

SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

(Built by Slaves – 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136



*But my God shall supply all your need according
to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:19 KJV



Sunday, December 22, 2024

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 joining us here in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad. 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. David Ince

Church Office/Pastor's Study: 246-425-4011

Email: sharon.moravian.church@gmail.com

Church Vestry Tel: 425-0164

WATCHWORD: God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly. *(Luke 1:52)*

Provincial Theme 2024:

***“SHIFT: Reclaiming Our Identity, Renewing Our Purpose, and Re-Igniting
Our Passion”***



ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Introit – Choir

Invitation To Worship (Psalm 92:1):

Minister: *It is good to give thanks to the Lord,*

People: *And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.*

Litany for the Fourth Sunday of Advent p. 97 – CMP Liturgy Book /
Projected

Worship In Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Sentence: *“Forget not to be kind and liberal; for with that sort of sacrifice God will be please.” (Heb. 13:16).*

Weekly Offerings: 43 – *“O How Shall I Receive Thee”*

Prayer of Dedication of Offerings

Offertory Doxology: *“Thanks, Thanks, I Give You Thanks”*

Welcome, Celebrations & Announcements

Worship in Song: 71 – *“Jesus Come Today”*

Ministry of the Word:

First Scripture Reading: Micah 5:2 – 5a

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 1:39 – 55

Choir Anthem – *“Call to Praise Medley”*

Sermon – *Rev. Ezra Parris*

Prayer of Commitment and Intercession

Hymn 143 – *“O Come, O Come, Immanuel”*

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.



Prelude

Introit – Choir

Invitation To Worship (Psalm 92:1):

Minister: *It is good to give thanks to the Lord,*

People: *And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.*



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

From the Liturgy Book of the Moravian Church in the Caribbean, p. 97.

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

Offertory Sentence: *“Forget not to be kind and liberal; for with that sort of sacrifice God will be please.”* (Heb. 13:16).

Offertory 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.



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.*



Welcome, Celebrations & Announcements



Worship in Song: 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.



Ministry of the Word

Old Testament 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.



New Testament Reading: Luke 1:39 – 55

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.
46. And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,
47. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
48. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
49. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.
50. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.
51. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
52. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.
53. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.
54. He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;
55. As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.



Choir Anthem – “Call To Praise Medley”



Sermon – – Rev. Ezra Parris



Prayer of Commitment & Intercession



Closing Hymn: 143 –

O come, O come, Immanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*



The Benediction



Organ Postlude



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

A warm Christian welcome is extended to all in this service of worship today, whether you are joining us here in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad. 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.



Advanced: Elroy Carter & Edwin Lawrence (23rd), Veronica Leacock (24th), Roseanne Eversley (25th), Shamia Corbin & Merville Franklyn (27th), Curtis Drakes, Joan Lewis & Chanel Rock-Waithe (28th)



Congratulations to Bro. Terry & Sis. Norma Meek who will celebrate their 35th Wedding Anniversary on December 27, 2024.



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: **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 - † Divine Worship at 9:30 a.m.
 - † Adventures in Worship (All ages) – 10:00 a.m. in the D.C. Moore Centre

THIS WEEK

- † Wednesday: **CHRISTMAS DAY – Worship at 5:00 a.m.**
- † Next Sunday: **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

- † Divine Worship 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 2024:

- † Worship on Christmas Day – Wednesday, 25th at 5:00 a.m.
- † Watch-Night Service – Tuesday, 31st, 10:30 p.m.



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. Thanks to all who supported our Missionary Festival on October 27, 2024. We raised so far \$14,229.15. 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. We are celebrating 225 years since the laying of the cornerstone here at Sharon. Upcoming events being planned include:
 - † Anniversary Dinner & Gala – February 8, 2025, at the Hilton. Dinner – \$200.
 - † Planting of a Time Capsule – February 9, 2025
 - † Closing Service – February 9, 2025
- † We have launched a “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.



3. From the Superintendent:

✠ **The Moravian Daily Text 2025 is now available in your congregation. The cost per copy is as follows:**

Paperback Edition	–	\$27.00
Large Print Edition	–	\$32.00
Journal Edition	–	\$42.00

✠ **The 34th Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province will be held in the Trinidad Conference in July 2025. The Synod will be both virtual and in-person. Synod will convene virtually on May 15, 2025, and June 12, 2025, to conduct housekeeping matters and to receive reports. The in-person sessions will be held from July 10 – 16, 2025 in Trinidad, with the 10th and 16th being travels days.**

✠ **The Congregations of the Province are being asked to cover the fees and costs of their Pastor(s)/Clergy Delegate(s) as usual. The estimated cost per delegate from Barbados is BD\$3,000, covering a Synod Fee of US\$1,000 and travel cost from Barbados to Trinidad of approximately BD \$1,000.**

✠ **The election of delegates is scheduled for Sunday, March 9, 2025, in the congregations of the Conference. Pastors have been asked to begin the process of having the Joint Board nominate one person from their congregation.**

✠ **As per the Book of Order (Paragraph 4.17), members of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province may submit proposals on any aspect of our church’s life, for resolution at the 34th Provincial Synod. Proposals should be seconded by a member of the Moravian Church and submitted to the Conference Office by February 14th, for consideration by the Island Conference and further submission to the Provincial Office by April 15, 2025.**

✠ **Please begin to make preparations and to pray for the Synod.**

4. The assignment of Elders Districts is 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. John, Christ Church, Brittons Hill.	Sis. Ismay Straker

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

5. 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 helping-hands for this ministry. Please let the Pastors know of your interest.

6. We are thankful for your financial support.

✠ 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.

✠ You 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. 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.

- † 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
- † Remember to listen to the Moravian Radio Programme: “Moravian Voice” on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on Life 97.5 FM.



The Past 225 Years

36. The rededication of the restored Sharon building on Sunday, June 28, 1992, was conducted by Bishop Neville Neil of the Jamaican Province. The ordination service for Ezra Parris followed the next day, with Bishop Neil once more presiding.



PRAYER NEEDS:



1. Our Shut-ins: *Sis. Aileen Bowen, Bro. Tyrone Waithe, Sis. Vernice Alberta Osbourne*
2. The Sick/Recovering:
 - † Of our congregation: *Sis. Ansonia Cox-Burgess, Sis. Zelia Kellman, Sis. Shanna King (USA), Sis. Ursalene Davis*
3. The Bereaved: *We extend condolences to and pray for: Sis. Sheila Foster-Clarke on the passing of her husband. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life will be held on Friday, December 27, 2024, at the St. Thomas Parish Church, commencing at 2:00 p.m.*
4. World Peace



AVAILABLE (Through the Church Office):

- † Sharon Burgundy Shirts: Polos – \$30 / T-Shirts – \$15
- † 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.



Provincial Theme 2024:

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

“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





**Moravian Church - Barbados Conference
Presents**

“Food For The Journey”

Sunday School Teachers’ Workshop 2025



Keynote Speaker:

Sis. Lou Anne Gardiner

from the Tobago Conference

Saturday, January 4, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.

Online via Zoom

Meeting ID: 824 7616 2584 | Passcode: 158386

Scan or Click to join:



Come, share and recommit yourself to your calling.

**Moravian Church - Barbados Conference
Presents a Youth Conference**



"Empowered For Tomorrow"



Keynote Speaker:
Sis. Launée D.A. Richards
from the Antigua Conference

Saturday, January 11, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.

Online via Zoom
Meeting ID: 856 4518 9841 | Passcode: 901382

Scan or Click to join:



Come and be inspired to make big changes.