



- Acknowledgment -

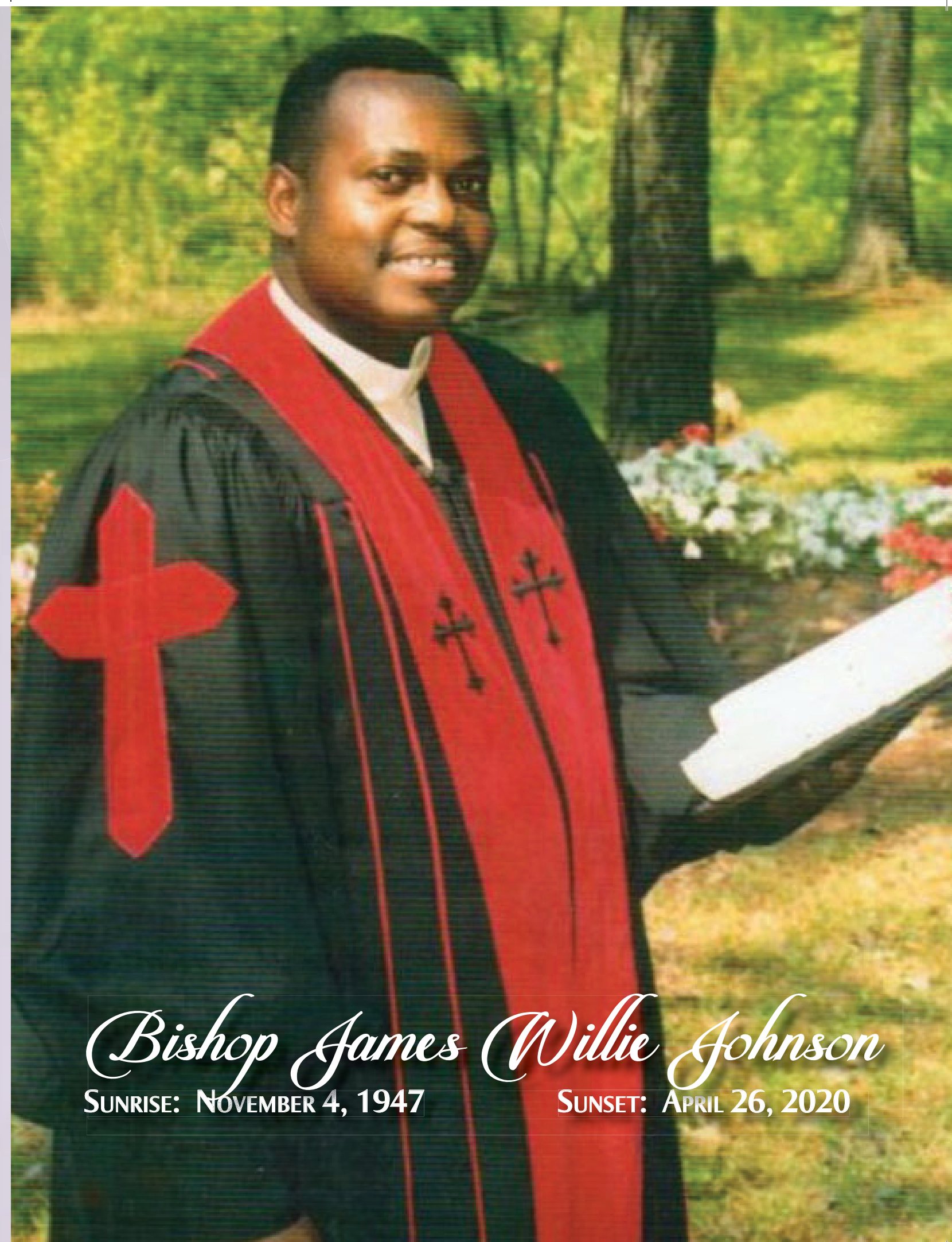
The family of Bishop James Willie Johnson gratefully acknowledges the many acts of love, kindness and sympathy extended during his passing. Your prayers, calls, posts, and words of encouragement have sustained us during this difficult time.

- In Memoriam -

May we take this opportunity to express sincere and deep appreciation for allowing us to serve you during this most difficult period. It is our constant aim to afford to the people of this community a service completed in all details and faultlessly executed with sympathy and understanding.

