

# SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

(Built by Slaves – 1799) Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136





Sunday, December 28, 2025 First Sunday after Christmas Day

9:30 a.m.

Welcome: God... has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son (Heb. 1:1-2). Welcome to one and all – whether you are here in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad – on this First Sunday after Christmas Day. May we receive the message of love today. Welcome.

Pastor: Rt. Rev. Ezra L. Parris (Manse: 246-546-0344)

Associate Pastor: Rev. David Ince

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WATCHWORD: I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us.

(Isaiah 63: 7)

**Provincial Theme 2025:** 

"SHIFT: Reclaiming Our Identity, Renewing Our Purpose, and Re-Igniting Our Passion"



# **ORDER OF SERVICE**

Prelude

Introit - Choir

**Call to Worship: (Psalm 126:1 – 3)** 

L: When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream.

C: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing.

L: Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

C: The Lord has done great things for us, And we are glad.

Opening Hymn 54 – "Come thou universal blessing"

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 148

**Worship in Tithes & Offerings** 

Offertory Sentence: "Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the

Lord in the beauty of holiness." - Psalm 29:2

Offertory Hymn: 24 - "Give To Our God Immortal Praise"

**Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings** 

Offertory Doxology: "Thanks, Thanks, I Give You Thanks"

**Greetings, Celebrations & Notices** 

**Adoration in Song** 

\* "Goodness of God"

**†** "God You're So Good"

#### MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 63:7 – 9

**Second Scripture Reading:** Matthew 2:13 – 23

Choir Anthem - "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"

Message – Rev. David Ince

**Prayer of Commitment & Intercession** 

Hymn of Proclamation: 71 – "Jesus Come Today"

**Benediction** 





Visit our Website at <a href="http://sharonmoravian.info">http://sharonmoravian.info</a>; Visit our Facebook Page and subscribe to our YouTube Channel. These are means by which we can connect to our brothers and sisters, and get the word out on what's happening in the church. Like us; Follow us; Re-post us.



#### **Prelude**

#### Introit - Choir

Call to Worship: (Psalm 126:1-3)

- L: When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream.
- C: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing.
- L: Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."
- C: The Lord has done great things for us, And we are glad.



### Opening Hymn: 54 –

Come, thou universal blessing,
Thou, the woman's promised seed;
Perfect peace and joy unceasing
Through the ransomed nations spread.
Selfish pride and brutal passion
Far from every heart remove,
Visit us with thy salvation,
Bless us with thy heavenly love.

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring;
By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.



# **Responsive Reading:** Psalm 148

- 1. Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights.
- **2.** Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.
- **3.** Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.
- **4.** Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.
- **5.** Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.
- **6.** He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass.
- 7. Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps:
- **8.** Fire, and hail; snow, and vapours; stormy wind fulfilling his word:
- 9. Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars:
- 10. Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl:
- 11. Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth:
- 12. Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children:
- **13.** Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.
- **14.** He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the LORD.



### **Worship in Tithes & Offerings**

Offertory Sentence: "Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." – Psalm 29:2

# Offertory Hymn: 24 –

Give to our God immortal praise; Mercy and truth are all his ways: Wonders of grace to God belong, Repeat his mercies in your song. Give to the Lord of lords renown,
The King of kings with glory crown:
His mercies ever shall endure,
When lords and kings are known no more.

He built the earth, he spread the sky, And fixed the starry lights on high: Wonders of grace to God belong, Repeat his mercies in your song.

He fills the sun with morning light,
He bids the moon direct the night:
His mercies ever shall endure,
When sun and moon shall shine no more.

He sent his Son with power to save From guilt, from darkness, and the grave: Wonders of grace to God belong, Repeat his mercies in your song.

Through this vain world he guides our feet,
And leads us to his heavenly seat:
His mercies ever shall endure,
When this vain world shall be no more.



**Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings** 



**Offertory Doxology:** 

### Thanks, thanks, I give you thanks

Thanks, thanks, I give you thanks
For all you've done
I am so blessed, my soul is at rest
O Lord, I give you thanks.



