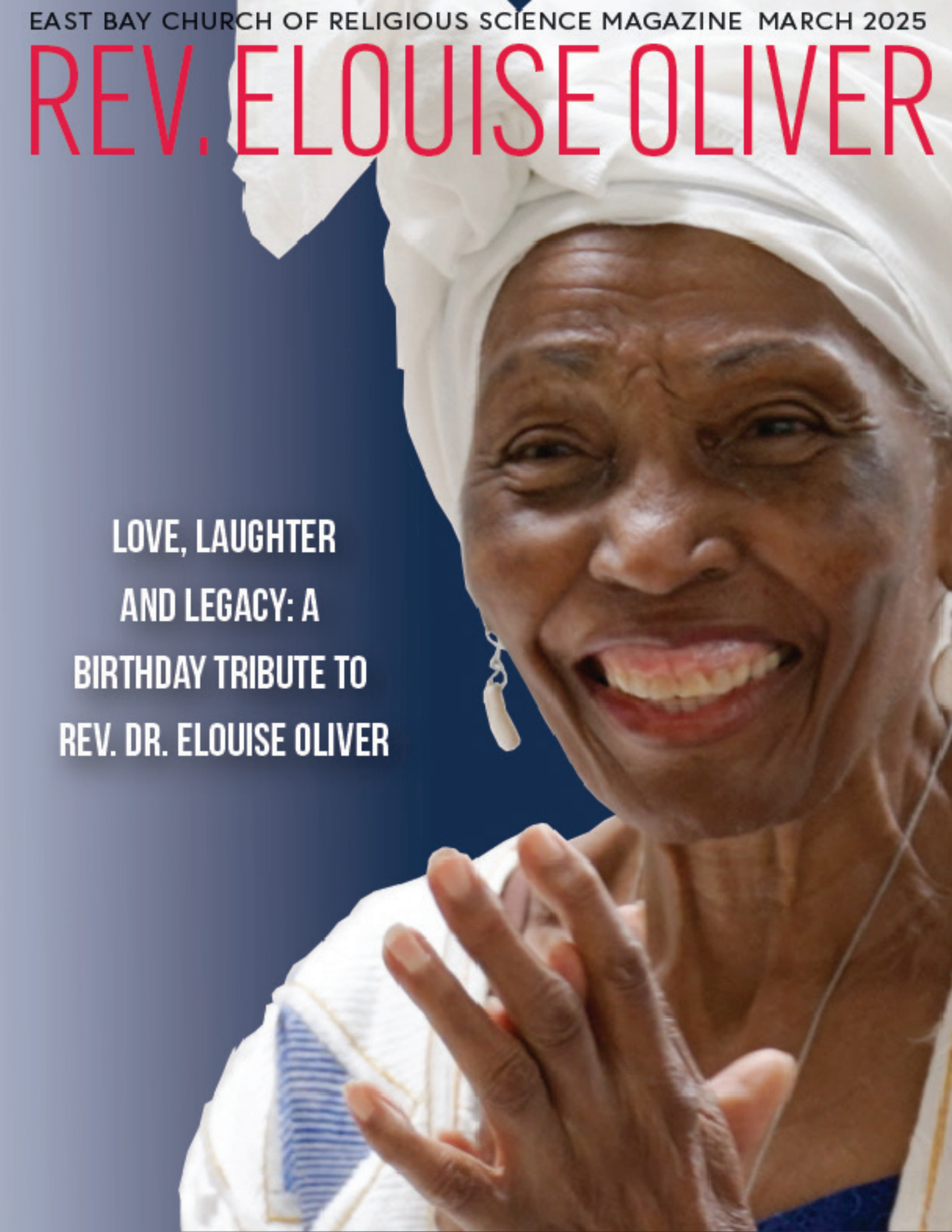
EAST BAY CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE MAGAZINE MARCH 2025

