

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

Rev. Olivia
Abena Arko-Boamah
(A.K.A. MAMA)

NOVEMBER 7, 1962 - JUNE 11, 2024





To Those I Love and Those Who Love Me

When I am gone, release me, let me go.
I have so many things to see and do,
You mustn't tie yourself to me with too many tears,
But be thankful we had so many good years.
I gave you my love, and you can only guess
How much you've given me in happiness.
I thank you for the love that you have shown,
But now it is time I travelled on alone.
So grieve for me a while, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It is only for a while that we must part,
So treasure the memories within your heart.
I won't be far away for life goes on.
And if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I will be near.
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear,
All my love around you soft and clear.
And then, when you come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and a Welcome Home.

Unknown





Do Not Stand At My Grave And Weep

Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sun on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there; I did not die.

By Mary Elizabeth Frye



BURIAL MASS FOR
OLIVIA ABENA ARKO-BOAMAH

OFFICIATING MINISTERS

Rev. Jay Irhue (Gospel Pillars Church)
Pst Henry Owen (Gospel Pillars Church)
Pst Eugene Mayor (Gospel Pillars Church)
Pst Nathan Acquah (Gospel Pillars Church)
Rev. Sedem Tordzro (Royal House Chapel)

Choir: Young Chorale
Choir Master: Mr Edzie

ORDER OF SERVICE

PART ONE: Pre-Burial

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Opening prayer | 7. Song ministrations |
| 2. Praise and worship | 8. Sermon |
| 3. Welcome /Introduction | 9. Offertory |
| 4. Scripture reading – 1 Thess 4:13-18 | 10. Prayer for bereaved family |
| 5. Hymn | 11. Vote of Thanks |
| 6. Reading of Biography | 12. Announcement |
| | 13. Closing hymn - When Peace
like a river |
| Tributes: | 14. Closing prayer |
| a. Mother | 15. Recession - Hymn |
| b. Children | |
| c. Family | |

PART TWO: At the Grave Side (Private, at Assin Nsuta)



HYMNS



PRE-BURIAL SERVICE

WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER

1. 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."

Refrain:

It is well with my soul; it is well,
it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come, let
this blest assurance control:

that Christ has regarded my
helpless estate, and has shed
his own blood for my soul.

3. My sin oh, the bliss of this
glorious thought! my sin, not in
part, but the whole, is nailed to
the cross, and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
O my soul!

4. O 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.

GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH

1. Guide me, O thou great
Jehovah, Pilgrim through this
barren land. I am weak, but thou
art mighty; Hold me with thy
powerful hand. Bread of heaven,
bread of heaven, Feed me till I
want no more; Bread of heaven,
bread of heaven, Feed me till I
want no more.

2. Open now the crystal
fountain, Whence the healing
stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield;

3. When I tread the verge of
Jordan, Bid my anxious fears
subside; Death of death and
hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee.

HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS SOUNDS

1 How sweet the name of Jesus
sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our
wounds,
and drives away our fear.

2 It makes the wounded spirit
whole
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.

3 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian,
friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my
End,
accept the praise I bring.

4 How weak the effort of my
heart,
how cold my warmest thought;
but when I see you as you are,
I'll praise you as I ought.

5 Till then I would your love
proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of your name
refresh my soul in death.

HYMNS



PRE-BURIAL SERVICE

O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

1 O God, our Help in ages past,
our Hope for years to come,
our Shelter from the stormy
blast,
and our eternal Home.

2 Under the shadow of Thy
throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is Thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting Thou art God,
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in Thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the
night
before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling
stream
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our Help in ages past,
our Hope for years to come,
be Thou our Guard while life
shall last,
and our eternal Home!

FATHER I KNOW THAT ALL MY LIFE

1 Father, I know that all my life
is portioned out for me;
the changes that are sure to
come
I do not fear to see:
I ask thee for a present mind,
intent on pleasing thee.

