

# SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

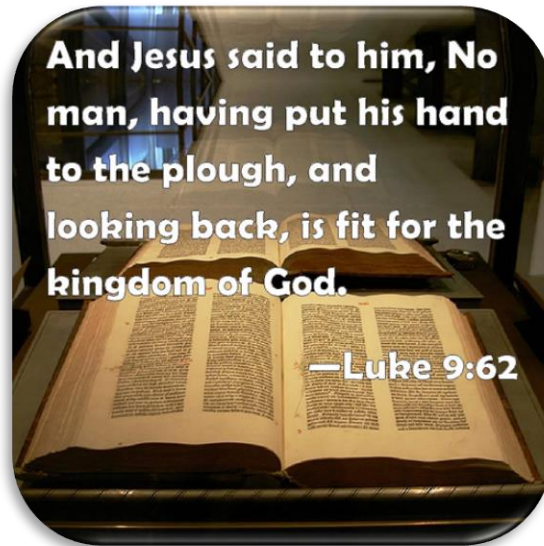
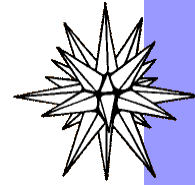
*(Built by Slaves – 1799)*

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

Email: [sharonmoravian@caribsurf.com](mailto:sharonmoravian@caribsurf.com)

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

Church Vestry Tel: 425-0164



**And Jesus said to him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**

**—Luke 9:62**

**Friday, December 31, 2021**

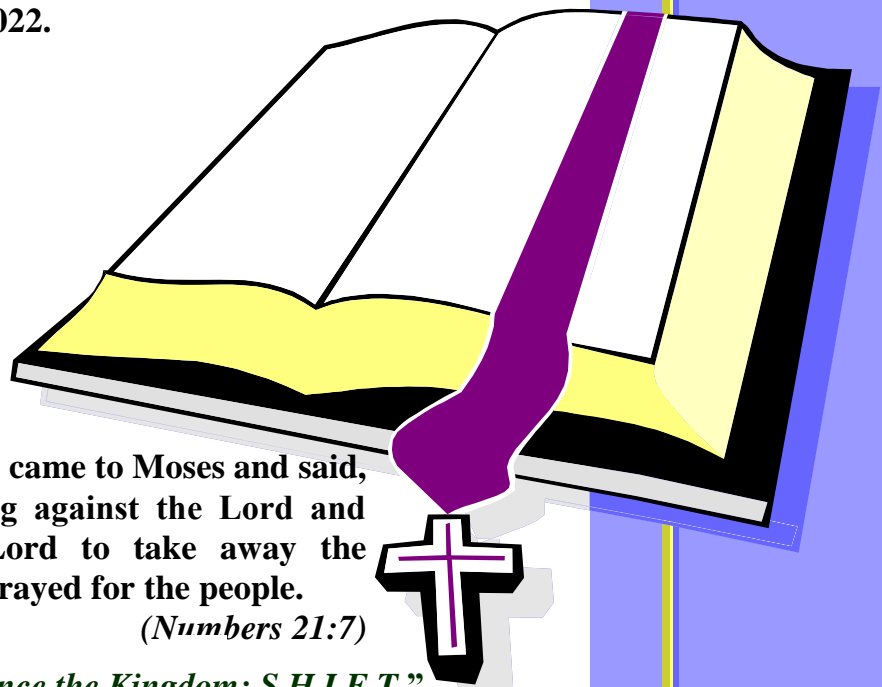
**New Year's Eve**

**10:30 p.m.**

**Welcome:** We welcome members and friends, including those who join by way of our livestream on YouTube and FaceBook, to this service of worship and thanksgiving. We lift our voices in gratitude to God for keeping us over the year past and we pray for his aid and direction as we venture into 2022.