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted To:
HARRIS FUNERAL HOME
515 South 6th Street • Opelika, AL 36801
(334) 749-6583 FAX (334) 749-6587
www.harrisfuneralhomeinc.com

"Sympathetic, Courteous, & Professional Service"



Bishop James Willie Johnson
SUNRISE: NOVEMBER 4, 1947 SUNSET: APRIL 26, 2020

A HOMEGOING CELEBRATION FOR

Bishop James Willie Johnson

SUNRISE: NOVEMBER 4, 1947

SUNSET: APRIL 26, 2020



SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2020 • 2:00 P.M.

GRAVESIDE SERVICE

GARDEN HILLS CEMETERY

1218 Fredreick Road
Opelika, AL 36801

BISHOP KENNETH L. CARTER, SR., OFFICIATING

When I Must Leave You

When I must leave you
For a little while;
Please do not grieve
And shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you
Through the years,
But start out bravely
With a gallant smile;
And for my sake
And for my name
Live on and do
all things the same,
Feed not your loneliness
On empty days,
But fill each waking hour
In useful ways,
Reach out your hand
In comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you
And hold you near;
And never, never
Be afraid to die
For I am waiting for you in the sky!

A Million Times

A million times we've needed you,
A million times we've cried.
If love alone could have saved you,
You never would have died.
If all the world was ours to give,
We would give it yes, and more,
To see you coming up the steps,
And walking through the door.
To hear your voice and see your smile,
To sit and talk a while,
To be with you that same old way,
Would be our fondest day.
A heart of gold stopped beating,
Two smiling eyes closed to rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.





Obituary

Bishop James W. Johnson was born in Opelika, Alabama on November 4, 1947 to parents Aliene Morgan and Willie James Johnson, Sr. Bishop Johnson was called home to be with the Lord on the morning of Sunday, April 26, 2020.

James was blessed with four loving siblings. He attended E Street Elementary, later renamed Carver Elementary and J.W. Darden High School in Opelika where he graduated in 1966. After high school, he briefly attended Southern Union State Junior College (now known as Southern Union State Community College) before being drafted into the United States Air Force where he proudly served his country for several years.

In 1975, he married Ora Lee Ruffin and they parented four boys. Ora transitioned from this life on April 23, 1988 and James later went on to marry Jessica McCord of Birmingham, Alabama. The new couple was now blessed with seven children because of their blended union.

Bishop Johnson was always a hard worker, but in the early 70s he was called to labor for Christ under the leadership of Bishop Nehemiah Smith in Detroit, Michigan. He accepted the call to preach the gospel in 1975 and became a Minister under his spiritual father, Bishop Ray Trout in Columbus, Ohio and later was ordained as an Elder.

In 1978, he returned to his hometown of Opelika and founded the Apostolic Fellowship Holiness Church. The membership flourished during his tenure as Senior Pastor. In 1989, under the leadership of Bishop Isaiah Jackson (Greater Emmanuel Temple Holiness Church; Birmingham, AL), James was consecrated as a Bishop. He has proudly served on the Executive Board of Bishops for the Higher Ground Always Abounding Assembly in Columbus, Ohio and is still listed on their official website in this position.

Bishop Johnson was a successful businessman and entertainer. He began singing as a youth and continued professionally for decades, most notably with the Kings of Joy. He also started Johnson & Sons Construction Company in 1980 and helped build many of Opelika's most notable structures. Because of his passion to spread the gospel, he wrote and published a book in 2014 entitled God's Immutable Numbers.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Aliene Morgan and Willie James Johnson, Sr.; his first wife, Ora Lee Johnson; his eldest son, James Daryl Johnson; three siblings, Willie James Johnson, Maggie Johnson and Frank Johnson.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Jessica Johnson; his children, Ricardo D. (Darnisha) Johnson of Atlanta, GA, Marcus F. Johnson, Antwone Jermaine Johnson, Monica (Juan) Jackson, Reshonne (Ben) Davis and Demond McCord, all of Birmingham, AL; seven grandchildren, Nia, Jaia, Angel, Micah, Nyah, Isaiah and Jacob; one sister, Eula Johnson of Atlanta, GA; two brothers-in-law; five sisters-in-law; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Order of Service

Musical Selection LeFrench Square

Scripture Reading Minister Marcus Johnson

Prayer Bishop Donald W. Tillman

Reflections Two Minutes (Please)
Doug Floyd
Kenneth Ruffin

Words of Comfort Pastor Ellen P. Featherstone
Biblical Faith Tabernacle
Montgomery, AL

Musical Selection LeFrench Square

Eulogy Bishop Kenneth Carter, Sr.
Christ Temple Holiness Church
Opelika, AL

Committal

Benediction

