

# SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

*(Built by Slaves – 1799)*

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

**For the message of  
the cross is  
foolishness to those  
who are perishing,  
but to us who are  
being saved, it is the  
power of God.  
1 Corinthians 1:18**

Sunday, March 3, 2024

**UNITY SUNDAY**

The Third Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m.

**Welcome:** Welcome is extended today, Unity Sunday, as we observe the 567th Anniversary of the founding of the Moravian Church (March 1, 1457). We are glad you have joined us, whether you are here in the sanctuary or online, at home and abroad. We worship God and give thanks for inspiring those who have left us a legacy of faith and service, and we commit ourselves to God today that we may do the same. Welcome.

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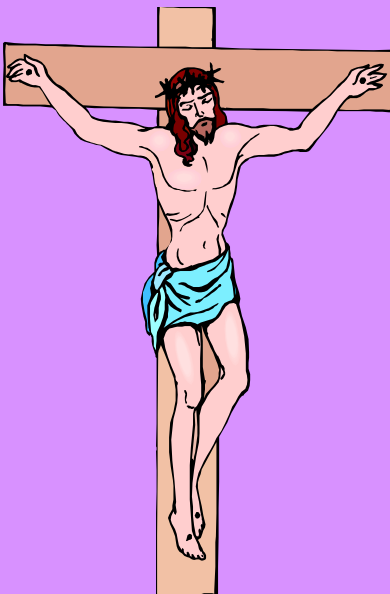
**WATCHWORD:** For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. *(1 Corinthians 1:18)*

**Provincial Theme 2024:**

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



# LENT





## ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Introit – Choir

Litany For Unity Sunday (Moravian Festivals) p. 194 – CMP Liturgy Book /Projected  
Worship In Tithes & Offerings, **including UNITY OFFERING**

Offertory Sentence: *“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” (Luke 6:38)*

Offertory Hymn: 397 – *The Church’s One Foundation*

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

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

Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Adoration in Songs & Choruses

Ministry of the Word:

First Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18 – 25

Second Scripture Reading: John 2:13 – 22

Choir Anthem – *“We Will Remember You”*

Sermon – – *Rev. Ezra Parris*

Prayer of Commitment & Intercession

Hymn 399 – *“Thy Hand, O God, Has Guided”*

Musical Interlude / Prayer of Preparation (p. 50 – Liturgy Book / p. 9 – Hymnal)

Holy Communion

Invitation

Eucharistic Prayer

Consecration of the Bread

Distribution Hymns: 582 – *“By Christ Redeemed”*  
608 – *“Own Thy Congregation”*  
580 – *“My Heart Is Resting, O My God”*

Consecration of the Wine

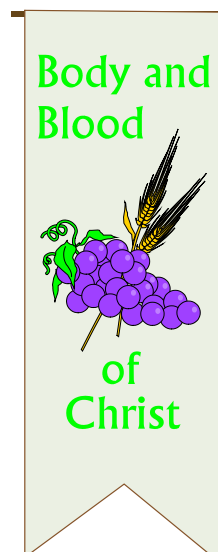
Distribution Hymns: 560 – *“Come Take By Faith”*  
166 – *“It is a thing most wonderful”*  
158 – *“My song is love unknown”*

Hymn of Thanksgiving: 588 – *“For The Bread And For The Wine”*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Covenant Hymn: 447 – *“What Brought Us Together”*

The Blessing & Organ Postlude



**Organ Prelude**

**Introit – Choir**



## **Litany for the Observance of Moravian Festivals**

*(Appropriate for usage on March 1, July 6 & August 13)*

*All standing*

O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

*Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.*

For the Lord is a great God;

*And a great King above all gods.*

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord;

*And to sing praises unto your name, O most high.*

To show forth your lovingkindness in the morning;

*And your faithfulness every night.*

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever:

*With my mouth will I make known your faithfulness to all generations.*

*Tune: OLD 124th*

**Our Lamb has conquered: let us follow him,  
With eagerness of heart and strength of limb,  
Brave in endeavor, with young vision clear,  
And high thanksgiving for God's purpose here –  
Our Lamb has conquered: let us follow him.**

**In loving service may our lives be spent,  
Finding in others' gladness sweet content,  
Striving to show the brotherhood of man,  
Of God's ordaining since the world began –  
In loving service may our lives be spent.**

*1934. Dorothy A. Connor*

Let us pray

*(All seated)*

Loving Lord, we worship and adore you, the source of our strength and our salvation. We praise and thank you for every blessing in this life. We recognize your goodness to us and give you thanks for your mercies which come to us afresh day by day. We acknowledge that, as the sheep of your pasture, we lack nothing. We thank you for walking with us all along life's way. We ask your forgiveness for the times we have taken your goodness for granted and have behaved as though we are masters of our own lives. Create new hearts within us, Lord, so that we may live according to your will for us. In your name, Jesus, we pray. ***Amen.***

You have given us life and provided all things necessary;  
You have led us day by day and protected us from harm and danger;  
You have given us strength to overcome temptation and victory over the power of the enemy.