REV. ELOUISE OLIVER



LOVE, LAUGHTER AND LEGACY: A BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. ELOUISE OLIVER

EAST BAY CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE

ECCLESIASTIC LEADERSHIP TEAM

REV. DERECA BLACKMON
REV. ANTHONY JACKSON
REV. MICHELLE JORDAN
REV. ARLEEN KING

CHURCH OFFICE

4130 TELEGRAPH AVENUE
OAKLAND, CA 94609

OFFICE HOURS

CALL FIRST. PHONE: 510.420.1003
ADMINISTRATION@EBCRS.ORG
WWW.EBCRS.ORG

SUNDAY SERVICE

JOIN US VIA YOUTUBE OR
FACEBOOK LIVE
MEDITATION 10AM
SERVICE 10:30AM

DAILY MEDITATION

MONDAY - FRIDAY 12:30PM TO 1PM
JOIN US ON FACEBOOK LIVE

DAILY PRAYER CALL

MONDAY - FRIDAY AT 8AM
FACEBOOK LIVE

WEDNESDAYS

MIDWEEK POWER HOUR
MEDITATION 6:15PM
HEALING SERVICE: 6:30PM
ZOOM LINK

EBCRS PURPOSE STATEMENT

We, the East Bay Church of Religious Science, are dedicated to the spiritual transformation of the entire planet. We are committed to being a point of empowerment allowing Spirit to direct every thought, word, deed and action for personal transformation. Our purpose is to serve as a spiritual development center by making available the knowledge and practice of the Science of Mind to all people by fostering their spiritual, cultural and general well being, and to provide facilities for public worship, education and fellowship.

JOIN OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

March 30, 2025
Meditation:10am
Service: 10:30am
Speaker: Rev. Dereca Blackmon
Facebook Live@eastbaychurch
Youtube: Type East Bay Church into the search bar

LOVE IN ACTION NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

EDITORS

Arleen King, RScP, Jessica Harris

LAYOUT/DESIGN

Constance Rose

Contributors: Rev. Dereca Blackmon, Rev. Arleen King, Jessica Harris, Harriet Tubman Wright, Karen McClung, Joanne Johnson, Dr. Cynthia Chang, RScP, Karin E. Clark, Kimberly Satterfield, RScP, R. Kathleen Thompson, Esq.

Photo Credits: JJ Harris, Original artwork by Joanne Johnson. Perry Grone on Unsplash, Kristina Litvjak on Unsplash, Monika Grabkowska on Unspash, cover photograph by Freepik.

SUBMISSIONS

Our Next *Love in Action* will be April 1, 2025. Please submit photos, articles and poems for our April issue of *Love in Action*, *A Tribute to Rev. Elouise Oliver* by March 20th. Send submissions to LoveinAction@ebcrs.org. Thank You.

MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Guiding Light: Personal Stories of Transformation

A TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. ELOUISE OLIVER, EMERITA

Rev. Dr. Ahmondra McClendon

"Her teachings laid the foundation for my spiritual path."

Rev. Dr. Ahmondra McClendon

Rev. "E" was the doorway through which I stepped into the life I live today. Her wisdom, her light, and her unwavering dedication to truth shaped my journey in ways I never could have imagined. Thirty years ago, I walked into East Bay Church of Religious Science and heard Rev. Elouise speak on Substance Abuse. Expecting a message about drugs and alcohol–something deeply relevant to me as a woman in recovery – I was completely surprised when she spoke instead about how we abuse the Substance of the Universe, the very Gift of God. That profound truth resonated deep within my soul, and in that moment, I knew I had found my spiritual home. Rev. "E" is a connector, a bridge between worlds, always opening doors for others to walk through. Because of her, I met Brother Ishmael Tetteh of Ghana, and in 1999, I moved to Ghana to study with him for a year. Because of her, I encountered Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of the *Art of Living*, which led me to India for three weeks of study at his ashram. Her teachings laid the foundation for my spiritual path. So when the call to ministry came in 2012, I was ready – because Rev. E had prepared me to embrace my purpose with faith and conviction. Rev. Elouise, your light has illuminated my path and the paths of so many others. Thank you for showing me how to walk boldly in my truth and let my own spiritual light shine. With deep gratitude and love,

Rev. Dr. Ahmondra McClendon

Guiding Light: Personal Stories of Transformation

A TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. ELOUISE OLIVER, EMERITA

Joanne/ Karimu Saba

"You were telling me to stand in my POWER."

Joanne Saba

Zia Smith

Dear Rev. Elouise 16 years ago 2009: I'll always remember the time you challenged me to "Stop talking like a baby, we got work to do!" I actually thought you were talking about the babyish tone of my voice. I carried that thought, until… I later took some classes at East Bay and I it came to me through Spirit talking to me…that you were telling me to stand in my **Power** and recognize who I was in **God and God In Me!** Strong and Mighty with lots of **Love to Share!** I will never forget that Rev. E., I Love you soooo much for it! Thank you for challenging me to be this Strong and Mighty Joanne/Karimu Saba!