2 I would not have the restless
will
that hurries to and fro,
seeking for some great thing to
do
or secret thing to know;
I would be treated as a child,
and guided where to go.

3 I ask thee for the daily
strength,
to none that ask denied,
a mind to blend with outward
life,
while keeping at thy side,
content to fill a little space,
if thou be glorified.

4 In service which thy will
appoints
there are no bonds for me;
my secret heart is taught the
truth
that makes thy children free;
a life of self-renouncing love
is one of liberty.

THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD

1 The LORD's my Shepherd, I'll
not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; He leadeth
me
the quiet waters by.

2 My soul He doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of
righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

3 Yea, though I walk thro'
death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for Thou art with me, and Thy
rod
and staff me comfort still.

4 My table Thou hast furnishéd
in presence of my foes;
my head Thou dost with oil
anoint,
and my cup overflows.

5 Goodness and mercy all my
life
shall surely follow me:
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.

HYMNS



PRE-BURIAL SERVICE

THROUGH ALL THE CHANGING SCENES OF LIFE

1 Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.
Of his deliv'rance I will boast,
till all that are distressed,
from my example comfort take
and lay their griefs to rest.

2 O magnify the LORD with me,
exalt his holy name;
when in distress to him I called,
he to my rescue came.
The hosts of God encamp
around
the dwellings of the just;
deliv'rance he affords to all
who in his promise trust.

3 O taste and see that he is
good;
experience will decide
how blest are they, and only they
who in the LORD confide.
Fear him, you saints, and you
will then
have nothing else to fear;
make serving him your sole
delight,
your wants shall be his care.

CAPTAIN OF ISRAEL'S HOST AND GUIDE

1 Captain of Israel's host, and
guide
of all who seek the land above,
beneath your shadow we abide,
the cloud of your protecting
love;
our strength, your grace; our
rule, your word:
our end, the glory of the Lord.

2 By your unerring Spirit led,
we shall not in the desert stray;
we shall not full direction need,
nor miss our providential way;
as far from danger as from fear
while love, almighty love, is near.

PLEASANT ARE THY COURT ABOVE

1 Pleasant are Thy courts above
In the land of light and love;
Pleasant are Thy courts below
In this land of sin and woe.
O my spirit longs and faints
For the converse of Thy saints,
For the brightness of Thy face,
For Thy fullness, God of grace.

2 Happy birds that sing and fly
Round Thy altars, O Most High;
Happier souls that find a rest
In a heavenly Father's breast!
Like the wandering dove that
found
No repose on earth around,
They can to their ark repair
And enjoy it ever there.

3 Happy souls, their praises flow
Even in this vale of woe;
Waters in the desert rise,
Manna feeds them from the
skies;
On they go from strength to
strength
Till they reach Thy throne at
length,
At Thy feet adoring fall,
Who hast led them safe through
all.

4 Lord, be mine this prize to win;
Guide me through a world of sin,
Keep me by Thy saving grace,
Give me at Thy side a place.
Sun and shield alike Thou art;
Guide and guard my erring
heart.
Grace and glory flow from Thee;
Shower, O shower them, Lord,
on me.

Amen.

HYMNS



PRE-BURIAL SERVICE

WHEN WE WALK WITH THE LORD

1 When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our
way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and
obey.

Refrain:
Trust and obey, for there's no
other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to
trust and obey.

2 Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey.
[Refrain]

3 But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows,
for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and
obey. [Refrain]

4 Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the
way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey.
[Refrain]

THEE WILL I PRAISE WITH ALL MY HEART

1 Thee will I praise with all my
heart,
I will sing praise to thee

2 Before the gods: And worship
will
toward thy sanctuary.
I'll praise thy name, ev'n for thy
truth,
and kindness of thy love;
For thou thy word hast magnified
all thy great name above.

