



Let us go  
to Bethlehem and see...

L U K E 2:15



## SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

*(Built by Slaves - 1799)*

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

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

Church Vestry Tel: 425-0164



## Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25, 2021

Nativity of the Lord

5:00 a.m.

**Welcome:** *For unto us a Son is born*" . . . A warm Christmas welcome is extended to all worshipping here today and those who join by way of our livestream on YouTube and FaceBook, as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. His was a lowly birth, but his rise to faithfulness and service is an inspiration to all. May we follow his light today.

**Pastor:** *Rev. Ezra Parris*

*(Manse: 246-546-0344)*

**Associate Pastor:**

*Rev. Movelle Kellman*

**WATCHWORD:** *And the word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

*(John 1:14)*

**Provincial Theme 2020:** *"Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T."*



## ORDER OF SERVICE



**Organ Prelude**

**Call to worship**

**Hymn 56 – “Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn”**

**Liturgy for Christmas (p. 100, Liturgy Book / projected)**

**Welcome & Greetings**

**Worship in Tithes and offerings**

**Offertory Text:** *“And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”* (Matthew 2:11)

**Offertory Hymn: 73 – “What Child is this?”**

**Prayer of Dedication of Offerings**

**Hymn 70 – “The First Noel”**

**Reading of Scripture: Isaiah 52:7 – 10**

**Choir Anthem – “The Adoration”**

**Reading of Scripture: Luke 2:1 – 20**

**Hymn 60 – “Angels we have heard on high”**

**Sermon – Rev. Ezra Parris**

**Hymn of Reflection: 62 – “It came upon the midnight clear”**

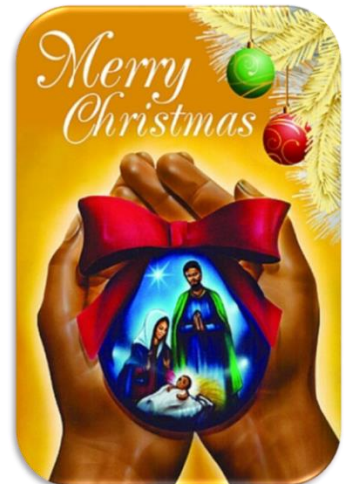
**Intercessory Prayers (Christmas Liturgy continued)**

**Hymn 53 – “Hark! The herald angels sing”**

**Benediction**

**Recessional Celebration in Song**

**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.**



## Hymn 56

Christians, awake, salute the happy morn  
Whereon the Saviour of the world was born;  
Rise to adore the mystery of love  
Which hosts of angels chanted from above;  
With them the joyful tidings first begun,  
Of God incarnate, and the virgin's Son.

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,  
Who heard the angelic herald's voice, "Behold,  
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth,  
To you and all the nations of the earth;  
This day hath God fulfilled his promised word,  
This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

In David's city, shepherds, ye shall find  
The long-foretold Redeemer of mankind  
Wrapt up in swaddling clothes, the Babe divine  
Lies in a manger; this shall be the sign."  
He spake, and straightaway the celestial choir  
In hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire.

The praises of redeeming love they sang,  
And heaven's whole orb with hallelujahs rang:  
God's highest glory was their anthem still,  
Peace on the earth and unto men good-will.  
To Bethlehem straight, the enlightened shepherds ran  
To see the wonder God had wrought for man.

O may we hope, the angelic throngs among,  
To sing, redeemed, a glad triumphant song:  
He, that was born upon this joyful day,  
Around us all his glory shall display;  
Saved by his love, incessant we shall sing  
Of angels, and of angel-men, the King.



# CHRISTMAS

*From the Caribbean Moravian Praise Liturgy Book, p. 101*

*All standing.*

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
*For he has visited and redeemed his people.*

The Dayspring from on high has visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness,  
*And to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

For unto us a Child is born,  
*Unto us a Son is given.*

*Tune: WINCHESTER NEW — # 51*

Today we celebrate the birth  
Of Jesus Christ, who came on earth  
To make himself as Saviour known,  
And claim us sinners as his own.

