrook Road, Manor Park, London E12 5DQ

Reception

Following the interment a reception will be held at
Leytonstone Methodist Church Hall
578 Leytonstone High Road, E11 3DA

Thank You

The family wishes to thank all those who have been so generous through their acts of kindness, words of comfort, prayers, love and support.

Donations

For anyone wishing to make a donation in honour of Egbert, the proceeds from today's collection will be split between the Shernhall Methodist Church and Leytonstone Methodist Church.

Melville & Daughters



Funeral Entrusted to Melville & Daughters, tel: 020 8888 7262



12th April 2022 at 11am
At Leytonstone Methodist Church
578 High Road,
Leytonstone
E11 3DA

Service conducted by
Rev Oseias Da Silva
Special organist
Rev Robert Maginley

Order of Service

Welcome & Introduction

Prayer of Approach

Hymn: How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord, my God
When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

Chorus

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art

Chorus

Reading: Revelation 21:1-7
by Constance Smith (Daughter)

Hymn: Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I am found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come
'Twas grace has brought us safe thus far
And grace will lead us home

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright, shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun

Reading: Proverbs 3: 1-7
by Jazmin Henry (Granddaughter)

Tribute

Verona Smith (Granddaughter)

Reading: II Corinthians 13: 3-7
by Lois Afobe (Granddaughter)

Tribute

*Sarah Jones on behalf of Shernhall Methodist Church
Song by Shernhall Mens' Fellowship 'Rise Up, O Men Of God'*

Eulogy

read by Kirk and Kirsty Smith (Grandchildren)

Egbert Arny Smith aka Loy was born on 5th May 1922 to Zephaniah Smith and Ulette Tapper. He grew up in a little district called Morgan up in the Hills across the Rio Minho River in Borobridge, Clarendon, Jamaica and had 10 siblings. He was raised by his maternal Grandmother Rebecca Gordon, as his mother went to work in Panama. He attended, Mount Moriah Primary school and Bailieston School in Clarendon. As well as school he used to have free piano lessons with a family member. His first job was working in a grocers in Borobridge. His first relationship led to the birth of his first child Constance aka Rose in 1948 who grew up with his aunt Edith Gordon.

Egbert was very hardworking and in order to support his child, during the second world war he went to live in Connecticut in America where he went to find work. He worked on a farm work programme on three separate occasions, working in areas including North Carolina, Florida, and Connecticut on tobacco fields. He also worked in a munitions factory in Connecticut. The work itself was hard but Egbert faced even harder times with the discrimination through Jim Crow Laws.

He first met his wife to be Genevieve Henton on a bus in Kingston, Jamaica and was briefly introduced to her by her sister Esse. However, it was not until sometime later when Egbert who had become an accomplished organist was playing organ in a church concert, when they met again, and from then on continued to see each other. They courted for 2 years and then became engaged. He made a final visit to Connecticut to do more farm work before settling down. It was on 06.10.1954 when they married in Coke Church, Kingston. They moved to Stepney where they ran a grocery shop. They had their first son Wayne in 1955 and Wade (Bing) followed in 1957.

In 1959 Egbert came to England to find work. He was based in Hackney. When he first came, he worked in various jobs his first being in an engineering shop, He also worked on the re-construction of many buildings after the war including the London Hospital in Whitechapel. Three years later in 1961 he was joined by Genevieve and the boys. They lived in Tresham Avenue in Hackney, and then moved to Stamford Hill, Stoke Newington.

Donna was born in 1962. It was roughly after this time that Egbert first started working for London Transport on the buses as a conductor. A job he worked in for a few years. He took his job very seriously to the point that in 1966 on one freezing Christmas eve while on the 253 bus route, he left his wife and daughter Constance at the bus stop as he couldn't take any more passengers. Genevieve had a few words to say when he returned home !

Around 1968 after Julie was born they moved to Glenthorn Rd, Walthamstow where they lived for 10 years. From there they moved to Farmilo Rd also in Walthamstow. Egbert found further employment in the Post Office where he eventually retired.

