

SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

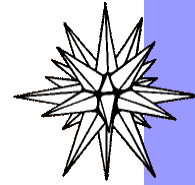
(Built by Slaves – 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

Email: sharonmoravian@caribsurf.com

Church Office/Pastor's Study Tel: 425-4011

Church Vestry Tel: 425-0164



Sunday, December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m.

Welcome: A warm Christian welcome is extended to all in this service of worship today, whether you are here in this sanctuary or with us by way of our livestream on YouTube and FaceBook. We continue in the season of Advent to proclaim the love of God in Christ Jesus, sent to be the Saviour of the world. Welcome.

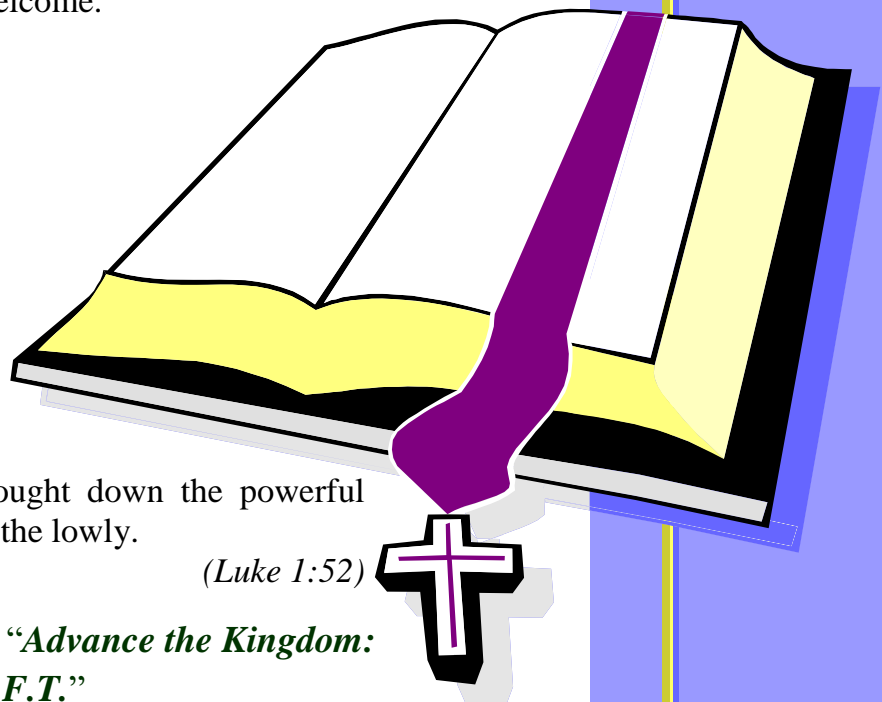
Pastor: Rev. Ezra Parris
(Manse: 246-546-0344)

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Movelle Kellman

WATCHWORD: God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.

(Luke 1:52)

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



ORDER OF SERVICE



Organ Prelude

Introit

Invitation to Worship: *Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.* (Psalm 147:1)

Litany: The Fourth Sunday of Advent p. 97 – CMP Liturgy Book

Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Adoration in Songs & Choruses

Prayer of Dedication of Offerings

Scripture Reading: Micah 5:2 – 5a

Solo – “This Little Child” – Bro. Kevin King

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:39 – 45

Hymn 43 – “O How Shall I Receive Thee”