You bring such Joy and Love may it light the way! I am in the flow of essence and receiving the natural beauty of life's journey connected to the oneness of GOD. You helped me so much and inspired me to lead in my light and be humble and prosperous. May your many blessings shine with birthday bliss!! Thank you, Rev. E!

Ashe',

Zia Smith

Guiding Light: Personal Stories of Transformation

A TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. ELOUISE OLIVER, EMERITA

Harriet Johnson

I love and cherish Rev. Dr. Elouise Oliver.

Over my nearly 30-year East Bay Church membership, I've learned soooooo much from Rev. E and her life example. As a master teacher with deep faith, her wisdom has blessed me and has grown me. I'm grateful she embraces Black cultural reverence and blends Pentecostal praise with New Thought in such a joyous uplifting way.

Following are a few of my favorite Rev. E expressions:

- Some people you must love from a distance.
- Just keep on living.
- Ask me how I know.
- Everybody needs to have a song.
- Love is stronger than fear.
- Release what no longer serves you.
- With God all things are possible.
- Focus your thought on the things you want in your life not on things you don't want.

Also, beloved Rev. E has such great style, a wonderful sense of humor, and a marvelous singing voice. She knows how to have fun in the Spirit!

Rev. E inspires all to trust God, learn, grow, foster well-being, appreciate nature, share their talents & gifts, forgive, and live an abundant, joyous life.

Rev. E and Me (Harriet Johnson)

Guiding Light: Personal Stories of Transformation

A TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. ELOUISE OLIVER, EMERITA

Christine Schoefer, RScP

Happy Birthday, dear Reverend Elouise!

I am grateful to know you and to have learned from you.Your Spirit has touched my life in so many ways – I think of you when I hum a blessing, when I forgive myself or a loved one, when I meet a stranger with kindness and a situation with gratitude, when I pray. Prayer was not a part of my life before I came to East Bay!

Your teachings have expanded my understanding and my practice of love.

I wish for you peace and ease and a deep sense of satisfaction with your life. I think of you when I recite the *Bodhisattva Prayer For Humanity:*

May I be a guard for those who need protection,

A guide for those on the path,

A boat, a raft, a bridge for those who wish to cross the flood.

May I be a lamp in the darkness,

A resting place for the weary,

A healing medicine for all who are sick

A vase of plenty, a tree of miracles.

Love,

Christine Schoefer

Guiding Light: Personal Stories of Transformation

A TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. ELOUISE OLIVER, EMERITA

Happy Birthday my **Beautiful Queen!**

Your life is a testament to God's infinite love and grace. You are the most forgiving soul I have ever known, and your wisdom, kindness, and compassion continue to inspire me. Thank you for being a guiding light, reminding us all to trust, surrender, and walk in divine love. May this year bring you the same joy and peace you so freely give to others.

With love and gratitude,

Patricia Moore

Poetry and Praise: Sacred Word for Rev. E.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. ELOUISE OLIVER, EMERITA

Karen McClung

A POEM FOR REVEREND ELOUISE ON HER 94TH BIRTHDAY

Dear Reverend E,

You've said several times
when you're giving "The Word,"

In this game of life you are
now rounding third

And heading for home.
Yes, well that may be true.

(It will be for all of us, not
just for you.)

You may need some help
and you may use a cane,

Or have an off day or wake
up with a pain.

But I know for certain that
when it's your time,

You'll dance like a teenager
down that base line,

(While looking so fine in
your wrap and your gown;

As humble as ever, though
of great renown),

Slam into the catcher, burst
into the air,

And shower the world with
forgiveness and prayer.

And just like a skunk leaves
a scent in its path,

Your love sparks will cover
the earth like a bath;

And all of the fielders will
throw off their gloves

In amazement, cry: "We've
never seen so much love."

Happy 94th, Reverend E!
And many more.

With love--and gratitude for
all you are and all you built,

Karen McClung

Poetry and Praise: Sacred Word for Rev. E.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. ELOUISE OLIVER, EMERITA

Kimberly Satterfield, RGeP

Christmas Day Service 2010 — Three Days After My Mother's Passing

~in gratitude for Reverend Elouise Oliver

When she closes her eyes
my lids fall shut

and I enter that place
where Truth abides

the place from which
Alleluia springs

lullaby of the soul
that bathes the heart
in need of rest,

where joy rises up
even as tears at last release.

As ancient armor cracks
forgiveness and mercy fly
free like doves.

Now there is an empty space
where a single kindled flame
burns away shadows

and smoke is carried
away by grace.

That day I come to believe
my steps are ordered
by a loving, familiar God

and that even in the enormity of loss
I know that I'm okay.