**Greetings, Celebrations & Announcements** 



#### **Adoration in Song:**

# "Goodness of God"

I love You Lord
For Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest nights
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

#### **Bridge**

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me Your goodness is running after, it's running after me With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything Your goodness is running after, it's running after me



God, You're So Good

Amazing love
That welcomes me
The kindness of mercy
That bought with blood, wholeheartedly
My soul undeserving

God, You're so good God, You're so good God, You're so good You're so good to me

Behold the cross
Age to age
And hour by hour
The dead are raised, this sinner saved
The work of Your power

I am blessed, I am called I am healed, I am whole I am saved in Jesus' name Highly favored, anointed Filled with Your power For the glory of Jesus' name

And should this life
Bring suffering
Lord, I will remember
What Calvary has bought for me
Both now and forever



# Ministry of the Word:

# First Scripture Reading – Isaiah 63:7 – 9

- 7. I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses.
- **8.** For he said, Surely they are my people, children that will not lie: so he was their Saviour.
- 9. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.



# Second Scripture Reading – Matthew 2:13 – 23

- 13. And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.
- **14.** When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:
- **15.** And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.
- 16. Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying,
- **18.** In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.
- **19.** But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,
- **20.** Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.
- **21.** And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.
- **22.** But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:
- **23.** And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.



Choir Anthem – "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"



### Message - Rev. David Ince



# **Prayer of Commitment and Intercession**



#### **Hymn of Proclamation: 71 –**

Jesus come today, for a poor, poor man like me, Salvation come my way, my soul set free. Jesus come for all, and we must hear His call; Open up your heart today, and let it be.

Nuh matter if you t'ief, or if you dread,
Or if yuh have a crown pun yuh head.
Nuh matter if you have no heart at all,
Jesus bring love for one and all.
Sing it children.
I for Jesus, you for Jesus,
All for Jesus, fall for Jesus,
Come to Jesus.
Jesus come for one, he come for all.

Jesus come for I, see manger where He lie.

See cross where He must die, for a wretch like me.

For God so loved the world,

Man, woman, boy and girl;

He gave His Son for you, His Son for me.

Jesus Christ today, the same as yesterday; The one, the only way, the King for me. Let it come to pass, mankind find love at last; Just as it was time past, so let it be.



The Benediction



**Organ Postlude** 



### Greetings, Celebrations & Announcements ...

God...has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son (Heb. 1:1 – 2). Welcome to one and all – whether you are here in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad – on this First Sunday after Christmas Day. May we receive the message of love today. Welcome.



<u>Today:</u> Curtis Drakes, Joan Lewis & Chanel Rock-Waithe <u>Advanced:</u> Steven King & Edwin Sandiford (29<sup>th</sup>), Wendy Cadogan-Hoyte & Kerry Headley (31<sup>st</sup>)



# **MORAVIAN BIRTHDAY SONG**

With Thy presence, Lord, our Head and Saviour,
Bless them all we humbly pray;
Our dear heavenly Father's love and favour
Be their comfort every day.
May the Holy Ghost in each proceeding,
Favour them with his most gracious leading;
Thus shall they be truly blessed,
Both in labour and in rest.



#### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT**

† Today: Divine Worship at 9:30 a.m.

**♦ Adventures in Worship (All ages) – 9:45 a.m. in the D.C. Moore Centre** 

#### THIS WEEK

→ Office Hours – Tuesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. (D. C. Moore Centre).

**†** Tuesday: Women's Fellowship − First & Third Tuesdays: In

Sanctuary at 3:30 p.m. All other Tuesdays: Online via Zoom

at 6:00 p.m.

**♥** Wednesday: Watch-Night Service – 10:30 p.m.

† Thursday: PUBLIC HOLIDAY – NEW YEAR'S DAY

† Friday: Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.