Awake, my heart; my soul, arise;  
Look who in yonder manger lies;  
Who is that child, so poor and mean?  
'Tis he who all things does sustain.

Immanuel, incarnate God,  
Prepare my heart for thy abode:  
O may I, through thy aiding grace,  
In all I do, show forth thy praise.

*Martin Luther (1483 – 1546)*

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that everyone who believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

*Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.*

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

*Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.*

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son that we might receive adoption as his children.

*Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.*

And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts.

*Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.*

Our eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.

*Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.*

O come, let us adore him, Christ our Lord.

*Tune: ADESTE FIDELES — # 47*

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him,  
Born the king of Angels:

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.*

Sing choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,  
'Glory to God  
In the highest'.

*O come, let us adore him . . .*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing,

*O come, let us adore him . . .*

*Latin tr. Frederich Oakeley (1802 – 1880)*



## **Worship in Tithes and offerings**

**Offertory Text:** *“And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”*

**(Matthew 2:11)**

## **Offertory Hymn: 73 –**

**What Child is this who, laid to rest  
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here;  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spears shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,  
Come peasant, king to own Him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise a song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**



## **Prayer of Dedication of Offerings**





## Ministry of the Word

### First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 52: 7– 10

7. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!
8. Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion.
9. Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.
10. The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.



### Choir Anthem – *“The Adoration”*



### Second Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1 – 20

1. And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.
2. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)
3. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)
5. To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
6. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
7. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

8. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
9. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
12. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
15. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.
16. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.
17. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.
18. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
19. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.
20. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



**Hymn 60 –**

**Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly swinging o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.**



*Gloria in excelsis Deo*  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

See Him in a manger laid  
Whom the choirs of angels praise  
Mary, Joseph lend your aid  
While our hearts in love we raise.



Sermon -- *Rev. Ezra Parris*



Hymn of Reflection: 62 –

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold: –  
“Peace on the earth, good-will to men,  
From Heaven’s all gracious King!”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O’er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains,  
They bend on hovering wing,

And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love song which they bring;  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing;  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold,  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world send back the song  
Which now the angels sing.



### Intercessory Prayers (Christmas Liturgy continued)

*All standing*

**Let us confess our faith:**

In the beginning was the Word;

*And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

All things came into being through him;

*And without him not one thing came into being.*

In him was life;

*And the life was the light of all people.*

The light shines in the darkness;

*And the darkness did not overcome it.*

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him;

*Yet the world did not know him.*

He came to his own,

*And his own people did not accept him.*

But to all who received him, who believed in his name,

*He gave power to become children of God.*

The word became flesh and lived among us,

*And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.*

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace,

*For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

**Let us pray:**

Heavenly Father, revealed to us through the Word made flesh,

*Have mercy upon us.*

Lord Jesus Christ, sharing our human form,

*Have Mercy upon us,*

Holy Spirit, revealed in all true fellowship,

*Have mercy upon us.*

For our dullness of vision,

For our weakness of faith,

For our joylessness,

*Have mercy upon us.*

For our preoccupation with the things of this world,

For our lack of fellowship with one another,

For our failure to enter into fellowship with you,

*Have mercy upon us.*

Eternal, faithful and just to forgive us our sins,

*Have mercy upon us.*

Lord God, you choose to live in the hearts of the lowly: we give thanks that you revealed yourself in the holy child Jesus, and that parenthood and infancy have been sanctified through his nativity. We thank you for the peace, goodwill and joy of this holy season; for the softening of hearts, and the promptings to forgive and forget past wrongs; for the grace and truth in our Lord's life, which revealed your true nature and what your children may grow to be. Make us so simple in faith and love, that we may know the joy of the Gospel that is hidden from the wise and prudent, but revealed to little children. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ who, sharing our life, grew in wisdom and in divine and human favour.