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

**Associate Pastor:**  
**Rev. Movelle Kellman**



**WATCHWORD:** The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

*(Numbers 21:7)*

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

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

**Organ Prelude**

**Call to Worship**

**Reading of the Daily Text – December 31, 2021**

**Hymn 617 – “Let Hearts and Tongues Unite”**      **Tune: Tytherton – # 575**

**Litany for New Year & Anniversaries**      (p. 200, Liturgy Book / projected)

**Welcome & Greetings**

**Worship in Offerings:**

**Offertory Sentence:** *“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.”* (Colossians 3:16)

**Offertory Hymn: 23 – “When All Thy Mercies, O My God”**

**Prayer of Dedication of Offerings**

**Choral Response – Doxology**

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD:**

**First Scripture Reading:**      Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 13

**Choir Anthem – “Now Thank We All Our God”**

**Second Scripture Reading:**      Luke 9:57– 62

**Hymn of Preparation: 269 – “Dear Lord And Father of Mankind”**

**Sermon – –      Rev. Ezra Parris**

**Hymn of Response: 619 – “We Praise And Bless Thee”**      **Tune: Capel – # 371**

**Prayer of Commitment & Rededication**

**Hymn of Affirmation: 240 – “I’m Pressing On the Upward Way”**

**Ringling in the New Year**

**Reading of the Daily Text – January 1, 2022**

**Hymn 621 – “Standing at the Portal”**      **Tune: Hermas**

**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.



## Reading of the Daily Text - December 31, 2021

**Watchword:** The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

*(Numbers 21:7)*

Sing praise to God who reigns above,  
the God of all creation,  
the God of pow’r, the God of love,  
the God of our salvation.  
My soul with comfort rich he fills,  
and ev’ry grief he gently stills:  
to God all praise and glory!

**Doctrinal Text:** **Be merciful to those who doubt.** Jude 22 NIV

With praises and thanksgiving  
we enter this new year;  
our heav’nly Father’s leading  
has brought us safely here.  
The journey set before us  
is through an unknown land;  
but we shall fear no evil  
when guided by his hand.

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Most gracious God, we are blessed to complete another year in your love and mercy. Empower us to enter the new year with joy and confidence; may we be ambassadors of your grace and mercy in every good and holy way.

***Amen.***

*IBOC, Moravian Church in America.  
Moravian Daily Texts 2021 North American Edition: A Devotional Guide for Every Day (p. 375).  
Interprovincial Board of Communication, Moravian Church in America.*



**Opening Hymn: 617 –**

**Let hearts and tongues unite,  
And loud thanksgivings raise;  
'Tis duty mingled with delight,  
To sing the Saviour's praise.**

**E'er since his name we knew,  
How gracious has he been;  
What dangers has he led us through,  
What mercies have we seen!**

**Now, through another year  
Supported by his care,  
We raise our Ebenezer here,  
'The Lord hath helped thus far.'**

**Our lot in future years  
We cannot, Lord, foresee,  
But kindly, to prevent our fears,  
Thou sayst, 'Leave all to me.'**

**Yea, Lord, we wish to cast  
Our cares upon thy breast;  
Help us to praise thee for the past,  
And trust thee for the rest.**



**NEW YEAR AND ANNIVERSARIES**

*All standing.*

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

***Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits.***

Who forgives your iniquity, who heals your diseases,

***Who satisfies you with good as long as you live, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.***

*Tune: ST. ANNE - # 574*

**O God our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast  
And our eternal home.**

**Under the shadow of thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.**

*Isaac Watts (1674– 1748)*

*All seated.*

Let us pray:

God of mercy, as we mark this moment, we confess our weaknesses, failures and transgressions:

***Our broken vows,  
Our slackness and misuse of time and opportunity,  
Our selfishness and our love of ease,  
Our unkindness and indifference,  
Our self-indulgence and our pleasures taken at the expense of others,  
Our moments when we have not been true to ourselves,  
Our lack of faith in your providence.***

For these sins of commission and omission, have mercy upon us.

Lord Jesus Christ, we remember in your presence our losses and griefs, our hopes and treasures which the departing year has carried away, the disappointments we have known, the friends who are no longer with us and whose steps we shall hear no more. We pray for grace to cherish the spirit which brings good out of evil, and which prevents adversities and sorrows from embittering our hearts. Give us comfort and a deep sense of your goodness in every circumstance of life, and when, despite our good intentions, we fail, be our strength and stay.

***Lord God Father, hear us as we pray.***

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.*

God will supply every need of ours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

*To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

*Tune: DISMISSAL - # 491*

**Thanks we give and adoration  
For the Gospel's joyful sound;  
May the fruits of your salvation  
In our hearts and lives abound.  
May your presence, may your presence,  
With us evermore, be found.**

*John Fawcett (1742-1817)*

Lord Jesus, you are the same yesterday, today, and forever: your throne is established in righteousness, your compassion fails not, and your love endures from generation to generation. Lift the light of your countenance upon us, for we are exiles as our ancestors were. We thank you for all the ways by which you have led us in the past. Give us courage to set our faces toward the future. ***Amen.***

Let us give thanks for all God's mercies.

