

SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

(Built by Slaves – 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

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Sunday, December 18, 2022

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m.

Welcome: With eager minds and hearts we meet for worship today, on this Fourth Sunday of Advent. Welcome to all, whether you are here in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad. The promise to us is that God will meet the expectant heart here, to comfort, guide and to bless. Welcome.

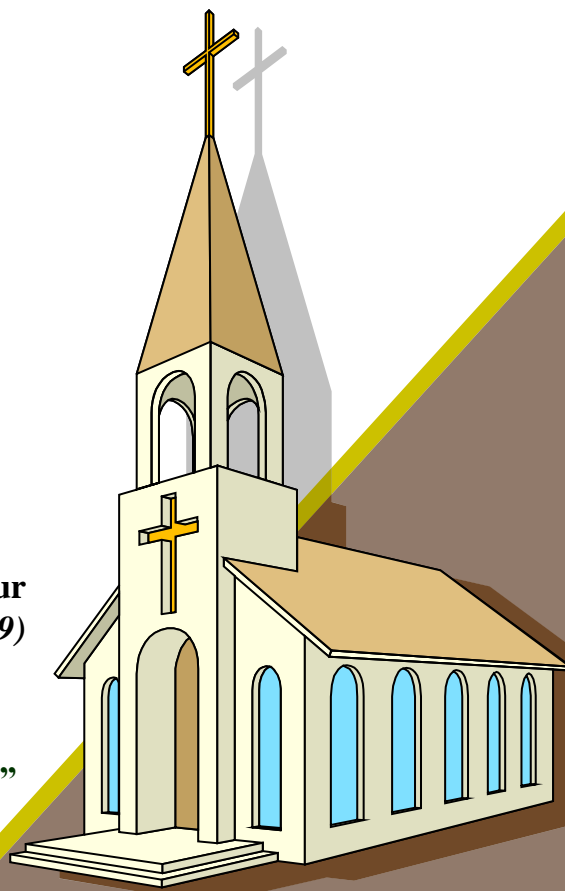
Pastor: Rev. Ezra Parris
(Manse: 246-546-0344)

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Movelle Kellman

WATCHWORD: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. *(Psalm 80: 19)*

Provincial Theme 2022: "Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T."

***Seek & Submit; Hear & Heed; Imagination & Insight;
Focus & Function; Total Transformation***





ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN PRELUDE

INTROIT

WELCOME

INVITATION TO WORSHIP (Psalm 148:11 – 13):

Leader: *Kings of the earth and all peoples; Princes and all judges of the earth;
Both young men and maidens; Old men and children. 13 Let them praise the
name of the LORD,*

Congregation: *For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and
heaven.*

LITANY: The Fourth Sunday of Advent (p. 96 – CMP Liturgy Book /Projected)

WORSHIP IN TITHES & OFFERINGS (Purple Offering)

Offertory Sentence: *Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one
another with whatever gift each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:10 NRSV)*

Offertory Hymn: 66 – “All Poor Men and Humble”

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Doxology: “Give Thanks”

CELEBRATIONS & NOTICES

ADORATION IN SONG: 39 – “A Great and Mighty Wonder”

RECITATIONS:

✙ *Our Saviour* by Ahmír Worrell & Rhys Hoyte

✙ *Christmas Stars* by Christon Skeete

✙ *Baby Jesus* by Kaleb Blackman-Gibbons

✙ *Everyday is like Christmas* by Kyle Blackman-Gibbons

✙ *The Best Christmas Gift* by Jarad Lewis

HYMN 68 – “Away In A Manger”

MINISTRY OF THE WORD:

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 7:10 – 16

New Testament Reading: Matthew 1:18 – 25

Choir Anthem – “Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”

The Sermon – Rev. Ezra Parris

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT & INTERCESSION

HYMN 81 – Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

BENEDICTION

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.**



Organ Prelude

Introit

Welcome

Invitation to Worship (Psalm 148:11 – 13):

Leader: *Kings of the earth and all peoples; Princes and all judges of the earth; Both young men and maidens; Old men and children. 13 Let them praise the name of the LORD,*

Congregation: *For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven.*



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

All standing

Tune: ST. THEODULPH – # 67

All glory, laud and honour
To thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and blessed one.

John M. Neale (1818 – 1866)

Therefore, the Lord shall give a sign;

Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

For unto us a child is born,

Unto us a Son is given.

