

Let us go
to Bethlehem and see...

L U K E 2:15



SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

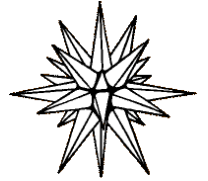
(Built by Slaves – 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

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Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Nativity of the Lord

5:00 a.m.

Welcome: *“His name shall be called . . . Wonderful Counsellor.”* Welcome to one and all — whether you are here in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad — as we celebrate the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and give thanks for the hope we have in him. Welcome.

Pastor: *Rev. Ezra Parris*

(Manse: 246-546-0344)

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Movelle Kellman

WATCHWORD: The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. *(John 1:17)*

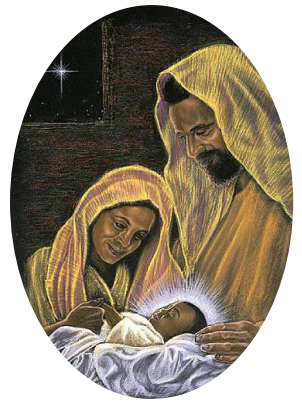
Provincial Theme 2022: *“Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T.”*

Seek & Submit; Hear & Heed; Imagination & Insight;

Focus & Function; Total Transformation



ORDER OF SERVICE



Organ Prelude

Invitation to Worship

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

Liturgy for Christmas p. 100 – CMP Liturgy Book /Projected

Worship in Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Sentence: “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: 64 – “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

Doxology for Christmas – “Praise God from whom all blessings flow”

Welcome & Greetings

Adoration in Song: 70 – “The First Noel”

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 52:7 – 10

Choir Anthem – “All Is Well”

New Testament Reading – Luke 2:1 – 20

Hymn 60 – “Angels We Have Heard on High

The Sermon – – Rev. Ezra Parris

Hymn of Reflection: 69 – “As With Gladness men of Old”

Intercessory Prayers (Christmas Liturgy continued)

Hymn 47 – “Joy to the World”

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.



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: 64 –

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessèd Child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching

And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel.



Prayer of Dedication of Offerings



Doxology for Christmas
(Tune: *O come, . . . Immanuel*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*



Welcome & Greetings



Adoration in Song: 70 –

**The first Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.*

**They lookèd up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.**

**And by the light of that same star
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star where'er it went.**

**This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay.**

**Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon the knee,
And offered there, in His presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.**

**Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.**



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 – “All Is Well”



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 of Preparation: 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: 69 –

**As with gladness, men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright, –
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee, whom heaven and earth adore, –**

**So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare
At thy manger rude and bare, –
So may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.**

**Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And, when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds thy glory hide.**

**In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down;
There for ever may we sing
Hallelujahs to our King.**



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: 47 –

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.**



Benediction



Organ Postlude



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

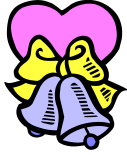
***“His name shall be called . . . Wonderful Counsellor.”* Welcome to one and all – whether you are here in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad – as we celebrate the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and give thanks for the hope we have in him. Welcome.**





Today: *Roseanne Eversley*

Advanced: *Shamia Corbin & Merville Franklyn (27th), Curtis Drakes, Joan Lewis & Chanel Rock-Waithe (28th), Steven King & Edwin Sandiford (29th), Xolani Archer, Wendy Cadogan-Hoyte & Kerry Headley (31st)*



Congratulations to Bro. Terry & Sis. Norma Meek who will celebrate their 33rd Wedding Anniversary on December 27, 2022.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT

✝ Saturday: New Year's Eve

✝ Watch-Night Service – 10:30 p.m.

✝ Next Sunday (Jan 1, 2023): Divine Worship & Holy Communion – 9:30 a.m.



IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2023:

✝ Sharon & Dunscombe Prayer & Renewal Services – Tuesday, 3rd to 6th

✝ Conference Sunday School Teacher's Workshop – Saturday, 7th

✝ Annual Church Council – Sunday, 22nd

✝ Harvest at Centenary – Sunday, 22nd

✝ Moravian Church Barbados Conference at Prayer – Saturday, 28th

✝ Moravian Disciples Concert – Saturday 28th



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. 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.

2. 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. The Bereaved: We express condolences to and pray for:

✝ *Sis. Norma Nicholls and family on the passing of her sister-in-law Maria Nicholls and her niece Jewel Bell in the USA.*

✝ *The family and friends of Sis. Kathleen Ford on her passing.*

✝ *Sis. Merville Franklyn and family, and Sis. Corneta Franklin and family on the passing of their mother, Mildred Austin.*



4. 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.

