

SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

(Built by Slaves – 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

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

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Sunday, January 9, 2022
First Sunday after the Epiphany

9:30 a.m.

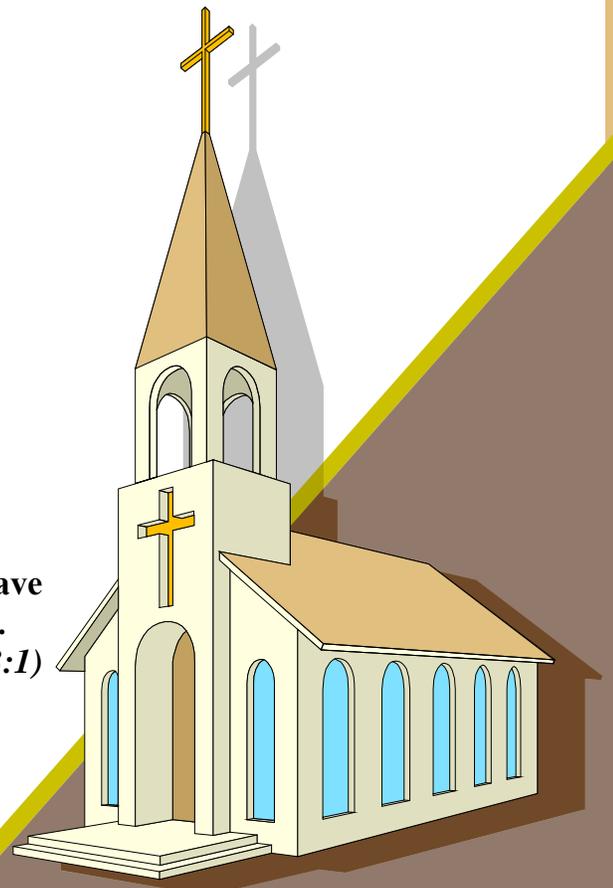
Welcome: Welcome, as we gather for worship, here in this house or by way of our livestream on YouTube and Facebook. This is the first Sunday in the season of Epiphany and we pray God to shine his light upon our lives and into our hearts, that we may know him and declare the praises of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. Welcome to all.

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

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Movelle Kellman

WATCHWORD: God says, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
(Isaiah 43:1)

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



ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship (Psalm 29:1 – 2):

Leader: ¹ Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength.

Congregation: ² *Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*

The Litany for Epiphany p. 106 – CMP Liturgy Book

Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Adoration in Songs & Choruses

Prayer of Dedication of Offerings

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:1 – 7

Choir Anthem – *“Songs for the Journey”*

Scripture Reading: Luke 3:15 – 22

Hymn 179 – *“Breathe On Me, Breath of God”*

Sermon – – *Rev. Ezra Parris*

Prayer of Commitment & Intercession

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

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.



When you pass through the waters
I will be with You
and when you pass through the rivers
they shall not overwhelm you:
when you walk through fire
you shall not be burned
the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord Your God
The Holy One of Israel
Isaiah 43:2

Call to Worship (Psalm 29:1 – 2):

Leader: ¹ Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength.

Congregation: ² *Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*



EPIPHANY

All standing.

Tune: St. George

**From the vast and veiled throng,
Round the Father's heavenly throne,
Swells the everlasting song:
Glory be to God alone!
Round Immanuel's cross of pain
Mortal men, in tribes unknown,
Sing to him who once was slain:
Glory be to God alone!**

**Blend ye raptured songs, in one,
Men redeemed, your Father own;
Angels, worship ye the Son:
Glory be to God alone;
Spirit, 'tis within thy light,
Streaming far from cross and throne,
Earth and heaven their songs unite:
Glory be to God alone!**

Hervey Ganse (1822 – 1891)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, hear us.

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.*

Lord God, Son, thou Saviour of the world,
Be gracious unto us.

Lord God, Holy Ghost,
Abide with us for ever.

This is a trustworthy saying and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;”

Of whom I am chief.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

*Blessing, and honour, and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne,
and to the Lamb for ever and ever.*

Tune: Crüger

**Arabia’s desert ranger
To him shall bow the knee;
The Ethiopian stranger
His glory come to see:
With offerings of devotion
Ships from the isles shall meet,
To pour the wealth of ocean
In tribute at his feet.**

**Kings shall fall down before him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore him,
His praise all people sing;
For he shall have dominion**

**O'er river, sea, and shore,
Far as the eagle's pinion,
Or dove's light wing, can soar.**

James Montgomery (1771 – 1854)

How beautiful on the mountain are the feet of the messenger who brings good news – good news of peace and salvation.

Their message has gone throughout the earth, and the Word to all the world.

The Lord gives the Word:

And a great army brings the Good News.

Wake up and look around, the fields are already ripe for harvest.

The harvest is great, but the workers are few.

So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into the field.

The Lord says, O Jerusalem I have posted watchmen on your walls; they will pray night and day continually; take no rest, all you who pray to the Lord.

Look and see for everyone is coming home!

Your sons are coming from distant lands; your little daughters will be carried home.

Arise, let your light shine for all to see;

For the glory of the Lord rises to shine on you.