3 Thou didst me answer in the
day
when I to thee did cry;
And thou my fainting soul with
strength
didst strengthen inwardly.

4 All kings upon the earth that are
shall give thee praise, O Lord;
When as they from thy mouth
shall hear
thy true and faithful word.

5 Yea, in the righteous ways of
God
with gladness they shall sing:
For great's the glory of the Lord,
who doth for ever reign.

6 Though God be high, yet he
respects
all those that lowly be;
Whereas the proud and lofty ones
afar off knoweth he.

7 Though I in midst of trouble
walk,
I life from thee shall have;
'Gainst my foes' wrath thou'lt
stretch thine hand;
thy right hand shall me save.

8 Surely that which concerneth
me
the Lord will perfect make:
Lord, still thy mercy lasts; do not
thine own hands' works forsake.





Biography

OF OLIVIA ABENA ARKO-BOAMAH (SISTER MAMA)

"Good men must die, but death cannot kill their names. As long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them. Only love gives us the taste of eternity. The only truly dead are those who have been forgotten"

BIRTH AND EARLY LIFE

Olivia was born on the same day Queen Elizabeth visited Ghana on November 7, 1962, such a momentous occasion in the history of Ghana.

Her name which means 'the anointed one, peaceful,' seemed to follow her throughout her life, as she brought blessings to everything she touched and lived a peaceable life. She was the eldest of eight children born to Comfort Owusu Raphael and the late Pharmacist Thomas Arko Boamah. Her siblings affectionately called her Mama as she was like a mother figurine to them.

EDUCATION AND BUSINESS LIFE

She attended Assin Manso Secondary School. A very intelligent student who won the admiration of many, she earned a government scholarship to study Agriculture. However, her passion lay in business, and she left academia to pursue that path with a natural talent for buying and selling.

An avid reader, Olivia enjoyed a wide range of literature, from Jackie Collins, Dorothy Perkins, Sydney Sheldon, Hello magazines, Enquirer to the Holy Bible. She loved country music. She traveled to Nigeria to pursue teaching for a short period. She also sold spare parts at Abossey Okai and made good friends from there, Bro Stephen and Kwame.

Her early years, were spent in the barracks with her partner, Thomas, a respected soldier. Their paths diverged, but they remained on good terms. In 1989, while managing her

mother's boutique in Adabraka, Accra, Olivia met Fred Anim-Addo, a systems engineer who worked in CitiBank, USA, he was passionate about business. Their love story began, and they welcomed their daughter, Precious, in 1990. Fred relocated to Ghana to build a life with her and they stayed at Madina with her mom. Later on, they moved to their suite at Kwashieman, Hong Kong where they had their son Fred Kwabena Jr in 1998.

Together, 'Abena and Kwabena' established a thriving import-export business, dealing in cashew nuts, sugar, and other goods. Their success allowed them to expand and move to a new home in Awoshie. They shared their birthdays just one day apart, their nearly 20-year union was built on love, respect, and intimacy.

Olivia's bond with her in-laws was strong, and they cherished her as "Sis Abena". Her entrepreneurial spirit continued in her later years, as she built a successful furniture business with stores in Sowutuom and near the Palace Mall selling bed frames, sofas, settees, bedsheets, consoles, duvets, etc

A devoted Christian, Olivia attended Bible school and became a Reverend Minister in 2015. She found joy in writing sermons and

sharing her faith with others. Olivia's love for her family was boundless. She lived with her grandmother, Maame, for most of her married life, and they shared a deep love and friendship. Olivia's sacrifices ensured her children received excellent education and thrived in life.

Known for her kindness, generosity, and calm demeanor, Olivia showered her grandchildren with gifts during visits. She forgave easily and held no grudges. This was Oli in her essence. She loved beautiful things, very fashionable. She took care of a lot of people during her days on Earth.

Taken ill for a month, Olivia passed away peacefully at the 37 Military Hospital on June 11th, 2024. May God grant her eternal peace. A beautiful woman, a blessing to her kingdom, and a mother worthy of honor, Olivia will forever be remembered. Rest in power and glory.









