



SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

(Built by Slaves – 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136



*The name of the Lord is a strong tower;
The righteous run to it and are safe.
Proverbs 18:10 (NKJV)*



Lord, now lettest
thy servant depart
in peace,
according to thy
word. **For mine
eyes have seen
thy salvation.**
Luke 2:29-30

Sunday, December 31, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas

9:30 a.m.

Welcome: God, . . . Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son (Heb. 1:1-2). Welcome to all, whether you are here in the sanctuary or connecting by way of our livestream. May we receive his message of love today and rejoice in God our Saviour. Welcome to all.

Pastor: Rev. Ezra Parris

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Associate Pastor: Rev. David Ince

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WATCHWORD: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

Provincial Theme 2023:

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Introit – Choir

Invitation to Worship

Opening Hymn: 43 – “*O How Shall I Receive Thee*”

Opening Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

Responsive Reading: Psalm 148

WORSHIP IN TITHES & OFFERINGS

Offertory Sentence: “*Give thanks to the God of heaven. His faithful love endures forever.*” – Psalm 136:26.

Offertory Hymn: 66 – “*All Poor Men And Humble*”

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

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

Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Worship in Songs & Choruses

Ministry of the Word:

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 22 – 40

Choir Anthem – “*Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*”

Sermon – – *Rev. David Ince*

Prayer of Commitment & Intercession

Hymn 49 – “*Go Tell It On The Mountain*”

The Benediction

Organ Postlude



Visit our Website at <http://sharonmoravian.info>; Visit our Facebook Page and subscribe to our YouTube Channel. These are means by which we can connect to our brothers and sisters, and get the word out on what’s happening in the church. Like us; Follow us; Re-post us.



Organ Prelude

Introit

Invitation to Worship



Opening Hymn: 43 –

O how shall I receive Thee,
How greet Thee, Lord, aright?
All nations long to see thee,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord, most holy,
Thy lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please Thee best.

Thy Zion palms is strewing,
And branches fresh and fair;
My heart, its powers renewing,
An anthem shall prepare.
My soul puts off her sadness
Thy glories to proclaim;
With all her strength and gladness
She fain would serve Thy Name.

Love caused Thy incarnation,
Love brought Thee down to me;
Thy thirst for my salvation
Hath gained my liberty;
O love beyond all telling,
That led Thee to embrace,
In love all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race!

Rejoice then, ye sad-hearted,
Who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn o'er joys departed,
And tremble at your doom;
He who alone can cheer you

Is standing at the door;
He brings His pity near you,
And bids you weep no more.



Opening Prayer & Lord's Prayer



RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 148

1. Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights.
2. Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.
3. Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.
4. Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.
5. Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.
6. He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass.
7. Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps:
8. Fire, and hail; snow, and vapours; stormy wind fulfilling his word:
9. Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars:
10. Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl:
11. Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth:
12. Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children:
13. Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.
14. He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the LORD.



Worship In Tithes & Offerings:

Offertory Sentence: *“Give thanks to the God of heaven. His faithful love endures forever.” – Psalm 136:26.*

Offertory Hymn: 66 –

All poor men and humble,
All lame men who stumble,
Come haste ye, nor feel ye afraid;
With Jesus, our treasure,
With love past all measure,
In lowly poor manger was laid.

Though wise men who found him
Laid rich gifts around him,
Yet oxen they gave him their hay;
And Jesus in beauty
Accepted their duty;
Contented in manger he lay.

Then haste we to show him
The praises we owe him;
Our service he ne'er can despise:
Whose love still is able
To show us that stable
Where softly in manger he lies.



Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

Thanks, thanks, I Give You thanks

*Thanks, thanks, I give You thanks
For all You've done
I am so blessed
My soul is at rest
O Lord, I give You thanks.*



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices



Worship in Songs & Choruses



Ministry of the Word:

First Scripture Reading: **Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3**

10. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.
11. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Isaiah 62

1. For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.
2. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.
3. Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.



Second Scripture Reading: **Luke 2: 22 – 40**

22. And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;
23. (As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)
24. And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.
25. And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.
27. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,
28. Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,
29. Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:
30. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
31. Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
32. A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.
33. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.
34. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;
35. (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.
36. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;
37. And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.
38. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.
39. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.
40. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.



Choir Anthem – “*Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*”



Sermon – – *Rev. David Ince*



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 all, whether you are here in the sanctuary or connecting by way
of our livestream. May we receive his message of love today and rejoice in
God our Saviour. Welcome to all.*



Today: Wendy Cadogan-Hoyte & Kerry Headley
Advanced: Jason Lewis & Charlton Moore (Jan. 4th), Martin
Codrington & Kempton Whitehall (5th)



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: Divine Worship at 9:30 a.m.
 - † Watch-Night Service – 10:30 p.m.