**♦ Next Sunday: Divine Worship & Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.** 

**♣** Adventures in Worship (All ages) – 10:00 a.m. in the D.C. Moore Centre



#### **Activities in the Month of December 2025:**

**♥** Watch-Night Service – Wednesday, 31st, 10:30 p.m.



### **NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS**

- 1. We express thanks to all who supported Missionary Festival 2025. So far, we have raised \$16,119.40 which exceeds our target of \$13,000. However, we do not stop our ingathering until the end of our financial year and we will receive contributions until then. You can make contributions in envelopes marked "Missions" or by direct deposit to our bank account. Funds raised will go towards local missions, and to missionary endeavours across the region and the world through the various mission organisations of the Moravian Church.
- 2. From the Superintendent re the Provincial Pension Plan:
  - 2.1. The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province has launched an appeal to heal the pension plan for Ministers of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province.
  - 2.2. At the 34th Provincial Synod recently held in Trinidad in July 2025, delegates received an update on the serious condition of the Pension Plan. The PEC informed that "some pastors, having given over forty years of service, now face uncertainty about receiving a pension. Additionally, three of our pastors currently receive less than 50% of the pension due to them. Another six pastors have reached retirement age and are awaiting a response from the insurance company. This predicament leaves them not knowing if they will have any income for retirement. As a Church, we agree that all our ministers should retire with dignity and have the means to live in today's economy."
  - 2.3. By way of this appeal, we hope to bring relief to those currently receiving less than their due pension and to reduce the deficit of the Provincial Pension Plan.
  - 2.4. For this year, 2025, we are appealing to you make a contribution of \$100 on November 30, 2025. (Thanks to all who responded to the Provincial Pension appeal; some \$2,600 were received at Sharon).
  - 2.5. The appeal will continue in 2026 and will be maintained over a seven-year period, the proposal being a monthly \$10 donation or \$120 annually.
  - 2.6. Thank you for your assistance and your ongoing focused prayer regarding this matter.

#### 3. From the Provincial Board:

- 3.1. The Provincial family extends heartfelt condolences to Rev. Algernon Lewis, Rev. Dr. Nevin Lewis, and the entire Lewis family on the passing of their beloved father and grandfather, Bro. Rufus Lewis, who died in Antigua at the age of 98 years. Bro. Rufus was a faithful member of the Cana Moravian Church. The funeral service will be held on Friday, January 9th, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., at the Cana Moravian Church, Swetes Village, Antigua with the burial in the church cemetery.
- 3.2. The provincial family is further advised of the funeral arrangements for Sis. Genevieve Smith, mother of Rev. Denise Smith-Lewis, Rev. Dr. Ulston Patmore Smith and the mother-in-law of Rev. Algernon Lewis who died on December 11, 2025, at the age of 91 years. The funeral service will take place, at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church on Wednesday, January 7th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Burial will follow at Floretta Gardens in Potters. "Teacher Gen" as she was affectionately called was a faithful member of the Potters Moravian Church.
  - 3.2.1. We ask that you kindly keep Rev. Algernon Lewis, Rev. Denise Smith-Lewis, Rev. Dr. Ulston Patmore Smith, Rev. Dr. Nevin Lewis, and the entire Lewis and Smith families in your prayers as they walk through this season of grief and loss.
- 3.3. Rev. Erwin Warner who currently serves as the Superintendent of the St. Kitts Conference, Pastor of the Bethesda Moravian Church, and Minister of Christian Education for the St. Kitts Conference, has accepted an amended call to serve as Pastor of the Ebenezer Moravian Church in the St. Kitts Conference along with his current call. This call takes effect from February 1, 2025. Please pray for Bro. Warner and family and the St. Kitts Conference, particularly, the Bethesda and Ebenezer congregations, as they make this transition.

