

*Celebration of the
Completed Life of*

*Imani-Nadine Rebecca
Hairston Addington*



December 5, 2004

*St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church
100 North Oxford Street
St. Paul, Minnesota*

CELEBRATION OF THE COMPLETED LIFE

of

IMANI-NADINE REBECCA HAIRSTON ADDINGTON

St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church

St. Paul, Minnesota

December 5, 2004

Presiding Ministers

The Rev. Paul A. Tidemann

The Rev. Anita C. Hill

Participating Ministers

The Rev. Gloria Roach Thomas

The Rev. Ronald A. Smith

Organist

Camilla Horne

Pianist

The Rev. Carl Walker

Soloist

Libby Turner

Pallbearers

Emanuel Ward, Indira Addington, Kathy Roberts
Daniel Addington, Robert Addington, Cindy Addington,
Gina Wayne, Don Coleman

(congregational responses are in bold-face italic print)

PRELUDE

The Rev. Carl Walker

PROCESSION

WELCOME

The Rev. Paul A. Tidemann

WORDS OF COMMITMENT

The Family of Imani-Nadine Addington

"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25-26

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God, whom I shall see for myself and my eyes shall behold, and not as a stranger. Job 19:25-27

We brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. 1 Timothy 6:7; Job 1:21

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. So it is, says the Spirit, they may now rest from their labors. Revelation 14:13

By baptism we share Christ's death and by Christ's rising we have new life. On the day of her baptism, Imani-Nadine Rebecca put on Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, may she be clothed in glory.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

God makes me lie down in green pastures,
and leads me beside still waters,
and restores my soul.

God leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil,
my cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;

and I shall dwell

in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23

**FAMILY REFLECTIONS and Placement of Symbols
of the Life of Imani-Nadine Addington**

HYMN: "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" (WOV #780)

- 1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.***

***Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leanings, leaning on the everlasting arms.***

2. *Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.* (Refrain)
3. *What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.* (Refrain)

WHY WE ARE HERE

We gather today to give thanks for the life of Imani-Nadine Rebecca Hairston Addington, for her faithful life as a mother and grandmother, leader for justice and social change, woman of faith and integrity, neighbor and friend to others, for her love of her family, her community and the church knowing that she lives in hope, as we do, founded in our faith in God whose grace has come to us in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. Wondrous, compassionate God, we give you thanks for life and death, for the sign of hope we share in the resurrection of Jesus the Christ, your Son and our Redeemer. We give you thanks for the completed life of Imani-Nadine Rebecca Hairston Addington. Guide us in living out of your promises, in the name of the Christ. *Amen.*

REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE

In the beginning, God created us and blessed us and all creation. When the time was right, the Word became flesh and lived among us. This Light shines forever and overcomes darkness.

O Christ, Light of the world, shine upon us, bless and enlighten our path of life and lead us to life eternal.

In baptism, by water and God's Word, we are buried with Christ, so that as Christ was raised to life we might also live. Our eternal life is sealed by the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of God's continued blessing.

Be with us, O Christ, as you come again. By God's grace, show eternal life to all people. Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!

REMEMBERING OUR SISTER IMANI-NADINE

Imani-Nadine is our sister who shares with us baptism and the feast of life. We commend her to the wondrous love of God together with all who have completed this life.

SOLO: "His Eye is on the Sparrow"

Libby Turner

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-4

The Rev. Anita Hill
St Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me, and has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of God's favor, and the day of punishment of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display God's glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

HYMN: "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah"

- 1. Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down.
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down.***
- 2. I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burden down.
I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burden down.***
- 3. Feel like dancing, Hallelujah, since I laid my burden down.
Feel like dancing, Hallelujah, since I laid my burden down.***
- 4. Love is shining all around me, since I laid my burden down.
Love is shining all around me, since I laid my burden down.***

SECOND LESSON:

Romans 8:31-39

The Rev. Gloria Roach Thomas
Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church
St. Paul, Minnesota

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? The one who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will God not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through the one who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A READING:
Emanuel Ward

Reflections by Rabindranath Tagore
from *Gitanjali: A Collection of Indian Songs*

On the day when death will knock at thy door
what wilt thou offer to him?
Oh, I will set before my guest the full vessel of my life –
I will never let him go with empty hands.
All the sweet vintage
of my autumn days and summer nights,
all the earnings and gleanings of my busy life
will I place before him at the close of my days
when death will knock at my door.