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God;

The Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

Tune: UNIVERSITY – # 49

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne
And every voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

Philip Doddridge (1702 – 1751)

This is what the Lord says: I will shake all nations and the desire of all nations shall come and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord.

Arise, shine for the light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Tune: HAGEN – # 281 Moravian USA Hymnal

(Solo): Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere Thou cam'st, how dark earth's night

(All): Morning Star, O cheering sight!

Ere Thou cam'st, how dark earth's night!

(Solo): Jesus mine,

(All): In me shine;

(Solo): In me shine,

(All): Jesus mine;

Fill my heart with light divine.

Bennet Harvey (1829 – 1894)

Behold I lay in Zion a foundation stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest.

And the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father, David.

He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever:

And of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Wherefore God has highly exalted him:

And given him a name which is above every name.

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow;

And every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

All seated

Let us pray:

Fulfill in us, O Lord, your purpose to spread the proclamation, "Jesus is Lord". May your glory be revealed in us as we prepare once more for the coming of your light into the world. Grant that we may not only receive the light and the peace you bring, but also share it with others. Loosen hearts of stone and bend wills of steel. Speak peace to every soul. Act even now, O Lord, for with you nothing shall be impossible; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

How my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour!

For he took notice of his lowly servant, and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me.

He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him.

His mighty arm has done tremendous things! He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.

He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands.

He has helped his servant Israel and remembered to be merciful.

For he made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever.

All standing

Tune: HYFRYDOL – # 192

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

Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

We are witnesses of the dawning of the Great Light come into the world.

May we as we depart from worship today set our faces always on the Son and announce through our living, the Advent of the Messiah.

Amen.



WORSHIP IN TITHES & OFFERINGS (Purple Offering)

Offertory Sentence: *Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:10 NRSV)*

Offertory Hymn: 66 –

All poor men and humble,
All lame men who stumble,
Come haste ye, nor feel ye afraid;
With Jesus, our treasure,
With love past all measure,
In lowly poor manger was laid.

Though wise men who found him
Laid rich gifts around him,
Yet oxen they gave him their hay;
And Jesus in beauty
Accepted their duty;
Contented in manger he lay.

Then haste we to show him
The praises we owe him;
Our service he ne'er can despise:
Whose love still is able
To show us that stable
Where softly in manger he lies.



Prayer of Dedication of Offerings



Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy
Give thanks for he has given Jesus Christ is Son *(repeat)*
And now let the weak say I am strong
Let the poor say I am rich for what the Lord has done
Give thanks. *(repeat)*



Celebrations & Notices



Adoration in Song – Hymn 39 –

A great and mighty wonder
A full and holy cure:
The Virgin bears the Infant
With virgin-honour pure
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men'.

The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high.
The angel host sings anthems
To shepherds, from the sky:
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men'.

While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
Ye oceans, clap your hands!
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men'.

Since all he comes to ransom,
By all be he adored,
The infant born in Bethlem,
The Saviour and the Lord:
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men'.

All idol forms shall perish,
All error shall decay,
And Christ shall wield his scepter,
Our Lord and God for aye:
Repeat the hymn again!

*'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men'.*



RECITATIONS:

- ***Our Saviour*** by Ahmír Worrell & Rhys Hoyte
- ***Christmas Stars*** by Christon Skeete
- ***Baby Jesus*** by Kaleb Blackman-Gibbons
- ***Everyday is like Christmas*** by Kyle Blackman-Gibbons
- ***The Best Christmas Gift*** by Jarad Lewis



HYMN 68 –

Away in a manger, No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.



MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 7:10 – 16

- 10.** Moreover the LORD spake again unto Ahaz, saying,
- 11.** Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above.
- 12.** But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD.
- 13.** And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also?
- 14.** Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
- 15.** Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.
- 16.** For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.



New Testament Reading: Matthew 1:18 - 25

- 18.** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.
- 19.** Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.
- 20.** But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.
- 21.** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.
- 22.** Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,
- 23.** Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.
- 24.** Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:
- 25.** And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.



Choir Anthem - “Beautiful Star Of Bethlehem”



Sermon – – Rev. Ezra Parris



Prayer of Commitment & Intercession



Closing Hymn: 81 –

Thou didst leave thy throne
And thy kingly crown
When thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home
Was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus!
There is room in my heart for Thee.

