

SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

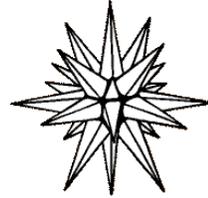
(Built by Slaves – 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

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Sunday, November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m.

Welcome: Welcome on this First Sunday of Advent. In this season we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ as the light of the world. Today we also celebrate 55 years of national independence as we make the transition to a republic. So, as we worship, together in this sanctuary and with those who join by way of our livestream on YouTube and FaceBook, we pray for the light of Christ to be seen in us and in our nation. Welcome to all.

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

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Movelle Kellman



WATCHWORD: Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

(Luke 21:33)

**Provincial Theme 2021: "Advance the Kingdom:
S.H.I.F.T."**

ORDER OF SERVICE



Organ Prelude

Introit

Invitation to Worship

Litany – The First Sunday of Advent (p. 84 – CMP Liturgy Book)

Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Adoration in Songs & Choruses

Prayer of Dedication of Offerings

Scripture Reading: Luke 21:25-36

Hymn 722 – “I Vow To Thee My Country”

Sermon: Rev. Ezra Parris

Selection by the Choir – “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Prayer of Commitment & Prayer for the Nation of Barbados

The National Anthem of Barbados

Benediction

Recessional Hymn: 719 – “Mine Eyes have Seen the Glory”

Organ Postlude



Visit our Website at <http://sharonmoravian.info>; 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.



Luke 21:36

New English Translation

But stay alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that must happen, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

All standing

Sing, O heaven, and be joyful, O earth, for the majesty and splendour of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together just as God has said.

Rejoice greatly! Celebrate, Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and victorious.

Tune: CRUGER - # 381

(All) Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

(Choir) *He comes with succour speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong,
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in his sight.*

(All) O'er every foe victorious,
He on his throne shall rest;
From age to age more glorious,
All-blessing and all-blest;
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove:
His name shall stand for ever,
That name to us is love.

The congregation sits

Let us pray

O God, you promised that your majesty and splendour should be revealed and that all flesh should see it together; stir up our hearts we implore you, to prepare the way of your one and only Son, and pour out upon us your loving kindness, that we who are afflicted because of our sins may be made whole by the coming of our Saviour. Help us to rejoice in his advent as we see his glory and receive his blessing, who lives and reigns as one, world without end.

Amen.

Praise to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and set his people free.

He has sent us a mighty Saviour from the royal line of David his servant; just as he promised through his holy prophets of long ago:

To show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham.

To rescue us from the hand of our enemies, so we can serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him as long as we live.

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him;

To give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,

Through the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will break in upon us.

To shine on those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, then show us the way, one step at a time, down the path of peace.

Tune: ELLACOMBE - # 261

**O how shall I receive thee,
How greet you, Lord aright?
All nations long to see thee,
My hope, my heart's delight.
O kindle, Lord, most holy,
Thy lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please thee best.**

**Thy Zion palms is strewing
And branches fresh and fair;
My heart, its powers renewing,
An anthem shall prepare.
My soul puts off her sadness,
Thy glories to proclaim;
With all her strength and gladness,
She fain would serve thy name.**

All standing

A voice of one calling in the wilderness: “Prepare for God's arrival! Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God.

“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; mercy and truth go before you.

Blessed are those who have learned to praise you, who walk in the light of your presence, LORD.

He won't brush aside the bruised and the hurt and he won't disregard the small and insignificant, but he'll steadily and firmly set things right. Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come to save you.

Like a shepherd, he will care for his flock, gathering the lambs in his arms, hugging them as he carries them.

The HOSANNA ANTHEM (Matt. 21.9)

- B. HOSANNA, blessed is he that | comes!
G. | Hosanna,
blessed is he that | comes!
B. | Hosanna,
G. Hosanna,—
B. Hosanna,—
G. Hosanna,—
B. Blessed is he that | comes!
G. | Blessed is he | that comes!
B | he that
comes in the Name | of the Lord!
G. | He that comes in the Name of the Lord!
B. Hosanna, blessed is he that comes!
G. Hosanna, blessed is he that comes!
B. Hosan- | na,
G. | Hosan- na,
B | Hosan- na,
G | Hosan- na,
B | Hosan- na,
G | Hosanna in the
high-|—————| est.
B. | In the high-| est.

B. Hosanna,—
G. Hosanna,—
B. Hosanna,—
G. Hosanna in the highest, |
Hosanna in the highest.
B. Hosanna in the highest.

1765. Arranged by C. Gregor

Praise the Lord for he is good, and his mercy endures for ever.