#### 3.4. Hurricane Melissa:

- 3.4.1. The images of the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica and across several of our Caribbean neighbours are truly heartbreaking. Our support for the Jamaica Province is already underway. Rev. Neilson Waithe is currently in Jamaica providing counselling and logistical assistance.
- 3.4.2. The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province is actively exploring additional ways to assist our sisters and brothers during this difficult time. Their needs will be many as they begin the long process of rebuilding their lives. While we await a detailed

- assessment of the specific items required, we can already offer meaningful help through financial gifts.
- 3.4.3. As you are able and as the Holy Spirit leads, you may contribute through your congregation or Conference. All funds received will be forwarded directly to the Jamaica Province to aid in the recovery effort. Monetary gifts of any size are deeply appreciated. Your generosity will serve as a tangible reminder to our Moravian siblings that they are not alone we stand with them.
- 3.4.4. Let us continue to lift our brothers and sisters in prayer as they navigate this season of loss and rebuilding.
- 3.5. The Provincial Board invites the prayers of the Province for the Grenada Mission. As they continue to minister faithfully in Mount Tranquil, Grenada, they are without the immediate presence of a Pastor. For the next two Sundays, Bro. Daniel Mark will be there to provide pastoral leadership and presence. Sis. Adelyn Mgonela from the St. Kitts Conference will do the same for the following Sunday. There will be a similar arrangement next month providing pastoral leadership and presence. As you pray, please also listen for God's call on how you may support the Grenada Mission with your presence or your resources.
- 4. From the Moravian Church Barbados Conference 260th Anniversary Committee:





#### 5. Our Board of Elders has been assigned to Districts as follows:

No.	DISTRICT	ELDERS
1	Edgehill Rd., Near Sharon, Upper Jackson.	Sis. Ismay Straker
2	Cane Garden, Cane Garden Park, Cane Garden New Development, Cane Garden Crescent, Cane Garden Heights.	Bro. Anthony Ifill
3	Lower Jackson, 1st Avenue Jackson, Browne's Gap, Arthur Seat (W – West of Quarry Rd. to Warrens).	Bro. Edwin Sandiford
4	Canewood Rd., Lears Corner, St. George, St. Joseph, St. John, Christ Church, Brittons Hill.	Bro. Victor Hurdle
5	Bridgefield, Whitehall – St. T, Hopewell, Bloomsbury.	Sis. Merville Franklyn
6	Jackson Terrace, Jackson Tenantry, Arsenal Playing Field Rd.	Sis. Carmel Downes
7	Arthur Seat (East – Quarry Rd to Melrose Cnr.)	Sis. Ingrid Ibrahim
8	Melrose, Arthur Seat (Central), Welches, Padmore Village.	Sis. Denise Grant
9	Edgehill Terrace, Edgehill Heights, Shop Hill, Content, Spring Farm, Farm Path, White Hill Terrace, Hillaby.	Sis. Lelia Gibbs
10	Eden Lodge, Under Lodge Hill, White Hall – St. M, Cave Hill, Grazettes, Codrington Hill, Spooners Hill, Green Hill.	Bro. Steven King
11	Friendship Terrace, Lodge Hill, Rock Dundo Park, Farm Rd., Clermont, Lodge Terrace, Mahaica Gap.	Sis. Veronica Leacock

1	12	Black Rock, Fitts Village, West Terrace, Oxnards, Wanstead Heights & Gardens, Husbands, Hinds Hill, Thorpes, Holders Hill, Hoytes Village, Prior Park.	Sis. Cora Cumberbatch
1	13	Warrens, Welches – North, Redman's Village, Bagatelle, Baywoods, Bakers Woods, Mt. Brevitor.	Sis. Hazel Carter

- 6. We have closed our year of celebrating 225 years since the laying of the cornerstone here at Sharon. One planned event remains outstanding, that is the Planting of a Time Capsule, which will be completed when all the items have been gathered.
  - 6.1. We are still open to contributions under our "225 for 225" drive, in which we ask persons to donate \$225 or multiples of \$225 towards the continuing work of the church. You don't have to give it all at once, you can fill the envelope over time and bring it in at your convenience. We look forward to your participation in our "225 for 225" drive. Envelopes are available for collection. For those who would give electronically can do so by direct deposit to our account at Scotiabank, Warrens 40274. You can also give via SurePay at a walk-in kiosk or using your online account. Pay to: Biller The Moravian Church, Account No 1765-1768-0000, Name Sharon Moravian Church. A specimen of the envelope is displayed below.



