

The Celebration of Life and Homegoing Service For

Ms. Emma Lois Watts

**The Order of Service For
Saturday, September 26, 2020
12:00 p.m.**

**Rutledge and Bigham Funeral Home
Statesville, North Carolina**

**Reverend Shirley Blackwell, Pastor
of New Faith Trinity Church, Officiating
Reverend Barbara T. McCollum, Pastor of
Holsey Memorial CME Church, Eulogist**

- The Processional
- The Invocation Reverend Shirley Blackwell
- The Hymn: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
- The Prayer of Comfort Minister Reginald Strickland
- The Scripture Reading
 - Old Testament: *Psalm 23* Reverend Michael Sharpe
 - New Testament: *John 14:1-6, 27* Reverend Jeffery Daniels
- The Musical Selection: "Through It All"
- The Church Resolution Mrs. Ora D. Merritt
- The Remarks (*Limit two minutes please*)
- The Acknowledgements The Funeral Director
- The Commemorative Presentation The Funeral Director
- The Musical Selection: "I Won't Complain"
- The Eulogy Reverend Barbara T. McCollum
- The Committal and Benediction
- The Recessional – Musical Selection

The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to everyone for every act of kindness extended during the illness and passing of our loved one, Emma. We are grateful for family and friends like you.

The Family Tribute

Ms. Emma Lois Watts

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: For your sake we are killed all the day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:35 - 39

Emma Lois Watts, 80, daughter of the late Ernest and Viola Shives Watts was born in Iredell County on August 28, 1940. She received her wings and transitioned from life to eternity on Monday, September 21, 2020 at Iredell Memorial Hospital, Statesville, after a brief illness. She was preceded in death by her brother, Ernest Alfred Watts, Jr, her parents, several other family members and recently her brother, Billy Watts.

Emma was a 1958 graduate of Morningside High School of Statesville NC. She also attended Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC. She was employed by and later retired from Carolina Mills.

Emma was also active in the civil rights movement. She and her brother, Billy Watts, participated in a sit in at Howard Johnsons restaurant counter on Aug 31, 1962 and were both arrested and put in jail. The anniversary of the protest was recently featured in the August 30, 2020 issue of the Statesville Record and Landmark.

At an early age, Emma joined Holsey Memorial CME Church where she was a junior stewardess and a junior usher. She continued to be actively involved in her church, serving as a member of the Missionary Society, the Senior Choir and the Shives Fellowship Choir. Her civic organizations included the Skyland Banner Elks Lodge and the Garfield Senior Citizens Club. She was an avid bowler and loved to read and travel.

Cherishing her memory is her niece, Tammy Sawyer of Statesville; her nephews, William Louis "Billy" Watts of Aurora, CO and Russell (Valerie) Watts of Ayers, Mass; two great nieces, Shanta Sawyer and Naomi Watts; two great nephews, William Louis Watts, II and David Franklin Watts; one aunt, Beulah Mack of Statesville, a sister-in-law Mary Agnes of Statesville and a host of cousins, family, friends and her church family at Holsey Memorial CME Church.

Crossing the Bar Alfred Lord Tennyson

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out
the boundless deep

Turns again home.
Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have cross'd the bar.



Professional Services Entrusted to "Those Who Care"

Rutledge & Bigham Mortuary, Inc.

603 S. Center St., Statesville, NC 28677 704-873-3611

Visit Emma's Online Tribute at www.rutledgeandbigham.com

As We Remember



EMMA LOIS WATTS

AUGUST 28, 1940 — SEPTEMBER 21, 2020