Tribute from
Mother
COMFORT OWUSU RAPHAEL

*“When peace like a river attended my way,
When sorrows, like a sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou has taught me say
It is well, it is well with my soul”*

I had Olivia on the 7th day of November 1962, in my teens, on the very day Queen Elizabeth came to visit Ghana. Though I was young, I felt a deep connection with you because you were my first born.

My mother mostly took care of her.

Everyone thought she was my sister whenever we went out. And in those days, we would visit Lebanese merchant stores and they would admire her beauty and indeed gift us many things.

She was a very gentle and solemn person. Even at her old age I could freely correct her yet she would never utter a word back. She was truly respectful and I loved her indeed.

Every morning without fail, you'd send me a devotional message. Even in her sickness she still messaged me.

The loss of you feels like a part of me is broken. As the Akan proverb says *“When death carries a thing, who are you to refuse?”*.

Mama, one day we will surely meet and this bond will never be broken again. Until then, I pray for a comforting dream to see you again.

Sleep peacefully my beloved daughter!

Till we meet again. May the Good Lord keep you safely in His loving embrace. Amen!





Tribute from
Siblings

We had no idea that fateful day the Lord would summon you from this world. In life, we cherished you deeply. That devotion remains even in death. Losing you has broken our hearts, but you did not depart this earth alone. A piece of us accompanied you when God welcomed you home. You have left us with tranquil recollections. Your affection continues to steer us. Though we can no longer see you, you remain ever present by our side. Our family's bond has been severed and everything feels foreign without you. We will love you always, beautiful.

Rest In Peace.



Patricia, Ghana



Chief, Germany



Agyeman Bosco, USA



Poku, USA



Sister, USA



Charlotte, Canada



Chudy, Ghana



Nana Ama, USA



Kwadwo, Ghana



Tribute from

Children

An Angel in Disguise

They say angels walk among us, but for me, that angel wore a familiar smile and held the gentlest touch. Mom, you were the calm in every storm, the sun that chased away my darkest nights.

I can still feel the warmth of your lap when I sat at holy trinity hospital because I often had crises.

The melody of your voice singing "You Are My Sunshine" every night. It wasn't just a lullaby, a promise, a whispered echo of the love you carried for so long, a love that culminated in the name you and your mom gave me - Precious.

You were my strength, the unwavering presence through thick and thin. You were a beacon of peace, teaching us to treat others with kindness, a philosophy woven into the very fabric of your being. You held no grudges, only an endless well of love, ready to give your last for anyone in need. Your warmth wasn't just for us, it touched everyone you met. My friends adored you, drawn to your infectious smile and open heart.

Now, the silence is deafening. The phone calls, sweet messages, and comfort in your presence are all gone. But then, I see you in my reflection, my face, a constant reminder of you.



The pain is raw, but I know you wouldn't want me to break. You were more than a mother, Mom, you were an experience. You were, and always will be, the sweetest person on earth. Just months ago, we said goodbye to our beloved father. Now, with a heart heavy with a new loss. It feels almost surreal like a chapter skipped in the story of our lives. They say some couples are soulmates. You and my dad were the

perfect embodiment of that. Their bond wasn't just romantic, it was a profound connection, source of strength, and partners in every sense of the word. Witnessing their love was a testament to the power of soulmates, a love that transcends time and circumstance. Though my heart aches with the double loss, I find solace in knowing they are reunited.

On Sunday 9th of June, you called me through your private nurse's phone and these were the only words you spoke "Precious I love you, the pain is too much I can't take it anymore, I love you, Precious Though you're gone, the memory of your voice, filled with love despite the suffering, will forever be a source of strength. It reminds me of the incredible woman you were, a woman who fought with grace and loved fiercely.