Kimberly Satterfield, 2025

Poetry and Praise: Sacred Word for Rev. E.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. ELOUISE OLIVER, EMERITA

Karen McClung

A Poem for Reverend Elouise on Her 94th Birthday

Dear Reverend E,

You've said several times
when you're giving "The Word,"

In this game of life you are
now rounding third

And heading for home.
Yes, well that may be true.

(It will be for all of us, not
just for you.)

You may need some help
and you may use a cane,

Or have an off day or wake
up with a pain.

But I know for certain that
when it's your time,

You'll dance like a teenager
down that base line,

(While looking so fine in
your wrap and your gown;

As humble as ever, though
of great renown),

Slam into the catcher, burst
into the air,

And shower the world with
forgiveness and prayer.

And just like a skunk leaves
a scent in its path,

Your love sparks will cover
the earth like a bath;

And all of the fielders will
throw off their gloves

In amazement, cry: "We've
never seen so much love."

Happy 94th, Reverend E!
And many more.

With love--and gratitude for
all you are and all you built,

Karen McClung

Love Letters to Rev. E.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. ELOUISE OLIVER, EMERITA

Community Notes

To Rev. E. on Her 92nd Birthday

A mama, grandma, great grandmama

Traveled to far-away Ghana.

She danced like a teenager and played a drum,

Wearing beautiful fabrics and surely met some

Wonderful people and had some great food.

Who would believe that she's turned ninety-two!

She might have seen African animals, plants

Like lions or eagles or crocs, elephants,

A cobra, a baobab, or even a wawa;

Perhaps a puff adder, hyena, or mamba;

Or maybe a chimp or some other
cute monkey, antelope, leopard; I bet not a skunk!

Happy Birthday Reverend E!

You're 93? Some would say, "G;"
But I have never wondered Y;
I see your youth with my own I!

From you I take my sacred Q;
There's no one who's as wise as U.
So it's with gratitude that I
To all your teachings say, "I-I."

The greatest debt to you I O.
'Cause, like Dereca says, "Uh O":
Without you East Bay wouldn't B
And I would never know our Z.

So thanks for everything you R.

Remember you're forever R
Beloved Reverend and Queen B.
It's YOU I know and love and C!

April 1, 2024

To Reverend Elouise on Her Twenty-fourth Anniversary at EBCRS November 2015

To the lovely Reverend E
For your anniversary:
A little new accessory
From your friend and student, me!

There are some who'd think it odd
You'd want to be a skunk for God
(That stinky little quadrupod);
But folks would know where'er you trod,

The scent of love would fill the air;
And they would know that you'd been there,
Spreading healing, peace, and prayer
To everyone, no matter where

They're from or what they have or did;

Reminding us if we're to live
In freedom that we must forgive,
With every little skunky whiff.

So happy twenty-fourth, with gratitude and thanks for all things that
You've done and said, the seeds you plant.
These are to go with your skunk hat!

(Sent with a gift of skunk earrings)

Love Letters to Rev. E.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. ELOUISE OLIVER, EMERITA

Community Notes

To Reverend Elouise on Your Birthday, 2014

The happiest birthday to you, Reverend E!

And for your present I'm going to be

Loving and thoughtful and conscious and kind;

Read lots of books, keep expanding my mind;

Always be grateful; remember my tithing;

Work on my marriage (since sometimes I'm writhing);

Learn to speak Spanish; let go of my son;

Stay in the room 'til the service is done;

Be still and hear the small voice that's within;

Not look to the past, but be present, begin;

Eat healthy food, take dominion each day;

Choose to be happy; without ceasing, pray;

Forgive my co-worker (makes me an insane nag);

Remember each Sunday to put on my name tag;

Be everything that you've taught us to be.

WAIT.

This gift's not for you, happy birthday to ME!

For Reverend E: A Birthday Walk in the Rain (Berkeley Marina, April 2013), with Appreciation

Some wouldn't have started, some would have turned back,

But our trouper Reverend, who has never lacked

Courage, refused to be cowed or be daunted,

Told us the rain would not hinder; she wanted

To take the planned walk through the drizzle and fog,

Only signs of the abundance of God.

Sure enough as we took each sacred step,

We saw something wonderful,
something that left

Us alive, left us grateful to be there that morning

(Although by the end of the walk it was pouring):

A bush filled with glorious flowers of blue,

Dozens of blackbirds, which, as we passed, flew.