Egbert was a devout Methodist attending church in Borobridge in Jamaica, and in England he attended local churches in Clapton pond, Hackney, and The High Street, The Light House Church and finally The Shernhall Methodist Church in Walthamstow. Both he and Genevieve were active members of Shernhall Dad performing various duties from banking of monies, general church maintenance and general stewarding duties and was a member of the Men's fellowship.

Outside of church, Egbert and Genevieve would also sometimes socialise with other friends. Roughly around the 70s to 80s they became members of a small club 'The Celebrities' that would arrange house parties and other get togethers.

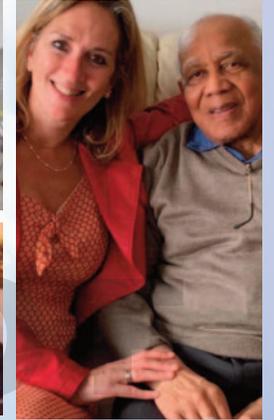
Another favourite pastime for Egbert was cricket. Like many West Indians he was a keen cricket fan attending matches at the Oval. During a holiday in Jamaica he managed to find his way to Sabina Park to watch a West Indies match.

Egbert was a calm, humble, friendly and at times cheeky person. He was loved by many aside from his family. He had his church family and many friends he had kept in touch with from back home in Jamaica and new friendships formed in England. He made friends with several of the neighbours in his street who he loved to stop and chat to on his walks. He will be missed by many.

He was always there, for all of us as a husband, father and grandfather. As a father although he could be a strict disciplinarian, he also showed love not necessarily in the words that he said but in his actions. He was always there if needed. From helping to decorate the homes of his children, to taking his grandchildren to and from school and on sightseeing trips to the city. He was however known to disappear if there were too many grandchildren around making too much noise!

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He was a modern man who cooked, cleaned, made a great Guinness punch and great bulla cakes. He would sometimes help Genevieve in the garden, mowing the lawn and planting veg.... where she would allow him to.

When Genevieve was ill he looked after her. He was very active and this is probably why he looked so youthful. No one could believe his age. He loved to go for long walks and bus rides right into his late 90s. He could never understand what the fuss was about when the family would be worrying and panicking when he would come strolling home in the late hours.

He lost Genevieve in 2015. They had been married for 62 years. He never really got over her loss.

His final years were difficult as he succumbed to illnesses which together with the Covid pandemic forced him to be mainly housebound. He resented this as he was a very independent man. He was also strong and resilient and survived numerous hospital stays. Thankfully he was able to come back home from his last hospital admittance after it was decided no more could be done for him. By God's grace he was with his family in his final few weeks.

We love you Dad/Granddad. We thank you for all you have done for us, the bravery shown in leaving the shores of home for an unknown destination in order to make a better life for your family. We thank God we had you for as long as we did.

Egbert is survived by 5 children, 11 Grandchildren and 6 Great Grandchildren. His Great Grand daughter Amora sadly passed away at the age of 2.

Minister Address

by Rev. Maginley - Rev. Da Silva

Prayers for the Family and Friends

by Rev. Da Silva

Hymn: It Is Well With My Soul

(including Offertory)

When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my soul

*It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ (yes, He has) has regarded my helpless estate
And has shed His own blood for my soul

Chorus: It is well ...

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought (a thought)
My sin, not in part, but the whole (every bit, every bit, all of it)
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more (yes)
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul

Chorus:

*Sing it as well
It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul*

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend
Even so, it is well with my soul

Chorus

*"Cause of You, Jesus, it is well
It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul*

The Commendation

The Lord's Prayer

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,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen

The Blessing



The Recessional

(as the coffin leaves the church)

Hymn: Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross (rugged cross)
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown*

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true
It's shame and reproach gladly bear
Then he'll call me some day to my home far away
Where his glory forever I'll share

*And I'll cherish the old rugged cross (rugged cross)
Till my trophies at last I lay down
And I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown*