***Let us praise God for his goodness, and for his marvellous works to all his creatures.***

You have given us the example of your disciples, who faithfully built your Church;  
You have given us faithful leaders who followed your path even when it led to death;  
You have given us ancestors who remained faithful to you in spite of the persecution they suffered.

***Let us praise God for his goodness, and for his marvellous works to all his creatures.***

You touched the disciples on the Day of Pentecost and anointed them to preach the Good News to every nation;  
You touched our ancestors on that day of renewal, causing them to truly love, and to forgive each other;

***Come, Holy Spirit, and touch us now.***

You give us men and women in this day who serve you diligently;  
You raise up young and old whom you have blessed to bless others;  
You give to all people varied talents and skills which we may use for your honour and glory.

***You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; for you have created all things, and for your pleasure they are created!***

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end: they are new every morning.

***Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.***

*Tune: BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC*

**When to our golden heritage  
We take another look;  
We see our fathers living there  
As one in unity,  
Let us therefore seek to emulate  
This great example set;  
It's strength through unity.**

*Rise up now all ye Moravians  
Rise up now all ye Moravians,  
Rise up now all ye Moravians  
And fight for unity.*

**Come let us make this pledge to God  
And to our brothers all;  
To give to God the glory  
And our brother, sisters, love;  
So the world shall be the richer and  
His peace will flood our lives,  
From strength through unity.**

*1980. Neilson Waithe*

O God our loving Father, we thank you:  
For the service of your servants, rendered in our church through the years.  
For their commitment to service and their loyalty to you;  
For their strength of character and their patience in tribulation;  
***We give you thanks; O Lord.***

For John Hus who bravely stood for honesty in service and integrity in witness;  
For his boldness to stand in favour of the standards of God whilst standing against  
the institutions of his day,  
For his courage to face death by fire because of his Christian conviction;  
***We give you thanks; O Lord.***

For John Amos Comenius who assisted persecuted Christians in finding refuge;  
For his prayer for the church that God might preserve a 'hidden seed to glorify his  
name';  
For that 'hidden seed' which sprung to life nearly a century later;  
***We give you thanks; O Lord.***

For Christian David who continued the labour of finding refuge for our persecuted  
ancestors;

For his encounter with Count Zinzendorf and the Count's willingness to 'give these Christians land whilst Christ gave them rest';

*We give you thanks; O Lord.*

For Count Zinzendorf's encounter with the slave Anthony and his zeal in leading the Moravians into mission;

For the commitment of David Nitschmann and Leonard Dober, our first missionaries;

*We give you thanks; O Lord.*

For the first missionaries to our islands and the many who followed to share the Good News;

For the early planters who gave of their land and support to this work;

*We give you thanks; O Lord.*

For these 567 years of worship, witness and work of the Moravian Church worldwide;

For the 292 years of missionary activity;

For the 292 years of service in our Province of the Moravian Church;

For the 259 years of existence of the Moravian Church in this country;

*We thank you, O Lord, for your faithfulness to us through the years, and for the many who have labored faithfully throughout time and those who continue faithfully to do so today.*

And now, O Christ, who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister: bless all those who follow in your steps. Give us each the courage to follow in their steps. Grant us zeal and patience to serve as following one Master and looking for one reward. Endue us with wisdom to pray, not for tasks equal to our strength, but rather for strength equal to our tasks. Lead us to the joy of service for the Master and loving commitment to his will. So may his duty be our delight. *Amen.*

*All standing*

*Tune: AURELIA*

**When time rolls on with purpose,  
Yes, purpose and with goals,  
Concealed, but not forgotten  
Until this day unfolds,  
And now we celebrate you,  
Though struggles come with woes,  
Abiding by your promise,  
That where we go, He goes.**

**Sing praises to the Father;  
Sing praises to the Son,  
For past-time generations  
And future souls to come;  
O Lord of time and wonder,  
We feel your presence here:  
Release your power upon us  
And give us hearts to care.**

**Sing Alleluia! Praise Him!  
We raise our voices now:  
We thank You, Holy Father  
For missionaries' vows:  
A loud Hosanna sing we  
For what we are today;  
For blessings past and present,  
We now our homage pay.**

*Elva Kitson, d. 2011*



**Worship In Tithes & Offerings – including UNITY OFFERING:**

**Offertory Sentence:** *“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” (Luke 6:38)*

**Offertory Hymn: 397 –**

The church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is his new creation  
By water and the word.  
From heaven he came and sought her  
To be his holy bride;  
With his own blood he bought her,  
And for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,  
Yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation,  
One Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses,  
Partakes one holy food,



And to one hope she presses,  
With every grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation,  
And tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation  
Of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious,  
Her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great Church victorious  
Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union  
With God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion  
With those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we  
Like them, the meek and lowly,  
On high may dwell with thee.