God's mercy endures for ever.

Grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who called us to his eternal glory in Christ; restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

To him be the splendour and power for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Tune: REGENT'S SQUARE - # 113

(All) Praise to you, O Lord we render,
For your love in Jesus shown;
May that love, so strong and tender,
Bind us fast to him alone,
(Choir) *Now and ever,*
(All) Now and ever,
Gather us among your own.



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices



Adoration in Songs & Choruses



Prayer of Dedication of Offerings



Ministry of the Word

Scripture Reading: Luke 21:25 – 36

25. And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;
26. Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.
27. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
28. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.
29. And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;
30. When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.
31. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.
32. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.
33. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.
34. And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.
35. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.
36. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.



Hymn 722 –

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness, and all her paths are peace.



Sermon – – Rev. Ezra Parris



Choir Selection – “Lift Every Voice And Sing”



Prayer of Commitment & Prayer for the Nation of Barbados



The National Anthem of Barbados



Benediction



Recessional Hymn: 719 –

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.

In a manger on a straw bed Christ was born yet King is He,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me:
As he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free;
While God is marching on.

He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave,
He is wisdom to the mighty, he is succour to the brave;
So the world shall be His footstool, and the soul of time his slave:
Our God is marching on.



Organ Postlude



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Welcome on this First Sunday of Advent. In this season we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ as the light of the world. Today we also celebrate 55 years of national independence as we make the transition to a republic. So as we worship, together in this sanctuary and with those who join by way of our livestream on YouTube and FaceBook, we pray for the light of Christ to be seen in us and in our nation. Welcome to all.



Today: Tara Blackman, Diana Cox & Yvonne Martindale

Advanced: Ken Adams, Marcia Coombs, Athelstan Headley & Ingrid Ibrahim (29th), Ricardo Carter, Thora Moore & Ismay Straker (30th), Annie Harris (Dec. 1st), Stephanie Mayers (2nd), Patricia Brathwaite-Marshall, Daniel Jackman & Kaylah Watts (4th)



Congratulations to Bro. Athelstan & Sis. Fraulene Headley who will celebrate their 41st Wedding Anniversary on November 29, 2021

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 & Blessing of Infant at 9:30 a.m.

† 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).

† Wednesday: PROVINCIAL DAY OF PRAYER

† Bible Study – 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

† Thursday: Training on the Steelpan – 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

† NEXT SUNDAY – Divine Worship & Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. The number we have been permitted for in-sanctuary worship at Sharon has been increased to forty-two (42), which means that, deducting those who support the livestreaming of our services, only twenty-two (22) more can be accommodated. Those who desire to attend should register by calling the Church Office (425-4011) on Tuesdays and Fridays. The first twenty-two (22) will be accepted. To avoid confusion, registration will only be by direct conversation with the Office Assistant by telephone, for the coming Sunday. Please seek to attend at the most every-other week, to give others an opportunity.
2. As part of a fundraising project, we have church branded cloth masks on sale at a cost of \$15 each and they are available in black, burgundy and navy.



3. There will be a Meeting of Island Conference on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at the D. C. Moore Centre, commencing at 10:00 a.m.
4. From the PEC:
 - † Warm Christian greetings in the name of our Chief Elder, Jesus, the Christ! As we enter a new liturgical year in the worship life of the church, I wish us all a blessed and spiritually invigorating Advent Season. We are a few days away from the final Monthly Provincial Prayer Gathering for 2021. The Prayer Gathering takes the format of twelve uninterrupted hours of Word and Prayer on Wednesday December 01, from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., under the theme: “Storming the Gates through Intercession”. In other words, every hour and throughout the hour, we will continue in an attitude of prayer and worship. It is hoped that a great number of us will be able to journey in prayer throughout the day. However, persons can join at any time and remain for as long as they are able. The Prayer Gathering will be conducted via Zoom and can be joined using either of the following:
 - † Direct Link:
 - † <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83077754374?pwd=aW1HV094ZituLzlsUVdjNjinal0ZQbzIUUT09>
 - † Zoom App using the Meeting ID: 830 7775 4374 and Passcode: 821308
 - † The flyer and the link sent via WhatsApp.
 - † This final Prayer Gathering calls for sacrifice and perseverance as we “storm the gates through intercession”. May we answer the call and be found faithful soldiers of Christ in these closing days of 2021.
5. A follow-up session to the Provincial Engagement & Empowerment Workshop which was held October 25 – 28, 2021 will be held on Thursday, December 9th, commencing at 7:00 p.m. Present will be Beth Lewis (of the USA), who held the initial session on October 25th and her husband, Rev. Rick Rouse. They will be reviewing the results of the listening and planning exercise being carried out across the Province. Your pastors will be soliciting responses from you on how we can strengthen our church and on opportunities for ministry in our community. Your feedback and input would be of much assistance and would be greatly appreciated.
6. We are thankful for the financial support we have been receiving thus far, particularly in the light of the economic impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are mindful that some of you may be facing reduced or lost income due to this crisis.
 - † We are challenged however, in maintaining our ministry, our facilities and paying property insurance. So, we ask for your continued faithfulness in giving as you are able.