- † This Week:
- † Office Hours – Tuesday & Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. (D. C. Moore Centre).
- † Monday: Public Holiday – New Year's Day
- † Tuesday – Friday: Prayer & Renewal Services at 7:30 p.m. nightly (Online via Zoom. Meeting ID: 861 4335 8604 / Passcode: 244093.)
- † Saturday: Prayer Meeting – 6:30 a.m. In Sanctuary.
 - † Sunday School Teacher's Workshop at 10.00 a.m. via Zoom. Theme: "Here I am – Teach Me." Teachers and prospective teachers are asked to make a special effort to attend.
- † 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 2024:

- † Provincial Day of Prayer – Monday, 1st
- † Prayer & Renewal Services – 2nd – 5th
- † Sunday School Teacher’s Workshop – Saturday, 6th at 10.00 a.m. via Zoom. Theme: “*Here I am – Teach Me.*” Teachers and prospective teachers are asked to make a special effort to attend.
- † Youth Symposium Barbados/St Kitts – Saturday, 13th
- † Moravian Church Barbados Conference at Prayer — Saturday, 27th
- † Moravian Disciples Concert — Saturday 27th
- † Annual Church Council — Sunday, 28th
- † Harvest at Centenary — Sunday, 28th



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. Thanks to all who supported our Missionary Festival. We have collected so far, \$10,578.60 on our way to our target of \$13,000 for 2023. If you have not made your contribution as yet or returned your collection box, you can still do so. Direct contributions can also be made and contributions in memory of loved-ones. 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. February 10, 2024 will be Sharon’s 225th Anniversary of the first laying of a cornerstone here at Sharon. A committee has been at work and the activities planned so far include:
 - † 225th Anniversary Service – February 11, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.
 - † Fun Day – April 1, 2024
 - † “The George Ramsay Memorial” Lecture – Thursday, May 16, 2024
 - † Anniversary Dinner & Gala – Date to be confirmed.
3. The PEC (Provincial Board) announces:
 - † Provincial Day of Prayer (PDP) for 2024 will revert to planned Zoom events lead by the Conferences and other groups. For PDP for January 2024, congregations are asked to take moments after midnight in the watchnight service to pray. As we cross over into 2024 let us be deliberate to pray:
 1. How this church might live into its purpose in 2024
 2. Pray for leaders (clergy and laity) to be diligent in ministry
 3. For members of our congregation to be intentional in walking with God
 4. For our nation and the other nations of the world

5. For the places of war and tension that peace and goodwill will flourish, and
 6. Any other matter that the Spirit of God reveals.
- † The Provincial family expresses condolences to Rev. Vera Waithe and family of the Barbados Conference on the death of her brother Feliston Gilkes. Bro. Gilkes died on Sunday, December 3rd in Canada after a brief illness. He was 56 years old. Please remember the family in prayer, especially his wife Sandra and their sons Kofi and Kymani.
4. 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.
 5. Remember to listen to the Moravian Radio Programme: “Moravian Voice” on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on 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.
 - † 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



Provincial Theme 2023:

“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



PRAYER NEEDS:



1. **Our Shut-ins:** *Sis. Aileen Bowen, Sis. Thora Moore, Sis. Patterson Williams*
2. **The Sick/Recovering:**
 - † *Of our congregation: Sis. Ansonia Cox-Burgess, Sis. Shanna King (USA), Sis. Lelia Gibbs*
3. **The Bereaved:** We express condolences to and pray for:
 - † *Sis. Carmel Downes and the entire Gilkes family on the passing of her brother, Bro. Feliston Gilkes. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life will be held at the Western Light Church of the Nazarene on Thursday, January 4th, commencing at 10:00 a.m. with (military) internment here at Sharon.*
 - † *We express condolences to Sis. Sheila Small on the passing of her husband, Bro. Frank Small.*
4. **World Peace**



AVAILABLE (Through the Church Office):

- † **Offering Envelopes for 2024** – 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.





United Theological College of the West Indies

is offering

3 FREE Courses

<p><u>OPTION 1 - Free</u></p> <p>Enroll in the class</p> <p>Participate in class activities</p> <p>No assignments</p> <p>No exams</p> <p>No certificate</p>	<p><u>OPTION 2 - Paid</u></p> <p>Enroll in the class</p> <p>Participate in class activities</p> <p>Complete all assignments</p> <p>Pass exams</p> <p>Awarded a certificate</p>	<p><u>Courses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ Grief Counselling ▼ Spiritual Formation ▼ Church Management <p style="text-align: center; color: #c00000;">January - May 2024 Online / Face-to-face</p>
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Persons have the option of registering for other courses at a cost.

Contact us for more info.

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