

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

One night, I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes for my life flashed across the sky. In each scene, I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there were only one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow, or defeat. I could see only one set of footprints. So, I said to the Lord. "You promised me, Lord, that if I followed you, you would always walk with me." But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life, there have only been one set of footprints in the sand. "Why, when I needed you most, you have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied. "The times when you have seen only one set of footprints in the sand is when I carried you."

GRACE

Written by Carl Parks (10/11/24)

My life is filled with stereotypes and unmade tales of what I should be, for you..... But I forgive you: grace, where has life taken me or I ask that of you- when do we show our love for one another and have GRACE. I placed myself in a position of gratitude, of simplicity- of non- negative cultural feels and smells; to dwell with grace. So, who Am I- a monster created by the cosmos or the giver of life, health and love and grace. Who am I Grace.

Acknowledgements

Thank you all for your prayers and support during our time of loss. It has meant so much to Carl's family and friends. Your comforting expressions of sympathy, condolences, memories, laughter, and love will always be remembered with never-ending gratitude.



A Celebration of Life

Carl Xavier Parks

May 16, 1969

December 28, 2025



SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

MEMORIAL SERVICE 11:00 AM

Davis Funeral Home

654 Cummins Hwy. Mattapan, Massachusetts

Reverend Carl Thompson, Officiating

Life and Legacy

Carl was born on May 16, 1969, in Boston, Massachusetts to the late Daisy Parks. Carl leaves behind his Aunt, Nellie Parks, Cousin, Robert Parks, Sister Cheri Epps-Birth name-Sharon Yvette Parks, Brother in-law, Tony Mahatha, Nephews, Jalen Epps, Javon Epps, Sister in-law, Annie Brutus-Epps, Great niece, Jasmine Epps and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, extended family members and close friends. Carl shared a deep and loving partnership with his longtime companion Maria Arroyo and was embraced as a beloved member of her family.

Childhood and Education - Carl grew up in Boston, Massachusetts and lived on Seaver street the majority of his life. He attended High school in the Boston area. He received higher education attending: Newbury College, Roxbury Community College, and was an Alumni of Suffolk University.

Career and Service - Carl was employed at Children's Hospital, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Suffolk University and Boston University. Carl devoted his professional life to education, who understood that it was not just about lessons, but about shaping lives. He enjoyed being of service to others in the Boston community.

Character and Hobbies - Carl found joy in life through his many passions and creative pursuits. He enjoyed bike riding, immersing himself in music, and expressing his creativity by creating mixtapes, CD's and writing poetry. A talented musician, he performed with the Onkee Jazz Band and played the bongos. Carl also enjoyed building computers, a customized bike, and exploring technology. He was a writer and he captured his poetry and most of his life experiences through journaling. Carl volunteered at a church giving his time and compassion to support people in need. He was known for his kindness, his great sense of humor, and his ability to make others feel at ease. Above all he cherished family, spending time with friends, sharing laughter, and leaving lasting memories with all who knew him.

Order of Service

MUSICAL SELECTION
Amazing Grace

Rasheed Meadows (Saxophone)
Greg Silva (Bass)
members of the
On Kee Jazz Band

INVOCATION

Rev. Carl Thompson

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Carl Thompson

SCRIPTURE READING

PRAYER OF COMFORT

Rev. Carl Thompson

MUSICAL SELECTION
Gone too Soon

Lori Dow (Vocalist)
member of the
On Kee Jazz Band

OBITUARY READING

Lenny Mcleaur

REFLECTIONS

Family and Friends
5 minutes please

POEM READING

Cheri Epps

MY STANCE IN LIFE: BY CARL PARKS (written 9/28/24)

A little wider, I expound my stance to ensure that in life it has meaning. The throws of the encumbered, bogged down by the noise in my life- I still find my stance. no performance of masculine aromas creates my stance in life. but yields the gentleman like behavior-learned from strong mothers of an era. I relish in the sense of dancing tall and with conviction to oppose that which suffocate humanity- we are who we are with wide prolific abandon. I announce my stance in life.- in hopes that you choose one too. Creating a single step in silence only to be heard by ear that can detect- like a creek and a floorboard: let your stance in life define what's wrong in the hopes of doing what's right my stance in life.

MUSICAL SELECTION
I Fly Away

Lori Dow

EULOGY

Rev. Carl Thompson

COMMITTAL & BENEDICTION

Rev. Carl Thompson