The same star that led the Wise Men to the Christ Child, similarly lingers before us to guide God's people to the Saviour of the world.

May God's people, like the Wise Men, rejoice greatly when they see the star and find the Saviour.

For God has elevated him to the place of highest honour and given him the name above all other names.

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth.

Yes, let every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Tune: Wie Schön Leuchtet Der Morgenstern

**How bright appears the Morning Star
With mercy beaming from afar;
The host of heaven rejoices;
O righteous branch, O Jesse's rod,
Thou Son of man, and Son of God.**

**We too will lift our voices.
Jesus, Jesus,
Holy, holy, yet most lowly,
Draw thou near us;
Great Immanuel stoop and hear us.**

John C. Jacobi a. (1670 – 1750)

All seated.

Let us pray:

Bless, O Lord, ours and all other Christian congregations; keep them as the apple of your eye.

Let them be a light unto those who sit in darkness, and in the region and shadow of death.

Have mercy on your ancient covenant people; deliver them from their blindness, and bring all nations to your saving knowledge.

Hear us, gracious Lord and God.

Let the wanderers come – from the West, and from the East.

And from the North, and from the South.

Thou Light and Desire of all nations, watch over thy messengers both by land and sea. Accompany the word of their testimony concerning thy atonement with demonstration of the Spirit and of power. Thou knowest where they dwell, and wherein they labour; and that they are keeping the word of thy patience. In the hour of temptation do thou keep them and let thy holy name be named upon them. Preserve them in times of danger and distress. Let them find comfort in the fellowship and intercession of the churches, which have sent them forth in obedience to thy call. May the fire of thy love awaken and preserve amongst us the spirit of the great cloud of witnesses, who loved not their life unto the death. Bless us all, both them and us, and make of us a blessing. Amen.

All standing.

Tune: Bishopgarth

**Almighty Lord, whose sovereign right
Extends o'er every nation,
We bless thee for the gospel light
That brought to us salvation.
And unto thee we raise our prayer
For all in darkness dwelling;
That they with us thy light may share,
With us thy praise be telling.**

**And hear us as we call on thee
For all the truth possessing,
That they may ever ready be
To share the heavenly blessing;
To send to earth's remotest shore
The gladdening gospel story,
That all the nations may adore
Jesus, the King of glory.**

Evelyn R. Hasse (1855 – 1918)



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices



Adoration in Songs & Choruses



Prayer of Dedication of Offerings



Scripture Reading: Isaiah 43:1 – 7

1. But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.
2. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.
3. For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.
4. Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.
5. Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;
6. I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;

7. Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.



Choir Anthem – “Songs for the Journey”



Scripture Reading: Luke 3:15 – 22

15. And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;
16. John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:
17. Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.
18. And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.
19. But Herod the tetrarch, being reprov'd by him for Herodias his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done,
20. Added yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison.
21. Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,
22. And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.



Hymn 179 –

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love,
And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,

Until with thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glow with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with thee the perfect life



Sermon -- Rev. Ezra Parris



Prayer of Commitment



Closing 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.



The Benediction



Organ Postlude



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Welcome, as we gather for worship, here in this house or by way of our livestream on YouTube and Facebook. This is the first Sunday in the season of Epiphany and we pray God to shine his light upon our lives and into our hearts, that we may know him and declare the praises of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. Welcome to all.



Advanced: Sheridan Greaves & Cynthia Waithe (10th), Lorna Bryan (11th), Florina Scantlebury, Sheila Small & Mauricia Springer (12th), Tiandra Gill (13th), Joy Best & Rhys Hoyte (14th), Margaret Haynes (15th)



Congratulations to Bro. Calvison & Sis. Dawn Maynard who will celebrate their 3rd Wedding Anniversary on January 12, 2022; congratulations to Bro. Lawrence & Sis. Cynthia Moore who will celebrate their 61st Wedding Anniversary on January 14, 2022.



Flowers today were donated by Mr. & Mrs. Moore and Mr. & Mrs. Maynard in celebration of their respective Wedding Anniversaries.

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.
- † 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).
- † Wednesday: Bible Study – 6:00 p.m. online via Zoom. Meeting ID: 861 4335 8604 / Passcode: 244093
- † Next Sunday: Divine Worship at 9:30 a.m.
 - † Online Sunday School – Juniors (15yrs and under) at 11:00 a.m. and Seniors (16yrs and over) at 2:30 p.m. The facility is Google Meet and those who desire to join should email the Sunday School Superintendent at valeacock@gmail.com.



IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY

- † Moravian Disciples Concert – Saturday 15th
- † Moravian Church Barbados Conference at Prayer – Saturday, 22nd
- † Annual Church Council – Sunday, 23rd



Thank You!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. We acknowledge:

- ▶ A donation of \$500 to the Restoration/Building Fund.



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. We have suspended registration for the time being. We will resume registration when our attendance approaches our limit.
2. 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.
3. A new term is about to start for our Steelpan Ministry. Those who are interested should contact Sis Kristina Carter.
4. As part of a fundraising project, we have church branded cloth masks on sale at a cost of \$15 each and a few are now available only in burgundy
5. 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 for these details.