*Until then, you'll forever be my sunshine,
my guiding light*





Tribute from

In-Law

SkidMichaels

Soni was how you called me and how you ever saved my number on your phone. You were more than a mother, you were a friend and a loving one to be with.

You told me i was an answer to your prayers when i got married to your precious daughter Adobea.

You always found comfort and wisdom in my little counsel which always warmed my heart.

I always called you sweet mum anytime i check up on you. you were so grateful whenever i come around, you were selfless in all that you did, you were a mother of all.

I know your good deeds transcend to your daughter and i will always find comfort whenever i see Adobea because she is just a photocopy.

You will forever live in our heart. You really fought well as a soldier, who even in your last days didn't want us to see you suffer.

I know your wish was to be with us till the end of time but your decision to be with the Lord was Golden.

*Rest in Power our guardian Angel,
till we meet Again. Ma!*





Memories with
Grandchildren



We love you Grandma!





Tribute from
Close Friend

Rose Tenkorang

*"If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die,
we die for the Lord, so whether we live or die,
we belong to the Lord" (Romans 14:8).*

It is with a heavy heart that I pay this tribute to my dearest friend and sister Mama. Though every human being knows death is inevitable, it becomes more painful when it strikes at the time one least expected. Tuesday, 11th June at 10:50 am is a day and time I will never forget in my life. I was undertaking an educational assignment in one secondary school when I had a call announcing the demise of my friend, MAMA. I could not believe it because I spoke with her not long ago and she sounded good and assured me she was better. I called someone else for confirmation and lo, and behold, it was true. I could not hold back my tears and could not continue with the task I was to perform in the school. It was a big blow to me.

MAMA and myself have been friends and sisters since September 1975 when we both entered Assin Manso Secondary School together. She came from a good home so she will come with enough provisions and I depended on her for^{or} survival in that respect because my background was poor. In school, we did everything together, eating, washing, ironing, attending gatherings, classes, preps, etc. We were always around each other to the extent that whenever one sees Olivia, one sees Rose, and vice versa. We were knitted together like twins.



One incident I will recount was when we went to the river Okye to bathe and fetch some water for our seniors. We were swimming and Olivia nearly drowned but by God's intervention. I was able to rescue her before helpers came from the school. Upon completion, I attended training college and she was interested in business so she went into it and became a successful businesswoman. Though we were not staying together, anytime we met, the relationship became as fresh as ever. Our town folks are witnesses to our solid friendship. When Mama comes to Nsuta, she will come directly to my home and we will live together until we parted. For the forty-nine (49) years that we have been together, I saw Olivia as someone loving, calm, patient, humble, intelligent, sensible, ambitious, and loves God so she became a Reverend.

Mama, why so soon? You left me without a word. I will forever remember you. I will miss your love, infectious laughter, sweet voice, beauty, kindness, inspirational messages, counseling, etc.

Rev. Olivia, God knows the best. We cannot challenge Him. May the Almighty God grant you a peaceful rest in His bosom.

**REST WELL MY DEAR, REST WELL,
TILL WE MEET AGAIN. DAMIRIFA DUE!
DUE!! DUE!!! NE AMANEHUNU.**

Death is
nothing
at all.

“

Death is nothing at all.
I have only slipped away to the next room.
I am I and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other,
That, we still are.

Call me by my old familiar name.
Speak to me in the easy way
which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed
at the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me. Pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word
that it always was.
Let it be spoken without effect.
Without the trace of a shadow on it.

Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same that it ever was.
There is absolute unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind
because I am out of sight?

I am but waiting for you.
For an interval.
Somewhere. Very near.
Just around the corner.

All is well.





Rev. Olivia



Appreciation

The entire family of the late

Rev. Olivia
Abena Arko-Boamah
(A.K.A. MAMA)

express their sincerest appreciation to you,
our friends, well-wishers and loved ones for
your show of compassion and support during
this time of sorrow.

May God Richly Bless You.