I was not aware of the moment
when I first crossed the threshold of this life.

What was the power that made me open out
into this vast mystery like a bud in the forest at midnight!

When in the morning I looked upon the light
I felt in a moment that I was no stranger in this world,

that the inscrutable without name and form
had taken me in its arms in the form of my own mother.

Even so, in death the same unknown
will appear as ever known to me.
And because I love this life,
I know I shall love death as well.

The child cries out when from the right breast
the mother takes it away,
in the very next moment to find in the left one
its consolation.

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Order My Steps" by Glenn Burleigh
Choirs of
St Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church and UNITY Baptist Church

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:46-55

Mary (*in visiting her cousin Elizabeth before the birth of Jesus*) said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
For God has looked with favor
on the lowliness of this servant.
Surely, from now on all generations
will call me blessed;
For the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is God's name.
God's mercy is for those who stand in wonder before God
from generation to generation.
God has shown strength with the arm;
and has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
God has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
God has helped the servant Israel,
in remembrance of God's mercy,
According to the promise God made to our ancestors,
to Abraham, Sarah and to their descendants forever."

SERMON

The Rev. Paul A. Tidemann
St Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church

SPIRIT SONG: "At the Center Tranquil" (tune: Shenandoah)
A Song of the Other World - from The Ecumenical Institute: Chicago

*Universe, illumination
All unknown, absurd assurance
Everywhere is found life's meaning
And I, I am the way
At the center tranquil.*

*There's no hope, yet all is hopeful
Then no cares, there are no problems
No enemies, no earthly foes
And I, I am the struggle,
At the center tranquil.*

*Pulsing exhilaration
Everything's become a blessing
Embraced by joy, a dance of rapture
And I, I am the stillness
At the center tranquil.*

*Gloriously condemned to die
Life is new, a great resurgence
Community with all the faithful
And I, I am forever
At the center tranquil.*

CONFESSION OF FAITH

We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope we confess our faith.

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.*

***He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

TRIBUTES FOR THE LIFE OF IMANI-NADINE

The Rev. Ralph Baumgartner, Bishop's Associate
Saint Paul Area Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dr. Semerit Seankh-ka, M.D.
Powderhorn Phillips Cultural Center
University of Minnesota

The Rev. Rodney Maeker
Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota

Other Friends and Colleagues

PRAYERS

The Rev. Ronald A. Smith
UNITY Baptist Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

Gracious God, we give you thanks for this community of family and friends of Imani-Nadine who have come together to celebrate the completion of her life in faith, hope and in love.

Hear our prayer and grant us your peace, O God.

Give us, O Christ, a clear vision of your Way as we live out this life. Let us walk with trust, in lives that are loving, caring and life-giving to others.

Hear our prayer for new life each day, O Christ.

Let us know, O Holy Spirit, that you care for us each day. Though we feel sad, we also know that life has been blessed because of the life of Imani-Nadine and we know the blessings in her death. We cherish memories of her life, her love of her children and grandchildren, her friends in many places and the whole wide world which she gave her life to serve. We rest in the comfort of your love.

Hear our prayer and comfort us, Spirit of God.

As family and friends we have celebrated the feast of life with our sister Imani-Nadine. Give us grace now, O God, to celebrate with joy the completion of her life. We entrust Imani-Nadine Rebecca Hairston Addington to your never-failing love which sustained her in this life. Receive her into your care as you grant grace and blessing to us all.

Hear us as we give over Imani-Nadine to your care, O God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.*

COMMENDATION

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend your servant, Imani-Nadine Rebecca. Receive, we pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a person of your own redeeming. Receive Imani-Nadine, in your love and compassion, into the blessedness of eternal life and peace, into the glorious company of the saints in light; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. *Amen.*

SOLO: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Libby Turner

COMMITTAL

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our sister, Imani-Nadine Rebecca Hairston Addington, (*soil of the earth will be laid on her casket*) and we commend her earthly remains to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless her and keep her. The Lord's face shine on her and be gracious to her. The Lord look upon her with favor and give her peace. *Amen.*

HYMN: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

LBW (green) #534

1. *Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list'ning skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.*

*Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on, till victory is won.*

2. *Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our parents sighed?*

*We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path
through the blood of the slaughtered.
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.*

3. *God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by thy might led us into the light:
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.*

*Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
Shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.*

