

# SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

*(Built by Slaves – 1799)*

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136



Sunday, January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 a.m.

**Welcome:** The Hymn writer: *“Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord!”* With gratitude we gather for worship and we declare the praises of our God. Welcome to all who are joining us here in the sanctuary and online, at home and abroad.

*Pastor: Rev. Ezra Parris*

*(Manse: 246-546-0344)*

*Associate Pastor: Rev. David Ince*

*Church Office/Pastor’s Study: 246-425-4011*

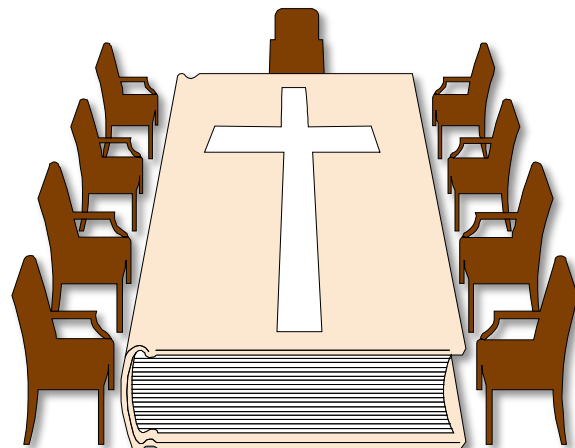
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*Church Vestry Tel: 425-0164*

## Provincial Theme 2024:

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

# COUNCIL MEETING



**WATCHWORD:** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. *(Psalm 111:10)*

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Introit – Choir

Call to Worship (Psalm 62: 5 & 6)

**L:** I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done.

**C:** *I will be filled with joy because of you. I will sing praises to your name, O Most High.*

Hymn 467 – “*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.*”

Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

Responsive Reading: Psalm 111

Worship In Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Sentence: “*O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.*” (1 Chron. 16:34)

Offertory Hymn: 292 – “*I The Lord of Sea And Sky*”

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: Deuteronomy 18:15 – 20

Second Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1 – 13

Choir Anthem – “*Someone Is Waiting*”

Sermon – Rev. David Ince

Prayer of Commitment & Intercession

Hymn 284 – “*O Thou Who Camest From Above*”

Church Council

The Doxology



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 – Choir

#### Call to Worship (Psalm 62: 5 & 6)

**L:** I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done.

**C:** *I will be filled with joy because of you. I will sing praises to your name, O Most High.*



### Opening Hymn: 467 –

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living,  
Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
All who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus  
Which the morning stars began;

Father love is reigning o'er us,  
Binding all within its span.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.



## **RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 111**

1. Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.
2. The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.
3. His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever.
4. He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
5. He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant.
6. He hath shewed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen.
7. The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure.
8. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.
9. He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.
10. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.



### **Worship In Tithes & Offerings:**

**Offertory Sentence:** *“O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” (1 Chron. 16:34)*

## Offertory Hymn: 292 –

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night;  
I will go Lord, if you lead me  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them,  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them  
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts be satisfied  
I will give my life to them,  
Whom shall I send?



## 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: Deuteronomy 18:15 – 20**

15. The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;
16. According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.
17. And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.
18. I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.
19. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.
20. But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.



## Second Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1 – 13

1. Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.
2. And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.
3. But if any man love God, the same is known of him.
4. As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.
5. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)
6. But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.
7. Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.
8. But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.
9. But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.
10. For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols;
11. And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?
12. But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.
13. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.



**Choir Anthem – “Someone Is Waiting”**



**Sermon – – Rev. David Ince**



**Prayer of Commitment & Intercession**



**Hymn 284 –**

O Thou, who camest from above  
The pure celestial fire to impart,  
Kindle a flame of sacred love  
On the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn  
With inextinguishable blaze,  
And trembling to its source return,  
In humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart’s desire  
To work and speak and think for thee;  
Still let me guard the holy fire,  
And still stir up the gift in me;

Ready for all thy perfect will,  
My acts of faith and love repeat,  
Till death thy endless mercies seal,  
And make the sacrifice complete.