Heaven's arches rang
When the angels sang,
Proclaiming thy royal degree;
But of lowly birth
Cam'st thou Lord, on earth,
And in great humility.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus!
There is room in my heart for Thee.

The foxes found rest,

And the birds had their nest
In the shade of the cedar tree;
But thy couch was the sod,
O thou Son of God,
In the deserts of Galilee.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus!
There is room in my heart for Thee.

Thou camest, O Lord,
With the living word,
That should set thy children free;
But with mocking scorn,
And with crown of thorn,
They bore Thee to Calvary.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus!
Thy cross is my only plea.

When heaven's arches shall ring,
And her choirs shall sing,
At thy coming to victory,
Let thy voice call me home,
Saying "Yet there is room,
There is room at my side for thee."
And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus!
When thou comest and callest for me.



Organ Postlude



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

With eager minds and hearts we meet for worship today, on this Fourth Sunday of Advent. Welcome to all, whether you are here in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad. The promise to us is that God will meet the expectant heart here, to comfort, guide and to bless. Welcome.



Today: *Brian Maynard & Resa Williams*

Advanced: *Sidaine Pilgrim & Brandon Taylor (20th), Mavis Adams, Maureen Chase & Krystal Eversley (21st), Elroy Carter & Edwin Lawrence (23rd), Veronica Leacock (24th)*

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: The Fourth Sunday of Advent – Divine Worship at 9:30 a.m.

✠ Purple Sunday. We wear purple and present a walk-up offering of purple Barbados currency. We are raising funds for repairs to our church building.

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).

Next Sunday: Christmas Day – Divine Worship at 5:00 a.m.



In the Month of December 2022:

✝ **Watch-Night Service** – Saturday, 31st, 10:30 p.m.



Upcoming Fundraising Event:

✝ **Police Band Concert – Saturday February 11, 2023**



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. You are reminded of the important role the Choir plays in leading and enlivening our song in worship to God, and conveying to our hearts the message of the Gospel, on a weekly basis. You are invited to add your voice to this ministry. Please express your interest to the Director, Bro Kevin King.
2. We are in need of people to serve on our Media Team. Here is opportunity to be trained and then to engage in an important ministry to our congregation. Interesting persons should contact Sis Kristina Carter.
3. We are thankful for your financial support. We are mindful that we are not in the easiest of times, economically.
 - ✝ We are also grateful for the contribution of the Women's Fellowship which has been giving \$700 to our general fund, every month.
 - ✝ 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.
 - ✝ 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.
- 4. Remember to listen to the Moravian Radio Programme: “Moravian Voice” which has been moved to Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on the same station, Life 97.5 FM.
- ✚ 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.
- ✚ Over the past year, we conducted a review and have made changes in an effort to reach a wider audience.
- ✚ We invite you to tune in for inspiration and information to enable you in your Christian walk and service.
- ✚ 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>).
- ✚ You can email your comments and requests to: moravianvoice@gmail.com



PRAYER NEEDS:



1. Our Shut-ins: *Sis. Aileen Bowen, Bro. Royle Deane, Sis. Thora Moore*
2. The Sick/Recovering:

† Of our congregation: *Sis. Ruth Bishop, Sis. Andilla Haynes, Sis. Marva Craigwell, Bro. Athelston Lawrence, Sis. Cynthia Eversley*

3. World Peace



AVAILABLE (Through the Church Office):

- † 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 – 2022

In an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19 during our gatherings, the following is to be observed:

1. All attending shall sanitise their hands upon entering the church. Sanitisation stations have been set up at the entrances and exits.
2. Face masks are optional but recommended, given the singing and speaking that is engaged in during worship. Attendees are asked to be respectful of others in their choice to wear or not to wear a mask.
3. There shall be no physical contact between attendees.
4. There shall be a physical distance of at least three (3) 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 three (3) feet between one group and adjacent groups or individuals.

5. Attendees shall be asked to deposit their offerings in fixed containers.
6. Bibles, hymnals, leaflets or other materials should only be shared by family members
7. The Lectern Bible has been removed and lesson readers shall be asked to use their own Bible.
8. Infant Baptism, Confirmation, and rites involving the laying on of hands or anointing have been adjusted to exclude contact between individuals.
9. Windows and doors shall be kept open to allow for ventilation.
10. Attendees shall be asked to maintain the recommended social distance when leaving the building.

