The Concord Baptist Church of Christ
833 Gardner C. Taylor Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11216

SENIOR PASTOR
The Reverend Dr. Gary V. Simpson

PASTORS
The Reverend Samuel Phillips, III
The Reverend Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson

Services of Homegoing from The Church Militant to The Church Triumphant

The Reverend Dr. Gardner Calvin Taylor
18 June 1918 — 5 April 2015

"I am the resurrection and the life:
the one that believes in me,
though dead, shall live again."
John 11:25
Service in Memory of The Late
Gardner Calvin Taylor
Senior Pastor Emeritus

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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>13 April 2015</th>
<th>11:30 am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Processional</td>
<td>&quot;Nearer, My God to Thee&quot;</td>
<td>#283</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opening Hymn</td>
<td>&quot;Sweet Hour of Prayer&quot;</td>
<td>#333</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scripture</td>
<td>Psalm 90</td>
<td>The Rev. Frederick C. Ennette, Sr.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John 14: 1-6</td>
<td>The Rev. Dr. Reginald High</td>
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<td>Prayer</td>
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<td>The Rev. Dr. Johnnie William Skinner, Sr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hymn</td>
<td>&quot;O God, Our Help in Ages Past&quot;</td>
<td>#19</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(verses 1, 2 4 and 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflections</td>
<td>The Rev. Dr. Timothy George (<em>in absentia</em>)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Rev. Dr. Edward L. Taylor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Rev. Dr. Jerome J. Washington</td>
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<td>The Rev. Dr. James C. Perkins</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Esquire</td>
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<td>Acknowledgement of Messages of Condolence</td>
<td>Deacon Harry L. Franklin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hymn</td>
<td>&quot;My Jesus, I Love Thee&quot;</td>
<td>Martha Taylor-LaCroix</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eulogy</td>
<td>&quot;THE ANGEL'S FINAL WORD&quot;</td>
<td>Pastor Gary V. Simpson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hymn</td>
<td>&quot;How Firm a Foundation&quot;</td>
<td>Bishop J. Douglas Wiley-Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthem</td>
<td>&quot;Let Mount Zion Rejoice&quot;</td>
<td>The Sanctuary Choir</td>
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<td>Benediction</td>
<td>Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recessional</td>
<td>The Rev. Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood</td>
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Interment: The Evergreens Cemetery, Brooklyn

Please silence your cell phones and turn off all cameras and recording devices.
If you must leave while we are still in worship, please use the side aisles and rear exit doors.
Gardner Calvin Taylor

The Rev. Dr. Gardner Calvin Taylor, celebrated preacher, scholar, and former pastor of The Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, N.Y. quietly transitioned into eternity on Resurrection Sunday, April 5th, 2015 at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. at the age of 96.

He was born to Washington Monroe Taylor and Selina Taylor in Baton Rouge, LA. on June 18, 1918. In his early years he was baptized into the fellowship of the church where his father served as pastor, Mount Zion Baptist Church, where years later he also served as pastor.

After finishing at Leland College in 1937, Dr. Taylor earned his Bachelor of Divinity degree at the Oberlin School of Theology. In addition, he was awarded numerous honorary doctorate degrees throughout his ministry. Dr. Taylor was a member of The Boulé, a 33rd Degree Mason and member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated.

In 1948, Dr. Taylor was called to pastor The Concord Baptist Church, one of the most influential Christian churches in America. During this time, his notoriety spread as he preached nationally and internationally, lectured at numerous seminaries, and served as president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention. Dr. Taylor served at Concord Baptist Church until his retirement in 1990.

Known as “the dean of American preachers,” he was a mentor and close friend to Martin Luther King, Jr. and was a prominent figure in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960’s. He preached the inaugural sermon for President William Jefferson Clinton in 1993 and in 2000 was awarded the nation’s highest civilian honor by President Clinton, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Over 2000 of Dr. Taylor’s sermons are archived at the Robert W. Woodruff Library in Atlanta, GA. and many can be read in his collection of sermons, The Words of Gardner Taylor: 50 years of timeless treasures.

Dr. Taylor was preceded in death by his first wife, Laura Scott Taylor, and is survived by his wife, Phillis Strong Taylor; his daughter, Martha Taylor LaCroix; grandson, Marcus LaCroix; beloved cousin, Dr. Ruby Harris; a niece, Nikki Hocker; and a host of family, friends, and sons and daughters in ministry.

“Something vast and noble has passed from among us. It is like a mighty oak has fallen, leaving an empty and gaping and glaring space against the sky where he stood.”

“I tell you this, flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”
“O death, where is thy victory?
O grave, where is thy sting?”

“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”
I Corinthians 15:51-58
(Revised Standard Version, principally)

The family wishes to thank all for your condolences and prayers, and is deeply grateful to the entire Concord Family and the participants in this final service of worship in memory of our beloved,
the Reverend Doctor Gardner Calvin Taylor:

The Rev. Dr. Gary V. Simpson
The Concord Baptist Church of Christ, Brooklyn, NY

The Rev. Frederick C. Ennette, Sr.
Bedford Central Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn NY

The Rev. Dr. Reginald High
Beavers Chapel Christian Church, Zebulon, NC

The Rev. Dr. Johnnie William Skinner, Sr.
Mount Zion Baptist Church, Knoxville, TN

The Rev. Dr. Timothy George
Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, AL

The Rev. Dr. Jerome J. Washington
Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Durham, NC

The Rev. Dr. James C. Perkins
Progressive National Baptist Convention, Washington, DC

Mr. Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Esquire
Washington, DC

Bishop J. Douglas Wiley-Taylor
Cathedral of Life, New Orleans, LA

Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook
New York, NY

The Rev. Dr. Johnny Ray Young Blood
Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY

Mr. Philip Bingham, Choir Master Emeritus
Martha Taylor-LaCroix, Daughter
The Sanctuary Choir
Deacon Harry L. Franklin, Church Clerk

Pall Bearers: The Deacons of The Concord Baptist Church of Christ
Final arrangements have been entrusted to Miles Funeral Home

Photo Credit: Gill Photographers, NY