Sure enough as we took each sacred breath,

We walked – and some ran without even one rest,

Including our Reverend, a young eighty-two.

It was so inspiring, the hills and the view.

(Had we come in the nighttime
we could well have seen

The burrowing owls, but they were asleep.)

We love and appreciate you, Reverend E;

We thank God for you and your whole family.

(I think on the walk there were two lovely daughters;

They're wonderful, but I'm love with Muata.)

You said for your birthday you wanted to know

What you have done that has helped us to grow.

With side-splitting humor and always a story

Brought up from the seven-child home laboratory,

Your parents, your grandmother, husband, and brothers,

You've made lessons fun that could really be other-

Wise boring, confusing, too abstract to grasp;

You shown me the door and you've urged; but alas,

In the end it is we who must let ourselves in,

Change our own thinking, be not what we've been,

But loving, forgiving, and grateful and kind,

Not get ourselves trapped in the tricks of our mind.

But I have to say that a doorperson's never

Been so nicely outfitted, funny, and clever!

Love Letters to Rev. E.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. ELOUISE OLIVER, EMERITA

Community Notes

On the Transition of a Loved One

Even though we read the books and do the meditation,

Attend the workshops, classes, build ourselves a good Foundation;

Go to church on Sundays, learn the Treatments, affirmations,

Even become a Reverend, lead the church in Declarations;

Though we repeat, "Conditions have no power over me;"

When loved ones leave their bodies (and their spirits are set free),

Most often we feel desolate, empty, and at sea;

Forget the soul expands and lives for all eternity.

"The strength of God is mine to use," can help us cope some days;

On others we just have to cry, return to our old ways;

Forget we're not our earthly vessels only made of clay;

Ask for a different outcome, not the way we're taught to pray.

With time, the "continuity of life" breaks through our pain;

Though parent, child, partner, friend, we see we can attain

The understanding that will help us come to and sustain

The knowledge that within our hearts their spirit will remain.

We'd like to be there all at once, but wise ones know the fact is

The only way's with study and with practice, practice, practice,

Practice, practice, practice, practice, practice, practice, practice, practice

Practice, practice, practice, practice, practice, practice, practice, practice.*

June 2012

Berkeley Marina, April 1, 2011 (for Reverend Eouise)

We gathered near the trailhead at Cesar Chavez Park,
Where we had come with spirits high and walking shoes to mark
The birthday of our Rev,
so young– in body and in heart.

She went around our circle, sang (and touched each one in thanks)
An old and plaintiff song
until she paused, exclaimed pointblank:
A young perspective husband
might be among the ranks!

Kwame brought his camera, Michelle her joyous voice;
Georgia brought her cute grand-dog, whose feet got more than moist.

We walked the trail and sang and laughed and in the day rejoiced.
The sun was warm, the grass was green, the sky and Bay were blue.
We took an extra little loop, a place the Reverend knew;
And suddenly before our eyes, a stunning three-bridge view!

We saw so many blackbirds with red upon their wings,
A heron, purple flowers, ducks, and other wondrous things.
Such abundance, life, and beauty bless us in the spring!

How grateful are we, each and all, to live upon this earth,
Where all creatures, plants, and rocks can glory in their worth.
How grateful to the Reverend's "source" that there had been this birth!

For Reverend E on Some Birthday

Reading and book booster extraordinaire,

Elegant head-wrap and co-skunkhat wearer,

Healing the planet through love and through prayer,

My teacher, my hero, my age/gender darer!

Love Letters to Rev. E.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. ELOUISE OLIVER, EMERITA

Community Notes

For Reverend E. January 2017

Dear Reverend E, you often say
You're like a prickly pear
And sometimes speak your prickly mind
When you have words to bare.

But then you ask if we would please
Forgive you for offending
Us in any way; no harm,
For sure, were you intending.

But I think you're more like the bird
Than any prickly pear:
A lovely "coat," a pert headdress
(And words that show you care).

I miss you so on Sundays,
The ones without your thereness;
I wish you could succeed yourself;
Who cares about the pearness.

And though I'm late, I hope you will
Accept my New Year's greeting:
A joyous, healthy, peaceful year,
And many more succeeding.

And now I have one question;
I know how you love those.
(This would have been less convoluted, Spirit-only-knows.)
And I know, too, you love your books,
To look up words and share;
So, can you tell me why it is
"Year" doesn't rhyme with "pear?"

(sent in a card with a cactus and a little roadrunner on it)

happy birthday Queen!
Happy Birthday, my BEAUTIFUL QUEEN!
~ Joanne