*Glory to God in the highest.*

Father of all, at this time when the solitary are set in families, and wanderers and exiles think longingly of home, we think of you, the home of us all, where all are welcome. May kind thoughts find lodging in the hardest heart; may longing for purity be born in minds that are unclean; and may the lonely and the labouring hear the song of the angels.

*Glory to God in the highest.*

God of love, hear us as we remember those for whom the joys of this Christmas season will be shadowed: the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the bereaved, the lonely, the unloved, those who are ill and those who have no help ..... May all who know your love show compassion and kindness, that having freely received they may also freely give, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Glory to God in the highest.*

Heavenly Father, your will is that all people should live in peace and unity. Give to all the loving wisdom of Christ, that they may overcome all thoughts of malice, envy, greed, prejudice and selfishness. Increase among us people of goodwill so that there may truly be your peace on earth.

*Glory to God in the highest.*

*Here all join to say the Lord's Prayer:*

Let us pray as our Saviour has taught us:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread*

*And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
The power and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.*



**Closing Hymn: 53 –**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King,  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”***

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”***

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,**

**Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”***



**Benediction**



**Recessional Celebration in Song**



**Organ Postlude**



**Welcome, Celebrations & Notices**

*For unto us a Son is born” . . . A warm Christmas welcome is extended to all worshipping here today and those who join by way of our livestream on YouTube and FaceBook, as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. His was a lowly birth, but his rise to faithfulness and service is an inspiration to all. May we follow his light today.*



**Today: Roseanne Eversley**



*Flowers today are donated on behalf of the family of the late Sis. Elva Wilson – lifelong Moravian.*



**OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT**

**Tomorrow: Worship – 9:30 a.m. A Christmas Celebration involving our youth.**

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

**Next Sunday (Jan 2, 2022): Divine Worship & Holy Communion – 9:30 a.m.**

**IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2022:**



✝ Sharon / Dunscombe Week of Prayer Services – Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, online via Zoom.



*Thank You!*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. We acknowledge:**

- A card and a gift of CA \$300 from Sis. Donna Lovell-Mannick who resides in Canada.
- A gift of BD \$500 from the Ramsay family in memory of Bro. George Ramsay.



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

1. We are permitted eighty-two (82) attendees for in-sanctuary worship at Sharon, with a separation of six (6) feet between individuals or household groups.  
✝ There will be no registration for Sunday, December 26th or Friday, December 31st, 10:30 p.m. We will resume registration when our attendance approaches the limit.
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. From the P.E.C.:**

- ✝ The Provincial family expresses condolences to the Rev. Dr. Errol Connor on the death of his uncle, Mr. John Connor, who died in Anguilla on December 18, 2021. Mr. Connor was 84 years old.
- ✝ Condolences are also expressed to the family of the late Sis. Olga Baird-Joefield of Tobago, former missionary to the Grenada Mission. Sis. Olga Baird-Joefield was also the mother of Rev. Julie Joefield-Parris, Minister of Christian Education in the Barbados Conference. Sis. Olga died in Tobago on December 21, 2021.

- † Please pray for Bro. Errol Connor and family and Sis. Julie Joefield-Parris and family as they journey through the valley of grief and loss. May the comfort of God surround these families.
- 4. 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](http://www.sharonmoravian.info/giving-monetary) for these details.
- 5. 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:
  - † Of our congregation: *Sis. Ruth Bishop, Sis. Andilla Haynes, Sis. Margaret Haynes, Bro. Ryan Hinds.*
  - † Of the Provincial family: *Rev, Dr. Cortroy Jarvis who is hospitalized at the Cleveland Clinic in Miami, Florida. He is receiving treatment and doing well so far.*
3. Our nation, for strength and deliverance as we continue to battle the COVID-19 Pandemic.



## AVAILABLE (Through the Church Office):

- ✦ Offering Envelopes for 2022 – 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.

