

SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

(Built by Slaves – 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136



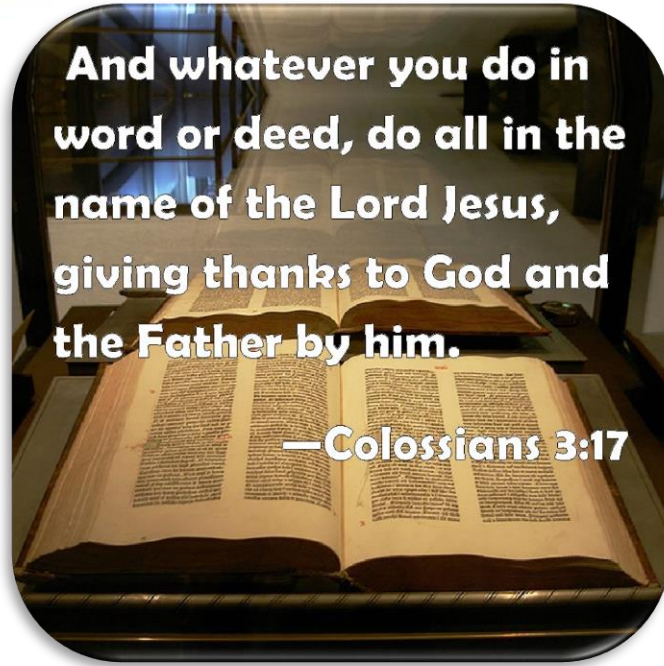
*But my God shall supply all your need according
to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:19 KJV



**And whatever you do in
word or deed, do all in the
name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God and
the Father by him.**

—Colossians 3:17



Sunday, December 29, 2024

First Sunday of Christmas

9:30 a.m.

Welcome: God, . . . Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son (Heb. 1:1 – 2). Welcome to one and all, whether you are joining us here in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad. Today we rejoice over the message of love brought to us in Jesus Christ. 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: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. *(Psalm 148:13)*

Provincial Theme 2024:

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Introit – Choir

Call to Worship (Psalm 95:6 – 7):

Leader: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

Congregation: *For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand.*

Opening Hymn: 58 – “Angels, From the Realm of Glory”

Liturgy for Christmas (CMP Liturgy Book, p.100 – 103)

Worship in Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Sentence: “*All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you.*” Deuteronomy 16:17

Offertory Hymn: 63 – “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Doxology: “*Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow*” . . .

Greetings, Celebrations & Notices

Adoration in Songs/Carols

✠ Hymn 60 – “Angels We Have Heard On High”

✠ Hymn 53 – “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12 – 17

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 2:41 – 52

Choir Anthem – “Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”

Sermon – Rev. Ezra Parris

Prayer of Commitment & Intercession

Hymn 49 – “Go Tell It On the Mountain”

Benediction

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

Call to Worship (Psalm 95:6 – 7):

Leader: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel
before the LORD our Maker.

Congregation: *For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture,
And the sheep of His hand.*



Extract from the CHRISTMAS Liturgy
Caribbean Moravian Praise Liturgy Book, p.100

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)

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.*



Worship in Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Sentence: *“All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you.” Deuteronomy 16:17*

Offertory Hymn: 63 –

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head.
'There is no peace on earth,' I said,
'For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
God is not dead; nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!'

Till, ringing, singing, on its way,
The world revolved from night to day –
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men!



Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings



Offertory Doxology:

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.*



Greetings, Celebrations & Notices



Adoration in Songs/Carols

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.



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!”*



Ministry of the Word

First Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12 – 17

12. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;
13. Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.
14. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.
15. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.
16. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
17. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.



Second Scripture Reading: Luke 2:41 – 52

41. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.
42. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.
43. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.
44. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.
45. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.
46. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.
47. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

48. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.
49. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?
50. And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.
51. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.
52. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.



Choir Anthem – “Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”



Sermon – – Rev. Ezra Parris



Prayer of Commitment & Intercession



Closing Hymn: 49 –

*Go, Tell It On The Mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, Tell It On The Mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold, throughout the heavens,
There shone a holy light:

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Saviour's birth.

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born

And God sent us salvation,
That blessed Christmas morn.



The Benediction



Organ Postlude



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

God, . . . Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son (Heb. 1:1 – 2). Welcome to one and all, whether you are joining us here in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad. Today we rejoice over the message of love brought to us in Jesus Christ. Welcome.



Today: *Steven King & Edwin Sandiford*

Advanced: *Wendy Cadogan-Hoyte & Kerry Headley (31st), Jason Lewis & Charlton Moore (Jan. 4th)*



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: **FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

† Divine Worship at 9:30 a.m.

† Adventures in Worship (All ages) – 10:00 a.m. in the D.C. Moore Centre

THIS WEEK

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

† Tuesday: Watchnight Service at 10:30 p.m.

- † Friday: Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.
- † Next Sunday: Divine Worship & Holy Communion 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 January 2025:

- † Provincial Day of Prayer – Wednesday, 1st
- † Sunday School Teacher’s Workshop 2025 – Saturday, 4th at 10.00 a.m. via Zoom (Meeting ID: 824 7616 2584 | Passcode: 158386). Theme: “*Food For The Journey.*” The Keynote Speaker will be Sis. Lou Anne Gardiner of the Tobago Conference. Teachers and prospective teachers are invited to Come, share and recommit to your calling.
- † Prayer & Renewal Services – 6th – 10th
- † Youth Conference – Saturday, 11th at 10.00 a.m. via Zoom (Meeting ID: 856 4518 9841 | Passcode: 901382). Theme: “*Empowered for Tomorrow.*” The Keynote Speaker will be Sis. Launée Richards of the Antigua Conference.
- † Moravian Church Barbados Conference at Prayer – Saturday, 25th
- † Moravian Disciples Concert – Saturday 25th
- † Annual Church Council – Sunday, 26th
- † Harvest at Centenary – Sunday, 26th
- † PEC and Superintendents Conference – 27th – 31st in Antigua.



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, 1 st 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

37. While most churches either have no bell, or have their bell located outside the building, the bell at Sharon is still situated inside the building, in the bell tower. This bell continues to be rung by a pull rope, and is rung twice on Sundays – firstly as a preparation bell, and then as a call-to-worship. For funerals, the bell-ringer was known to climb the ladder leading into the steeple itself, and beat the huge tong against the bell in order to toll it.



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. Margaret Haynes, Bro. Steven King and the entire family on the passing of her brother, Carl Hoyte.*
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.