

*Isaiah 40:28-31*

Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that  
the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the  
ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary?  
There is no searching of His understanding. He  
giveth power to the faint, and to them that have  
no might He increaseth strength. Even the youths  
shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall  
utterly fall; but they that wait upon the Lord shall  
renew their strength; they shall mount up with  
wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary,  
and they shall walk and not faint.

*Pallbearers*

Jayden Watkins                      Dwayne Watkins  
Eric Powell                              Quintin Still  
Keith Harrison                        Keyson Adams

*Honorary Pallbearers*

James Whatley                        Frank Lane  
Daryl Powell                            Iva Durand

Bishop Jerome Ross

*Flower Bearers*

Choir Members



*Acknowledgements*

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, prayers, and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement. Special thank you to Mercy Fairfield Oncology Office, Veranda Gardens Administration Team, the Medical Staff, Miss Mary and Dwayne & Sharon Watkins  
May God Bless and Keep You!  
- The family of :Ronald J. Watkins, Sr:



*Known for Excellence. Trusted for Value.*

*Celebrating the Life*  
*of*



*Min. Ronald "RJ" Watkins, Sr.*  
*"Tha Bishop"*

May 5, 1945 - January 23, 2026

*Saturday, February 14, 2026*

Visitation: 9:00 am - Funeral Service: 10:00 am

*Corinthian Baptist Church*

1920 Tennessee Avenue | Cincinnati, Ohio 45237

Pastor Quinton Kennedy, II, Officiating

# Obituary

Ronald James Watkins, Sr. was born to the late Lloyd Nolan Lewis and Janet Laverne Watkins on May 5, 1945, in East Lyme, Connecticut. He was the oldest of four children. On January 23rd, the Lord saw fit to call our dear brother from his labor to his reward.

Ronald, affectionally known as "RJ" or "Tha Bishop", accepted Christ at an early age. He accepted his call to preach the gospel and was licensed on the 4th Sunday in August 1967. In 1985, RJ was ordained at Revelation Baptist Church, Cincinnati, OH, under the leadership of Pastor Daniel T. Smith. He had a great passion for hymns and gospel music. As he grew older, he began singing and directing choirs for over 60 years in Hartford, Conn., Cleveland, OH, Dayton, OH, and Columbus, OH. While living in Columbus, he attended Triestone Baptist Church under the leadership of Bishop Emeritus Jerome Ross. In 1994 Ronald joined Corinthian Baptist Church where he continued his ministry of singing and directing choirs. RJ sang with JMCE, voe, and Inspirational Choir. Other ministries he was a part of at Corinthian were the Nursing Home Ministry, Welcome Team, Senior Care Committee, Drama Ministry, Facility Access, and Intercessory Prayer Ministry. "Tha Bishop" was very faithful until his health began to fail.

RJ attended The Ohio State University, where he received his bachelor's degree in social work. He retired from the IRS after 34 years as a Computer Technician.

Ronald's parents, Lloyd and Janet, and brother, Charles Watkins, preceded him in death. He leaves to cherish his memories- four children, Ronald Watkins, Jr., Jovanna Watkins, Jermaine Watkins, and Donavon Garrison, all of Columbus, OH; two siblings, sister, Janina Watkins and brother, Derryck Watkins, both of Connecticut; one aunt, Sandra Cooper of Connecticut; his god-son Quintin Still of Columbus, OH; 12 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind his adopted family of Cincinnati - Deborah (Daryl) Powell, Tiffani (Quinton) Kennedy, Eric (Tanya) Powell, James McCray, Pastor KZ (Connie) Smith, Elder Earl (Linda) Bray, Dwayne (Sharon) Watkins, Carolyn (William) Martin, Michelle (Steve) Cameron, Keyson Adams, the Dawson family, the McCray family, 8 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and special friends.



# Order of Service

Musical Prelude .....	Dr. James McCray
Parting View .....	The Family
Scripture .....	Min. Priscilla Thornton
Prayer .....	Pastor Vaughn Cook of Columbus, OH
Acknowledgements .....	Margaret Walker
Remarks .....	Representative from Veranda Gardens Bishop Stanley V. Wood Pastor Vaughn Cook Dr. James McCray Tiffani Kennedy "Doolollie" Deborah Powell
Obituary .....	Read Silently
Musical Tribute .....	JMCE/CBC/Celebration Choir
Eulogy .....	Pastor KZ Smith
Benediction .....	Pastor KZ Smith
Recessional .....	Clergy, Pall Bearers, Family

## Interment

Walnut Hills Cemetery  
3117 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45206