Sermon – Rev. Ezra Parris

Prayer of Commitment & Intercession

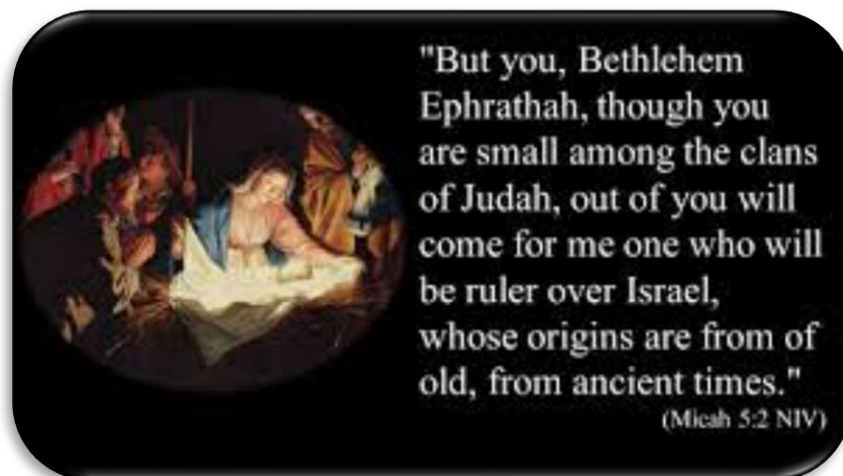
Hymn 81 – “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”

The 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.



"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

(Micah 5:2 NIV)

Organ Prelude

Introit

Invitation to Worship: *Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.* (Psalm 147:1)



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 blessèd 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.***



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices



Adoration in Songs & Choruses



Prayer of Dedication of Offerings



Scripture Reading: Micah 5:2 – 5a

2. But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.
3. Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.
4. And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.
5. And this man shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men.



Solo – Bro. Kevin King – *“This Little Child”*



Scripture Reading: Luke 1:39 – 45

- 39.** And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;
- 40.** And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.
- 41.** And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:
- 42.** And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.
- 43.** And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
- 44.** For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.
- 45.** And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.



Hymn 43 –

O how shall I receive Thee,
How greet Thee, 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.

Love caused Thy incarnation,
Love brought Thee down to me;
Thy thirst for my salvation
Hath gained my liberty;
O love beyond all telling,
That led Thee to embrace,
In love all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race!

Rejoice then, ye sad-hearted,
Who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn o'er joys departed,
And tremble at your doom;
He who alone can cheer you
Is standing at the door;
He brings His pity near you,
And bids you weep no more.



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.*



The Benediction



Organ Postlude



WELCOME, CELEBRATIONS & NOTICES

Welcome: A warm Christian welcome is extended to all in this service of worship today, whether you are here in this sanctuary or with us by way of our livestream on YouTube and FaceBook. We continue in the season of Advent to proclaim the love of God in Christ Jesus, sent to be the Saviour of the world. Welcome.



Today: *Marissa Boyce & Deborah Greenidge*

Advanced: *Sidaine Pilgrim & Brandon Taylor (20th), Mavis Adams, Maureen Chase & Krystal Eversley (21st), Elroy Carter & Edwin Lawrence (23rd), Veronica Leacock (24th), Roseanne Eversley (25th)*

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.

† **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).

† **Saturday: CHRISTMAS DAY**

† Worship at 5:00 a.m.

† **NEXT SUNDAY** – Divine Worship at 9:30 a.m.



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. We are permitted seventy **(70) attendees for in-sanctuary worship** at Sharon, with a separation of six (6) feet between individuals or household groups.

† For worship on Christmas morning, you will be required to register for the fifty (50) available spaces (deducting those who will be leading or facilitating the service).

† There will be no registration for Sunday, December 26th or Friday, December 31st, 10:30 p.m.

- † Those who desire to attend should register by calling the Church Office (425-4011) on Tuesdays and Fridays. The first fifty (50) will be accepted. To avoid confusion, registration will only be by direct conversation with the Office Assistant by telephone.
 - † Please seek to attend at the most every-other week / occasion, 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. **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.

4. 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 & Bro. Ryan Hinds*
3. **The Bereaved:** We express condolences to and pray for:
 - *The Holder and Price families on the passing of Colin Holder;*
 - *Sis. Justina Lowe and Sis. Cynthia Walrond on the passing of their brother Anthony Hue Foster.*
4. **Our nation, for strength and deliverance as we continue to battle the COVID-19 Pandemic.**



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 – 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.

