

Homegoing Celebration of
Isadore D. James Sr.



Sunrise: February 3, 1934

Sunset: December 26, 2023

Saturday, January 6, 2024

Wake: 10:00 AM

Homegoing: 11:00 AM



Langley Avenue Church of God

6159 S. Langley Avenue, Chicago, IL. 60637

Pastor Cynthia Thomas, Officiating

live stream: www.langleycog.org

A Servant's Heart (Life Reflection)



A Servant's Heart...

God whispered in Isadore Donald James' ear, "Use the gifts you have received to serve others..." before introducing him to Isaac James, Sr. and Lorene Lamar on February 3, 1934. Isadore grew up knowing that he was a child of God and from boyhood to adulthood has lived and served with a servant's heart.

The young Isadore's journey led him to serve in the United States Army from 1957-1959. He was called to use his gift of administration to serve as the assistant of an Army General. After being discharged, his journey led him to yield his servant's heart to serve as apprentice to his grandfather, Marion Tyrus and co-founder Eva Tyrus of James Funeral Service where he continued to serve as funeral director and member of the Illinois Funeral Directors Association for more than 65 years, until he retired from the daily work of funeral services in November 2021. Isadore continued to serve the sick, lonely, and bereaved with handwritten cards until his passing.

Isadore said yes to God's nudging and along with brother, Roland stepped out from Grand Dad's footsteps beginning their careers of funeral service by caring for the remains of Dr. S.P. Dunn, pastor of Langley Avenue Church of God in 1959. Isadore served with compassion, professionalism, and commitment to families at their time of need. Many throughout Chicagoland and the United States turned to James Funeral Service and its mission "It's never too late to call James." It was a joy for him to be able to serve families and mentor the next generation.

Family legacy was everything to Isadore. With this vision he sent his brother Roland to Aurora, Illinois to expand the legacy—the first African American funeral home in the Aurora area. That dream, James Payne Funeral Service, today continues with the longstanding legacy serving Aurora and surrounding communities.

Minister Isadore D. James served with members of Langley's outreach ministry for many years. His gifts of exhortation and leadership allowed him to chair committees for events, and fundraising campaigns in the church and community. He was an enthusiastic Usher, played with heart the piano and xylophone and was a faithful member of Langley Avenue Church Men's Ministry.

The joy of Isadore's servant's heart was awarded a Certificate of Ministry from Midwest School of Ministry and Theological Studies in Evanston, Illinois. He used his new knowledge to minister to family and friends. During the 100-year celebration of Langley Ave Church he was awarded for Grateful Recognition of his Unwavering Commitment and Devoted Service and Support of the Ministry on Nov. 28, 2010. Isadore was surprised as he received the Father of the Year award in 2017 presented by Langley Women's Ministry.

Isadore James's life and service is more than could be recorded in these pages. It is the way Isadore's 'great' sense of humor, and his stories made you laugh, his teacher spirit imparting historical facts that enriched his family, the church and YOU his friend will be remembered. He will be remembered for his servant's heart and how much he loved God and Langley Avenue Church.

As God called his servant to eternal life, God left Isadore's servant's heart full of love and joy to encourage his family. He was preceded in death by his parents, six brothers, and one sister, two sons, Elton McClain and Isadore D. James, Jr. He leaves to cherish his memory; brother Carl Harris, son Kim McClain, daughter Eva James Yeo (David), six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews, family members and friends.

And God says, "Well done good and faithful servant."

Celebrating the Life of
Min. Isadore D. James, Sr.
Order of Service



Chairperson: Rev. Mario Jenkins

| | |
|--|---|
| Processional | Clergy & Family |
| Welcome | Pastor Cynthia Thomas |
| Opening Prayer | Reverend Evelyn Tolliver |
| Scripture | Old Testament Psalm 100 NIV New Testament John 14: 1-6 NIV |
| | Vera Lucille Morris Tomlinson Deacon George Hillman |
| Song of Praise | Praise Team |
| Reflections (Please limit to three minutes) | |
| Jessye G. Payne, Shirley Payne, Carl Harris (brother), Isadore L. James (grandson) | |
| Songs of Praise | Praise Team |
| A Servant's Heart | Angela D. Smith (great niece) |
| Acknowledgements: Resolutions and Condolences | Minister Marvis Jackson Ivy |
| Songs of Praise | Praise Team |
| Eulogy | Pastor Cynthia Thomas |
| Closing Prayer | Pastor Nathaniel Payne |
| Recessional | Family and Clergy |

Pallbearers

Isadore Lamar James
Maxwell James
Toussaint Smith

MarQuavious James
Darryl Jones
Joshua A. Yeo

Honorary Pallbearers

Gregory Holley Jr.
Ray Simmons
Lance Wright

Kim McClain
Augustus D. Wright
David Yeo

Footsteps In the Sand

One night I dreamed a dream. As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene,
I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life, especially at the very lowest and
saddest times, there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it. "Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way. But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome
times of my life, there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you Never, ever, during your
trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, It was then that I carried you."



Expressions of Gratitude

The family of Isadore D. James, Sr. wishes to express our sincere appreciation for your many kind acts of love and comfort expressed during this time. Thank you for your phone calls, prayers, cards and other expressions of sympathy shown during our bereavement.

We give God thanks for each one of you. Continue to remember us
in prayer and we will do the same for you.

Final Arrangements Entrusted To:

Unique Funeral Chapel

1511 S Pulaski Rd ~ Chicago, IL 60623

Burial:

Burr Oak Cemetery

4400 W. 127th St. ~ Alsip, IL 60803

Visitation:

Friday, January 5, 2024 ~ 4-7 p.m.

James-Payne Funeral Service ~ 204 Hill Ave, Aurora, IL 60505