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THOUSANDS ATTEND MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MANLEY IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 11 (JAMPRESS):

More than 5,000 people gathered in the St. John the Divine Cathedral in upper Harlem, New York, on April 9 to pay tribute to the life of former Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Michael Manley, at a candle light ecumenical service.

Tributes were paid to Mr. Manley in song, dance, drums, poetry and the spoken word, as the impact of his life on Jamaica, as well as the international community, was recalled.

Heading the congregation were his widow, Glynne Manley and other family members and Senator Arnold Bertram, Minister for Special Programmes in the Office of the Prime Minister, who represented Prime Minister Patterson. Wellwishers came from many US cities, including Boston, Connecticut and Chicago.

Also in attendance were members of the diplomatic and consular corps, the United Nations Secretariat, elected officials and a cross-section of the clergy in New York City.

The service got underway with members of the Ancient Vibrations group rendering their musical selection. They were followed by piano jazz great, Monty Alexander who performed "The River", one of Mr. Manley's favourites. He then accompanied Della Manley, Mr. Manley's daughter-in-law, on "City Lights", a song she wrote in honour of the late, former Prime Minister.

Other musical tributes were rendered by Soprano, Beverley Dexter and a piano solo by Mr. Alexander. The Garth Fagan Dance Company paid their tribute through dance, while 12-year old Denise Webster used poetry to speak of Mr. Manley's contribution to educating Jamaica's youth.

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Mrs. Manley read the first lesson, while the first Mayor of Kingston and former Member of Parliament, Iris King, read the second lesson. President of the Jamaica National Movement, Horace Thomas, read the third lesson.

Senator Bertram gave the remembrance, while tributes came from Jamaica's Consul-General to New York, Kay Baxter-Collins; South Africa's Ambassador to the United States, Franklin Sonn; former Jamaican Ambassador to the United States, Keith Johnson; Jamaica's Mission to the United Nations; The Group of 77; the Non-Aligned Movement, and Mr. Gil Noble, a close friend of Mr. Manley, and producer and host of WABC-TV's "Like It Is".

Choral offerings were rendered by the Combined Choir under the direction of Lloyd Chung, assisted by Jeffery Fairweather. The Rt. Rev. E. Don Taylor, Assistant Bishop of New York and Vicar Bishop of New York City, conducted the service.

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National Library of Jamaica

Other music by Gordon, Beverly, Dexter and a piano solo by Mr. Alexander. The Garth Fagan Dance Company paid their tribute through dance, while 15-year old Denise Webster used poetry to speak of Mr. Manley's contribution to educating Jamaica's youth.