- † Those who attend worship in the sanctuary are reminded that offerings are deposited in the baskets on entry.
- † Those who are not back out to church as yet are reminded that labelled envelopes can be dropped into the slot in the front door of the Manse.
- † 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.

7. Remember to listen to the Moravian Radio Programme: “Moravian Voice” on LIFE 97.5 FM, Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.



PRAYER NEEDS:



1. Our Shut-ins: *Daphne Bispham, Aileen Bowen, Royle Deane, Sydney Gibson, Muriel Moore, Carol St. John.*
2. The Sick/Recovering: *Ruth Bishop, Andilla Haynes & Sis. Margaret Haynes*
3. The Bereaved: We express condolences to and pray for: *The family of Dennis Lewis for whom a Service of Thanksgiving will be held here at Sharon, tomorrow, commencing at 3:30 p.m.; Bro. Victor Bedford and the Bowen family on the passing of his sister Coral Bowen. A Service of Thanksgiving for her life will be held here at Sharon on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 commencing at 3:30 p.m.; The Holder and Price families on the passing of Colin Holder.*
4. The people of the region as we are in the Hurricane Season. Pray that we be spared from disaster.



AVAILABLE (Through the Church Office):

- ✦ Offering Envelopes for 2021 – We invite each member of the congregation to receive a box of envelopes and thereby seek to faithfully support the work of the church. Please request that a box be provided for you if none has been provided as yet.
- ✦ Sharon Burgundy Shirts: Polos – \$30 / T-Shirts – \$15
- ✦ Copies of Sunday sermons on CD – \$2.00.
- ✦ Books:
 - 📖 Rev. Neilson Waithe: Understanding the Caribbean Worker– \$25; Provocation– \$20.
 - 📖 Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts: Created in Their Image: Evangelical Protestantism in Antigua and Barbados 1834-1914 – \$50.
 - 📖 Rev. Dr. Joseph Nicholas: Baptism Is a Gift of God: As Such It Is More Than Water– \$35.
- ✦ Greeting Cards (\$2.00) and Prints (\$20.00) of a painting of Sharon Church.



Protocol for Worship Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic – 2021

In keeping with the directive given by the Prime Minister of Barbados:

1. Sanitisation stations shall be set up at the entrances and exits which shall be manned by ushers.
2. All attending shall sanitise their hands upon entering the church.
3. The names of all who attend service shall be recorded.
4. The temperature of each worshipper and minister shall be taken before entering the church, using a contactless thermometer;
 - ✦ persons whose temperature exceed 37.5° C shall not be allowed to enter the church;
 - ✦ persons who are coughing repeatedly, sneezing or exhibit any flu-like symptoms shall not be allowed to enter the church.
5. Face masks shall be worn throughout the service by all persons present in the church. Worship Leaders may remove their masks temporarily to fulfil their roles, provided that there is at least six (6) feet between leaders, and between leaders and congregants.
6. There shall be no physical contact between attendees.
7. There shall be a physical distance of at least six (6) feet between all attending except between members of the same household who may sit together; in which case, there shall be a distance of at least six (6) feet between one group and adjacent groups or individuals.

8. Attendees shall be asked to deposit their offerings in fixed containers.
9. No hymnals, Bibles, leaflets or other materials shall be distributed to worshippers;
 - ✦ Bibles, hymnals etc. should only be shared by family members;
 - ✦ The Lectern Bible shall also be removed and lesson readers shall be asked to use their own Bible.
10. Infant Baptism, Confirmation, and rites involving the laying on of hands or anointing have been suspended for the time being.
11. Windows and doors shall be kept open to allow for ventilation.
12. Attendees shall be asked to maintain the recommended social distance when leaving the building.
13. There shall be no congregating of worshippers inside or outside of the church, before or after service.