REMINDERS ON OUR WAY

I will lift up my eyes to the hills, from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 121*

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. *Matthew 5*

The steadfast love of God never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. *Lamentations 3*

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your Word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light for revelation to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. *Luke 2*

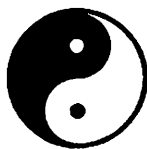
WORDS OF APPRECIATION

BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL:

God bless you and keep you. God's face shine on you and be gracious unto you. God look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of God: Creator, ☩ Christ and Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. God is with us always. ***Thanks be to God!***

IMANI-NADINE REBECCA HAIRSTON ADDINGTON



Born:	August 9, 1949	Columbus, Ohio
Died:	November 23, 2004	St. Paul, Minnesota
Interment:		Private

Imani-Nadine Rebecca Hairston Addington, widely known for her activism on behalf of racial and social justice has died at the age of 55. Imani-Nadine battled the progressive ravages of Lupus for 18 years before succumbing to heart failure on November 23, 2004.

In March, 1995, she and her husband, James, became the co-directors of the Minnesota Collaborative Anti-Racism Initiative (MCARI) – a statewide training and organizational development program jointly sponsored by the Minnesota, Greater Minneapolis and Saint Paul Area Councils of Churches. Over 10,000 individuals participated in programming offered by MCARI in the ensuing nine years.

Imani-Nadine was born in Columbus, Ohio to the Rev. Thurman and Rebecca Hairston. She was the second youngest of eight children. As a musician in her father's church she developed a life-long love of African American musical traditions. In later years she would be known for her gospel stylings as she accompanied herself on the piano.

Her family's history paralleled and influenced her life's work. She hailed from the Hairston clan, whose descendants include black slaves and white slaveholders. The family's history and its struggles to heal from and understand slavery's impact were described in the book "The Hairstons: A Family in Black and White," which earned author Henry Wiencek the National Book Critics Circle Award. The book was published in 2000. The Hairston story was featured on the CBS-TV news program, "60 Minutes."

Following high school graduation, she attended Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio and, in recent years, continued her education at the Weekend College of Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

Imani-Nadine Addington joined the staff of the Ecumenical Institute/Institute of Cultural Affairs in Chicago in 1969. She remained with

the Institute – working across the United States and the world - until 1985. She and her husband lived and worked in rural India, Jamaica, and Venezuela prior to moving to St. Paul in 1985.

In November, 1985 the Addingtons became members of St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church. She remained an active member of our church, serving as Co-President of the Congregation Council from 1987-89 responsible for the Mission dimension of leadership. She sang in our choir and was a soloist on several occasions. More recently, Imani-Nadine was a member of and advisor to our Anti-Racism Team. Imani-Nadine also served as a member of the Saint Paul Area Synod Council

She was the first African American administrator for Luther Seminary in St. Paul, serving between 1986 and 1995 as manager of the office of Contextual Education. She also served on the boards of Inter-Race, Walker West Music Academy and the Twin Cities Urban Reconciliation Network (TURN). She was a member of the Mayor's Anti-Drug Task Force in St. Paul, a parent participant in Black Music Educators of the Twin Cities (BMEC), active in the parents' organizations of Adams Spanish Immersion School and Humboldt Jr. and Sr. High School, and an active participant in her West-Side St. Paul neighborhood. In 1990 she was a delegate to the World Council of Churches Consultation on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation in Seoul, Korea.

In April, 2003, she and her husband received the Race, Church and Change award given by Luther Seminary – in recognition of their work for racial justice across the upper Midwest.

Imani-Nadine was a tireless advocate for undoing racism until her disease drained her of physical strength as well as hope. On August 11, 2002 Nadine Rebecca's baptism was re-affirmed as she accepted an additional name, Imani, (which means "faith" in the African Kiswahili language). This identity gave her hope and optimism in face of struggling with the effects of her disease

She is survived by her husband, James, daughters Indira Addington and Kathy (Will) Roberts, sons Emanuel Ward, Daniel (Cindy) Addington and Robert Addington, granddaughters Sarah and Emily Addington, sisters Lorraine Smalls, Wynola Wayne and Arneita Coleman and brothers William Hairston and David (Mary) Hairston.

Imani's warmth could light up a room; she could also be rigorous in the pursuit of justice. She was a skillful trainer with a life-long commitment to social justice and a deep love for family.