



### When Great Trees Fall

by Maya Angelou

When great trees fall,  
rocks on distant hills shudder, lions hunker down  
in tall grasses, and even elephants lumber after safety.

When great trees fall  
in forests, small things recoil into silence,  
their senses eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die,  
the air around us becomes light, rare, sterile.  
We breathe, briefly. Our eyes, briefly,  
see with a hurtful clarity. Our memory,  
suddenly sharpened,  
examines, gnaws on kind words unsaid,  
promised walks never taken.

Great souls die and our reality, bound to them,  
takes leave of us. Our souls, dependent upon their  
nurture, now shrink, wizened. Our minds, formed  
and informed by their radiance, fall away.  
We are not so much maddened as reduced to the  
unutterable ignorance of dark, cold caves.

And when great souls die, after a period peace blooms,  
slowly and always irregularly. Spaces fill with a  
kind of soothing electric vibration.  
Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us.  
They existed. They existed. We can be.  
Be and be better. For they existed.

#### Acknowledgement

*The family of the late Marian L. Prater acknowledges, with sincere appreciation, your understanding, your prayers, and all acts of kindness shown at this time of bereavement.*

Professional Services By  
JAMES HUNT FUNERAL HOME  
Kevin L. Small, Mgr NJ Lic. #4880  
126 Ridge Avenue • Asbury Park, NJ 07712 • (732) 775-8722

Sunrise: September 1, 1928

Sunset: December 21, 2020

## In Loving Memory of



### Marian L. Prater

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021

11:00 AM

JAMES HUNT FUNERAL HOME  
126 RIDGE AVE • ASBURY PARK, NEW JERSEY

Officiating: Rev. Dr. Semaj Y. Vanzant, Sr.

# Order of Service



Processional.....

Hymn of Worship..... “Blessed Assurance”

Scripture ..... Rev. Dr. Semaj Y. Vanzant, Sr.  
Old Testament: Isaiah 40: 1-8  
New Testament: John 14: 1-6

Prayer of Comfort ..... Rev. Dr. Semaj Y. Vanzant, Sr.

Obituary/Resolutions.....Second Baptist Church Clerk

Witness/Remarks (2 minutes please)..... Rev. Dr. Semaj Y. Vanzant, Sr.

Selection..... “Jesus Promised Me a Home Over There”  
Jennifer Hudson

Eulogy ..... Rev. Dr. Semaj Y. Vanzant, Sr.

Committal ..... Rev. Dr. Semaj Y. Vanzant, Sr.

Recessional .....

# Obituary



Marian (nee Lewis) Prater, 92, formerly of Neptune, NJ passed away on Monday, December 21, 2020 in Pompano Beach, Florida. She was born on September 1, 1928 in Asbury Park, NJ to Nettie and Leroy Lewis.

Marian graduated from Hampton University in Virginia. She was an elementary school teacher at Summerfield Elementary School in Neptune, NJ and retired in 1992 after more than 25 years of service.

She attended Second Baptist Church, Asbury Park since childhood. Marian was an active member of the church and served on the Board of Trustees. She was a devoted member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., an active member of the community, and loved by all who knew her. Marian was a generous person who was always willing to lend a helping hand. She will be missed by all.

She spent the last two years of her life enjoying the warm weather of Florida with relatives. A special thanks to Patricia Philpart for providing companionship and loving care in her home. Additional thanks to Mozelle Philpart, Mamie and Robert Baldwin for welcoming her into their lives in Florida.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Gerald Prater, in 1984. She is survived by her daughter, Hillary Wilkins of Jackson, NJ; five grandchildren, Justin, Jordan, Taryn, Trae and Camryn; and two great-grandchildren.