For your grace given to us in days that are gone,  
For the blessings of life, seen and unseen,  
For the joy and peace of communion with you,  
***We give you thanks, gracious God.***

For the sacraments of love and service which have made us conscious of your presence in our common life,  
For the deeds we have been able to accomplish in the strength which you supply,  
For the kindness of associates, the love of friends, and the fellowship of kindred souls,

***We give you thanks, loving God.***

For the disciplines which have enriched our living,  
For your wisdom and gracious providence which we have recognized when you have denied our foolish requests,  
For the faith which has guided us in days of trial,

***We give you thanks, gracious God.***

***All standing.***

God will supply every need of ours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

***To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.***

*Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY – # 409*

**Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the head and corner-stone,  
Chosen of the Lord and Precious,  
Binding all the church in one.  
Holy Zion's help forever  
And her confidence alone.**

*John M. Neale Tr. (1818–1866)*



**Welcome & Greetings**



**Worship in Offerings:**

**Offertory Sentence:** *“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.”* (Colossians 3:16)

**Offertory Hymn: 23 –**

**When all Thy mercies, O my God,  
My rising soul surveys,  
Transported with the view, I'm lost  
In wonder, love and praise.**

**Unnumbered comforts to my soul  
Thy tender care bestowed,  
Before my infant heart conceived  
From Whom those comforts flowed.**

**When in the slippery paths of youth  
With heedless steps I ran,  
Thine arm unseen conveyed me safe,  
And led me up to man.**

**Through hidden dangers, toils, and deaths,  
It gently cleared my way;  
And through the pleasing snares of vice,  
More to be feared than they.**

**When worn with sickness, oft hast Thou  
With health renewed my face;  
And, when in sins and sorrows sunk,  
Revived my soul with grace.**

**Ten thousand thousand precious gifts  
My daily thanks employ;  
Nor is the least a cheerful heart  
That tastes those gifts with joy.**

**Through every period of my life  
Thy goodness I'll pursue  
And after death, in heaven with thee,  
The glorious theme renew.**



**Prayer of Dedication of Offerings**





## Choral Response – *Doxology*



### Ministry of the Word:

#### First Scripture Reading:      **Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 13**

1. To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
2. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
3. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
4. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
5. A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
6. A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
7. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
8. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.
9. What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?
10. I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.
11. He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.
12. I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.
13. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.



### Choir Anthem – *“Now Thank We All Our God”*



## **Second Scripture Reading: Luke 9:57 – 62**

57. And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.
58. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.
59. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.
60. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.
61. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.
62. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.



## **Hymn of Preparation: 269 –**

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
Forgive our foolish ways;  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
In purer lives Thy service find,  
In deeper reverence, praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word,  
Rise up and follow thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
The silence of eternity,  
Interpreted by love!**

**With that deep hush subduing all  
Our words and works that drown  
The tender whisper of thy call,  
As noiseless let thy blessing fall  
As fell thy manna down.**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm.**



**Sermon – *Rev. Ezra Parris***



**Hymn of Response: 619 –**

**We praise and bless Thee, gracious Lord,  
Our Saviour, kind and true,  
For all the old things passed away,  
For all Thou has made new.**

**New hopes, new purposes, desires,  
And joys, thy grace has given;  
Old ties are broken from the earth,  
New ties attach to heaven.**

**But, yet, how much must be destroyed,  
How much renewed must be,  
Ere we can fully stand complete  
In likeness, Lord, to thee!**

**Thou, only thou, must carry on  
The work thou hast begun;**

**Of thine own strength, thou must impart,  
In thine own ways to run.**

**So shall we faultless stand at last  
Before thy Father's throne;  
The blessedness for ever ours,  
The glory all thine own!**



### **Prayer of Commitment & Rededication**



### **Hymn of Affirmation: 240 -**

**I'm pressing on the upward way,  
New heights I'm gaining every day;  
Still praying as I'm onward bound,  
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."**

*Lord, lift me up, and let me stand  
By faith on heaven's table-land;  
A higher plane than I have found,  
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*

**My heart has no desire to stay  
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;  
Though some may dwell where these abound,  
My prayer, my aim, is higher ground.**

**I want to live above the world,  
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;  
For faith has caught the joyful sound,  
The song of saints on higher ground.**

**I want to scale the utmost height  
And catch a gleam of glory bright;  
But still I'll pray till Heav'n I've found,  
"Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."**



### **Ring in the New Year**



**Reading of the Daily Text – January 1, 2022**

**Saturday, January 1, 2022**

**Psalm 1 Genesis 1:1 – 2:3; Matthew 1:1 – 17**

**Watchword:** If anyone secretly entices you – even if it is your brother, your father’s son or your mother’s son, or your own son or daughter, or the wife you embrace, or your most intimate friend – saying, “Let us go worship other gods,” you must not yield to or heed any such persons.