6. The Provincial Board makes the following announcements:

✝ The funeral service for Sis. Bernadine Chase, wife of Rev. Winston Chase, will take place on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at the Prince of Peace Moravian Church, Miami Gardens, Miami, Florida. The service of thanksgiving will begin at 10:30 a.m. and may be viewed on the Facebook page of the Prince of Peace Moravian Church.

✝ The funeral service for Sis. Ida Brown, wife of the late Bishop Neville Brown, will take place on Monday, January 17, 2022 at the Spring Gardens Moravian Church, St. Johns Street, St. Johns, Antigua. The funeral service will begin at 10:00 a.m. and may be viewed on the Facebook page of the Spring Gardens Moravian Church.

7. 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. **The Bereaved:** *We express condolences to and pray for: The family of Collis Holder. A service of thanksgiving for his life will be held here at Sharon on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 commencing at 3:00 p.m.*
4. **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*– \$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.**



New Year Greetings from the Chairman of PEC, Rev. Algernon Lewis

January 3, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

All praise, glory, and honour to the immortal, invisible, only wise God for having brought us into a new year, 2022.

I am Rev Algernon Lewis, Chair of the Eastern West Indies Province.

Greetings to you and your families as we begin this new journey together. We pray that goodness and mercy will be your constant companion for 2022.

Our traverse through 2021 had its challenges like any other year. However, God carried us through. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for your support through the changing scenes of 2021. Whether it was the Provincial Days of Prayer, the Lenten meditations, the Engagement and Empowerment sessions, the offering raised for brother and sisters in Haiti and St. Vincent, the offering for our widows or other causes, you showed up and offered your support. The Provincial Board is profoundly grateful.

We face a New Year of new possibilities through faith in our sovereign God. We will continue to make the SHIFT – Seek and Submit, Hear and Heed, Imagination and Insight, Focus and Function, leading to Total Transformation. Making the SHIFT means the work of equipping our Pastors and Leaders will continue. We will be more deliberate in our work of discipling and nurturing faith. Stewarding the resources that God has provided is a necessary part of this move – looking for ways to attract more resources to finance the work of ministry. Making the SHIFT also means being deliberate about our missional posture. Being missional helps us to be a church that is outward facing, being the hands and feet of Jesus in our communities. All of this will be done while we move towards the 33rd Provincial Synod to be held virtually in July 2022.

In relation to Synod, you can expect conversations to be held about matters to be discussed at Synod so that the time at Synod is more effectively used.

All of this requires more effort and time to get done. However, we are not doing this work by ourselves. I am encouraged by Caleb in Joshua 14: 12 who shouted, “give me this mountain,” the place where the giants were. He knew that as God led him, the giants would fall. Our giants can fall. Our giants will fall. That is why we need to continue to pray every month. That is why we need concentrated times of equipping and re-tooling. That is why the Provincial Board needs your full support.

It has been my absolute pleasure to serve as Chairman. Sure, there were moments of consternation. However, these were met by the unexplained, undeserved grace and favour of God. The other members of the Provincial Board and our Bishops are likely to say the same. We serve at God's pleasure.

Once again to the Provincial family, a Happy, Blessed, Peaceful, Bountiful New Year to you and your families!



Circular from the Chairman of PEC

To: All Members of Staff/Congregations
From: Rev. Algernon Lewis, Chairman of PEC
Subject: 33rd Provincial Synod
Date: January 7, 2022

FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Warm Christian greetings in the name of Jesus, our Chief Elder.

The Provincial Board has set the date for the 33rd Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province for July 18-22, 2022. Living within this period of uncertainty necessitates that Synod be held using a hybrid/virtual model.

Mindful of the local pandemic protocols, each Conference in the Province is asked to prepare for the event by doing the following:

- 1. Elect Synod delegate(s) accordance to the provisions of the Book of Order paragraph 5.4.4.7.**
- 2. Submit the names of all delegates by March 31, 2022.**
- 3. Prepare all reports for submission to the Provincial Office by April 29, 2022.**
- 4. Prepare and submit to the Provincial Office all proposals to be considered at the 33rd Provincial Synod by April 15, 2022.**

Information will be circulated later with pre-synod processes and procedures.

The Provincial Board has appointed Rev. Adelyn Mgonela to serve as the Synod Chaplain. The Rev. Dr. Jeremy Francis has been appointed Chairman of Synod. The Rev. Onita Samuel-Warner has been appointed Secretary of Synod.

One of the businesses of 33rd Provincial Synod is to approve the updated Book of Order 2020. This document has been circulated to Pastors for onward circulation to members

for reflection, discussion, and amendments where needed. Please take time to review this document that governs our operations and share your feedback.

Making the SHIFT for the 33rd Provincial Synod means that we must reimagine Synod. The presentation of reports, Committee meetings, worship, elections, and participation of delegates and observers will be adjusted to suit the virtual platform. We have the benefit of learning from others who have gone this way before us.

Please add the 33rd Provincial Synod to your prayer list that God's will be done among us.



Protocol for Worship Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic – 2022

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.