**CHURCH COUNCIL**



**The Doxology**



**Organ Postlude**





## Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

The Hymn writer: “*Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord!*” With gratitude we gather for worship and we declare the praises of our God. Welcome to all who are joining us here in the sanctuary and online, at home and abroad.



Belated: *Judy Baird (26<sup>th</sup>) (Canada)*

Advanced: *Debbie Greaves (30<sup>th</sup>), Trevor Campbell (31<sup>st</sup>), Leila Bernstein, Heather Greenidge, Carl Ifill, Sandra Maynard & Maggie Phillips-Brewster (Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>), Ciauné Barker & Cynthia Waldron (3<sup>rd</sup>)*



### 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 & Annual Church Council at 9:30 a.m.
- † Adventures in worship (All ages) – 10:00 a.m. in the D.C. Moore Centre
- † 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).
- † Tuesday: Women's Fellowship meet in the Sanctuary at 3:00 p.m.
- † Wednesday: Bible Study (The Minor Prophets – Jonah) – 6:00 p.m. online via Zoom. Meeting ID: 861 4335 8604 / Passcode: 244093.
- † Thursday: Meeting of the Board of Elders in the Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m.
- † Friday: Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.
- † Next Sunday: Divine Worship, Holy Communion & Installation of Church Officers at 9:30 a.m.



## **Activities in the Month of January 2024:**

- † Annual Church Council – Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup>
- † Harvest at Centenary – Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 p.m.
- † Superintendents Conference – 31<sup>st</sup> to Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, Antigua.



## **NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS**

1. 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.
2. The Provincial Board makes the following announcements:
  - † Warm congratulations are extended to Rev. Dr. Ulston Patmore Smith and Dr. Jovanca Smith on the birth of their daughter, Jesanne Seraph Sophia Smith, on January 14, 2024 in Trinidad. Both mother and baby are doing well.
  - † The Provincial Board and Superintendents will meet in Antigua for their annual meeting from January 29 – February 4, 2024. The meeting is in two parts as the Provincial Board will meet alone and also meet with Superintendents. Please pray for our deliberations.
  - † The Provincial Board announces the sad news of the death of Rev. Charlesworth Edwards on January 23, 2024 in Staten Island, New York after a prolonged illness. Bro. Edwards candidated to ministry from the Cedar Hall congregation in Antigua and was ordained to Word and Sacrament at Spring Gardens Moravian Church in Antigua in 1976. He served in the Barbados, Antigua, and Virgin Islands Conferences. The funeral service for Bro. Edwards will take place on January 29, 2024 at the United Moravian Church, Harlem, New York at 7:00 p.m. Please pray for his wife, his daughter, and the extended family as they celebrate his life and mourn his death.
  - † Our next Provincial Day of Prayer will be held on Thursday, February 1, 2024. This prayer meeting begins at 6:00 am and will be led by our Superintendents. The link for the meeting will be shared in due course.
3. 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](http://www.sharonmoravian.info/giving-monetary) for these details.

4. 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/](http://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](mailto:moravianvoice@gmail.com)



*Thank you!*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** We acknowledge the gift of \$1,000 from Sis. Shirley Hutchinson.



## 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. Chantal Clarke and the Clarke family on the passing of her grandmother, Undine Clarke.*
  - † *Bro. Joseph Tull and family on the passing of his wife, Sis. Inez Tull. A Service of Thanksgiving for her life will be held at the Mount Tabor Moravian Church, St. John on Saturday, February 3, 2024, commencing at 10:00 a.m.*
4. World Peace



## AVAILABLE (Through the Church Office):

### † Moravian Daily Text 2024:

- American Paperback Edition – \$25
- American Large Print Edition – \$32

† 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.

† Missionary Collection Boxes for 2024 – 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 – \$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*



## United Theological College of the West Indies

is offering

# 3 FREE Courses

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Participate in class activities

No assignments

No exams

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Pass exams

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### Courses

▼ **Grief Counselling**

▼ **Spiritual Formation**

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**January - May 2024**  
**Online / Face-to-face**

Persons have the option of registering for other courses at a cost.

**Contact us for  
more info.**

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