

*sunrise*  
July 11, 1996

*sunset*  
September 26, 2022

WEDNESDAY,  
OCT 5, 2022

10:00 A.M. VIEWING  
11:00 A.M. FUNERAL

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

*Nailah  
Pascale  
Penic*



ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

301 S. Alfred Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

*Officiant: Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, Senior Pastor*



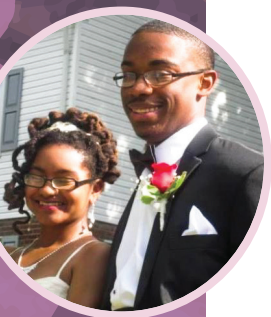
Nailah Pascale Penic was born in Washington, DC on July 11, 1996, to David and Pier Penic. During her elementary school years, she was an active member of Alfred Street Baptist Church. During her years at Alfred Street Baptist Church, she was an active in The Kings Kids Choir, The Junior Gospel Inspirers, The Gospel Inspirers, Senior Youth, AWANA, Sunday school, Girl Scouts, Vacation Bible School, HBCU College Fair Volunteer and The African American Read-IN Volunteer.



As a homeschooled student, she was a volunteer at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art's Studio Africa, Family programs from 2007–2015 and the National African American Read-In from 2007–2013. Since 9th grade, she has participated in summer enrichment programs at The Smithsonian Hirshhorn Gallery (Artlab), The Smithsonian African Art Museum (film, writing and art enrichment), The National Museum of African American History and Culture (writing enrichment), The National Park Service (Mary McLeod Bethune House), The Smithsonian Anacostia Museum (cultural and language enrichment), The Washington Historic Society (summer writing camp), Split This Rock's Poetry Workshops for Teens and The National Portrait Gallery (IMAGINE=IMAGE Workshop). Nailah was very active in many other programs of enrichment including The Washington Legal Summer Institute at George Washington University Law School, The Federal Bureau of Investigation (Future Agents in Training Program at Quantico, VA), The Corcoran College of Art Pre-College Program Summer 2012 and STARTALK's Arabic Enrichment and Language Immersion Program at NOVA.



As an active member of Alfred Street Baptist Church, her activities involved consistent participation as a clubber in AWANA (The Alpha Award, Best Sportsmanship Award), Senior Youth Ministry. Nailah was an active member of Intel's Computer Clubhouse at Gum Springs



Community Center since 2011 where she completed a project for the Adobe Youth Voices, she also was an active member of their poetry slam team and served as co-creator and student president for the award winning On the R.I.Z.E (Reading Is Zealous Entertainment) Teen Book Club. She was a member of The Interfaith Youth for Climate Justice Organization, The NAACP-Fairfax County Chapter she was the First Place Winner of Spilt This Rock's and Busboys and Poets 2013 "World and Me" Poetry Contest. Other awards and honors includes the recipient of The Roots 2014 Young Futurist Award, The Prince Georges County 2014 NAACP ACT-SO Medal Winner (Silver-Poetry, Silver-Vocals, Bronze-Visual Arts) she was also a finalist for the CNCS "I AM" Poetry Slam Competition in Washington, DC as well as the recipient of the For Love of Country Foundation Award (Poetry Contest- Gold Certificate, Certificate of Merit) in Fairfax County, VA.

In 2014, Nailah completed a summer enrichment program in graphic design at The Art Institute of Washington in Rosslyn, VA. She really enjoyed films, singing, art, writing poetry and botany. Nailah studied history and Music Theory at Trinity Washington University. She was very active in the Trinity Washington University Gospel Choir as well as starting the first ever Trinity University Literary Society Book Club. In addition, Nailah was also a staff member of *The Record Literary Magazine* staff at Trinity Washington.

Nailah, became a graphic artist and a program assistant under various contracts with The Smithsonian Museum, Library of Congress and The Kennedy Center, Nailah was also a caregiver to individuals with special needs and enjoyed traveling, singing and writing poetry. Nailah truly was about faith, joy, kindness, forgiveness, love and healing through the arts.

We loved her but God loved her more and she was returned to His nurturing care so that she may be in everlasting peace. She was a true gift that was taken from us too soon.

Nailah Penic is survived by her mother Pier Penic, her brother Kai Penic and a host of extended family members and friends.



# ORDER *of* SERVICE

Prelude . . . . .	Instrumentalist
Invocation . . . . .	Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley
Hymn of Rejoicing: "We're Marching to Zion"	
Scripture Reading	
Old Testament: Psalm 23 . . . . .	Charles Bruce Wynn
New Testament: John 14: 1-6 . . . . .	Pastor Arlene Hudson
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18. . . . .	Rev. Ty Jones
Prayer of Comfort . . . . .	Deacon Carlton Willis
Musical Selection: "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" . . . . .	Jehan Bodden (Soloist)
Acknowledgements. . . . .	Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley
Tributes/Reflections . . . . .	(Retired) Colonel Darryl Dean, Malachi Byrd, Lanisa Kitchiner
Musical Selection	
Eulogy . . . . .	Rev. Dr. Dustin Sullivan
Closing Prayer and Benediction . . . . .	Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley
Recession: "When We All Get to Heaven"	





## SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE FAMILY

The family would like to give a special thanks to Charles Bruce Wynn, Jules Bodden, Gail Smith, Jehan Bodden, Nicole Shivers, Kristen Higgins and family, Carolyn Wallace, Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, Rev. Dr. Dustin Sullivan, Kesha Coaxum and family, Myra Tyler and family, Shenan Smith, Deacon Carlton Willis, Tee Jenkins and family, The family deeply appreciates all other acts of love, kindness, thoughtfulness, and words of sympathy expressed during our time of bereavement. *May God bless each of you in a special way.*

*May this be the day We come together. Mourning, we come to mend, Withered,  
we come to weather, Torn, we come to tend, Battered, we come to better.  
Tethered by this year of yearning, We are learning That though we weren't  
ready for this, We have been readied by it. We steadily vow that no matter  
How we are weighed down, We must always pave a way forward. \*This hope  
is our door, our portal. Even if we never get back to normal, Someday we  
can venture beyond it, To leave the known and take the first steps. So let us  
not return to what was normal, But reach toward what is next. \*What was  
cursed, we will cure. What was plagued, we will prove pure. Where we tend  
to argue, we will try to agree, Those fortunes we forswore, now the future we  
foresee, Where we weren't aware, we're now awake; Those moments we missed  
Are now these moments we make, The moments we meet, And our hearts,  
once altogether beaten, Now all together beat. \*Come, look up with kindness  
yet, For even solace can be sourced from sorrow. We remember, not just for the  
sake of yesterday, But to take on tomorrow. \*We heed this old spirit, In a new  
day's lyric, In our hearts, we hear it: For auld lang syne, my dear, For auld  
lang syne. Be bold, sang Time this year, Be bold, sang Time, For when you  
honor yesterday, Tomorrow ye will find. Know what we've fought Need not be  
forgot nor for none. It defines us, binds us as one, Come over, join this day just  
begun. For wherever we come together, We will forever overcome.*

## AMANDA GORMAN'S NEW POEM



### PALL BEARERS

Deacon Carlton Willis  
Shenan Smith  
Alex Smith  
Aaron Smith  
Deacon Darryl Howell  
Deacon Johnny President

### INTERMENT

Mount Comfort Cemetery  
6600 South Kings Highway  
Alexandria, VA

### SERVICE ENTRUSTED TO...

Reese Funeral Professionals  
311 N Patrick St,  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703-646-9320