- 7. We have resumed the "Basket of Hope" ministry. Each Sunday you are invited to make contributions of non-perishable food items, which will be distributed to those in need. Contributions can be made during the offertory hymn. We are appealing for volunteers to provide the needed management and helpinghands for this ministry. Please let the Pastors know of your interest.
- 8. We are thankful for your financial support.
  - 8.1. We do need your ongoing support so that we can maintain our ministry, our facilities and paying property insurance. So we ask for your continued faithfulness in giving as you are able.

- 8.2. You are reminded that labelled envelopes can be dropped into the slot in the front door of the Manse.
- 8.3. Generally, those who would give electronically can do so by direct deposit to our account at Scotiabank, Warrens 40274. You can also give via SurePay at a walk-in kiosk or using your online account. At SurePay you can make payments anonymously to the Moravian Church (Account No: 1765-1768-0000, Name: Sharon Moravian Church), or if you need your donations recorded for tax purposes and you have a box of envelopes; make payments to the Moravian Church (Account No: 1765-1768-0-[your 3-digit envelope number], Name: Your Name). Visit www.sharonmoravian.info/giving-monetary for these details.
- 9. Remember to listen to the Moravian Radio Programme: "Moravian Voice" on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on Life 97.5 FM.
  - 9.1. Our radio broadcast ministry Moravian Voice has been on the air for some 32 years, since Wednesday, July 18, 1990. We rejoice that we have been able to offer this ministry and we are thankful to all our listenership and all who hosted and provided content over the years. We are thankful to our congregations which faithfully sponsored the programme.
  - 9.2. We invite you to tune in for inspiration and information to enable you in your Christian walk and service.
  - 9.3. Moravian Voice will also be available on Instagram (www.instagram.com/moravianvoice/) and the YouTube Channel of the Moravian Church Barbados Conference (https://youtube.com/c/TheMoravianChurch-BarbadosConference).
  - 9.4. You can email your comments and requests to: <a href="mailto:moravianvoice@gmail.com">moravianvoice@gmail.com</a>



#### **PRAYER NEEDS:**

- 1. Our Shut-ins:
  - a. Sharon: Sis. Aileen Bowen, Sis. Vernice Alberta Osbourne, Sis. Cynthia Walrond, Sis. Fraulene Headley.
- 2. The Sick/Recovering: Sis. Shanna King (USA), Sis. Brenda Herbert, Bro. Stephen Greaves
- 3. The Bereaved: We extend condolences to and pray for Bro. Ricardo Gibbs and family, the Gibbs, Brewster and Clarke families on the passing of Sis. Lelia Gibbs, wife of Bro. Ricardo. A Service of Thanksgiving for her life has been tentatively set for January 15, 2026, here at Sharon.
- 4. World Peace



### **AVAILABLE (Through the Church Office):**

- **♣** Sharon Burgundy Shirts: Polos \$30 / T-Shirts \$15
- **♣** Copies of Sunday sermons on CD \$2.00.
- **†** Books:
- m Rev. Neilson Waithe: <u>Understanding the Caribbean Worker</u> \$25; Provocation \$20.
- Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts: <u>Created in Their Image</u>: <u>Evangelical Protestantism in Antigua and Barbados 1834-1914</u> \$50.
- m Rev. Dr. Joseph Nicholas: <u>Baptism Is a Gift of God: As Such It Is More Than</u> Water \$35.
- **†** Greeting Cards (\$2.00) and Prints (\$20.00) of a painting of Sharon Church.



#### **Provincial Theme 2025:**

"SHIFT: Reclaiming Our Identity, Renewing Our Purpose, and Re-Igniting Our Passion"

The focus for 2025 will be: Re-igniting our passion; for souls, service, and sustainability.

"Broadly speaking, renewing identity speaks of who we are as Christ-followers; renewing our purpose speaks to why the church exists; re-igniting our passion speaks to our willingness to share our faith with others. — Chairman of PEC





FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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