**(Deuteronomy 13:6,8)**

**Because the Lord our God is good,  
his mercy is forever sure.  
His truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure. (539)**

**Doctrinal Text:** Jesus said, “Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

**(Mark 3:35)**

**O Lord, in whom we all are one,  
if faithful found and true,  
your will on earth by each be done  
as each in heav’n would do.  
To you ourselves we first would give;  
live to your glory while we live,  
from step to step on you rely,  
then in your service die.**

**Faithful God, we greet this new year with hopefulness. Keep us steadfast upon your will, regardless of what may come our way, for you are our guide and our certainty – our truth and our love. *Amen.***



**Closing Hymn: 621 –**

**Standing at the portal  
Of the opening year,  
Words of comfort meet us,  
Hushing every fear,  
Spoken through the silence  
By our Father's voice,  
Tender, strong and faithful,  
Making us rejoice.  
*Onward, then, and fear not,  
Children of the day;  
For his word shall never,  
Never pass away.***

**I, the Lord, am with thee,  
Be thou not afraid;  
I will help and strengthen  
Be thou not dismayed.  
Yea, I will uphold thee  
With my own right hand;  
Thou art called and chosen  
In my sight to stand.  
*Onward, then, and fear not,  
Children of the day;  
For his word shall never,  
Never pass away.***

**For the year before us,  
O what rich supplies!  
For the poor and needy  
Living streams shall rise;  
For the sad and sinful  
Shall his grace abound;  
For the faint and feeble  
Perfect strength be found.**

*Onward, then, and fear not,  
Children of the day;  
For his word shall never,  
Never pass away.*

**He will never fail us,  
He will not forsake;  
His eternal covenant  
He will never break.  
Resting on the promise,  
What have we to fear?  
God is all-sufficient  
For the coming year.  
*Onward, then, and fear not,  
Children of the day;  
For his word shall never,  
Never pass away.***



## **The Benediction**



## **Organ Postlude**



## **Welcome, Celebrations & Notices**

**We welcome members and friends, including those who join by way of our livestream on YouTube and FaceBook, to this service of worship and thanksgiving. We lift our voices in gratitude to God for keeping us over the year past and we pray for his aid and direction as we venture into 2022.**



## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT**

**This Week:**

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

Next Sunday: Divine Worship – 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.



### **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 was no registration for Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> or Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 p.m. We will resume registration when our attendance approaches the limit.
2. Since March 2021, the Province has used the first day of each month as a Day of Prayer. With January 1, 2022 falling as it does on a Saturday, we have decided to forego any planned events and ask instead that Pastors intentionally include times of prayer during their New Year's Eve/Watch Night, or January 2, 2022 services.
  - ✠ Please remember: our bereaved families, the escalation of active Covid-19 infections, the economies of the region and the world, our families, our political leaders, our youth, our students, the education system, and communities. Special prayer should be offered for the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province as we respond to the call of God in this season and prepare for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Provincial Synod in July 2022.
3. As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, death has also visited the Provincial family. Our condolences are extended to:
  - ✠ Rev. Adelyn Mgonela on the death of her youngest sister, Ms. Jennifer Walters who died in Florida on December 25, 2021.
  - ✠ Rev. Winston Chase on the death of his wife, Sis. Bernadine Chase who died in Florida on December 25, 2021.
  - ✠ The family of the late Sis. Ida Brown, wife of the late Bishop Neville Brown, who died on December 26, 2021 in Antigua.



- † Funeral arrangements are yet to be set for our Sisters. The Province is invited to pray for and support the families as they journey through this place of grief and loss.
4. We are in need of people to serve on our Media Team. Here is opportunity to be trained and then to engage in an important ministry to our congregation. Interesting persons should contact Sis Kristina Carter.
  5. A new Term is about to start for our Steelpan Ministry. Those who are interested should contact Sis Kristina Carter.
  6. 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.
  7. 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.
  8. 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.*
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.
- † Missionary Collection Boxes 2022— If you had a box last year, please collect it from the Vestry. If you desire a box for the first time, please inquire at the vestry after worship or at 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- Provocation- \$25;
  - 📖 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.



## NOTICE



UPON ENTERING  
PLEASE USE  
HAND SANITIZER  
HELP STOP THE  
SPREAD OF COVID-19

## 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.