## 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



## Adoration in Songs & Choruses





## Ministry of the Word:

### First Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18 – 25

18. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.
19. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.
20. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?
21. For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.
22. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:
23. But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;
24. But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.
25. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.



### Second Scripture Reading: John 2:13 – 22

13. And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
14. And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:
15. And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;
16. And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.
17. And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

18. Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?
19. Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.
20. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?
21. But he spake of the temple of his body.
22. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.



### **Choir Anthem – “We Will Remember You”**



### **Sermon – – Rev. Ezra Parris**



### **Prayer of Commitment & Intercession**



### **Offertory Hymn: 399 –**

Thy hand, O God, has guided  
 Thy flock, from age to age;  
 The wondrous tale is written,  
 Full clear, on many a page;  
 Our fathers owned thy goodness,  
 And we their deeds record;  
 And both of this bear witness;  
 ‘One Church, one Faith, one Lord.’

Thy heralds brought glad tidings  
 To greatest as to least;  
 They bade men rise, and hasten  
 To share the great King's feast;  
 And this was all their teaching,

In every deed and word,  
To all alike proclaiming  
'One Church, one Faith, one Lord.'

Through many a day of darkness,  
Through many a scene of strife,  
The faithful few fought bravely,  
To guard the nation's life.  
Their gospel of redemption,  
Sin pardoned, man restored,  
Was all in this enfolded:  
'One Church, one Faith, one Lord.'

And we, shall we be faithless?  
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?  
Shall we evade the conflict,  
And cast away our crown?  
Not so; in God's deep counsels  
Some better thing is stored;  
We will maintain, unflinching,  
'One Church, one Faith, one Lord.'

Thy mercy will not fail us,  
Nor leave thy work undone;  
With thy right hand to help us,  
Thy victory shall be won;  
And then by men and angels  
Thy name shall be adored,  
And this shall be their anthem:  
'One Church, one Faith, one Lord.'



## MUSICAL INTERLUDE / Prayer of Preparation



## The Lord's Supper I

*A Prayer for private preparation:*

*I confess to thee, O God, that I have sinned in thought, word and deed through my own fault; wherefore I pray thee to have mercy upon me. O Lord, forgive me all my sins, and deliver me from evil; confirm me in all goodness; and bring me to life everlasting, through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

*The congregation stands as the minister brings the elements to the table.*

Our Saviour saith, 'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

I am the bread of life: whoever cometh to me shall never hunger; and whoever believeth in me shall never thirst.'

*We do not presume to come to this thy table, O Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold mercies.*

*But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy; grant us, gracious Lord, so to take this bread and drink this cup, that our fellowship with Thee may cleanse us from our sin and that we may evermore dwell in thee, and thou in us. Amen.*

*A hymn is sung, or the Sursum Corda is used:*

Lift up your hearts:

*We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God:

*It is meet and right so to do.*

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee O Lord, holy Father, almighty everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying,

*Holy, holy, holy,  
Lord God of hosts,  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee O Lord most high.*

*Prayer is offered, or this form may be used:*

**Let us pray.**

All glory and thanksgiving be to thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, that thou didst take our nature upon thee, and suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; that thou didst

make there a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the world; and didst institute, and in thy holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that thy precious death.

Wherefore, we commemorate thy last supper with thy disciples and having in remembrance thy work and passion, thy glorious resurrection and ascension, and pleading thy eternal sacrifice, we thy servants do set forth this memorial which thou willest us to make, giving thee thanks that thou hast counted us worthy to stand before thee.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O Lord, that with thy holy life-giving Spirit thou wilt bless and sanctify both us and these gifts of bread and wine which we set before thee; that this bread which we break may be to us the communion of thy body; and the cup of blessing which we bless the communion of thy blood; that we, and thy whole Church, receiving the same by faith, may be partakers of thy body and blood, to our spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and living sacrifice, humbly beseeching thee that all we who are partakers of this holy communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction.

And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences: and in fellowship with all the faithful in heaven and earth, we pray thee to fulfil in us and in all thy people the purpose of thy redeeming love; and to thee, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, world without end. *AMEN.*

*All stand.*

The Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, *'Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me.'*

*The Bread is distributed while hymns are sung.*



582

By Christ redeemed, in Christ restored,  
We keep the memory adored,  
And show the death of our dear Lord,  
Until He come.

His body broken in our stead  
We 'take and eat' – the living bread;  
And thus, by faith, our souls are fed  
Until He come.

The drops of His dread agony,  
His life blood shed for us, we see;  
The wine shall tell the mystery  
Until He come.

And thus that dark betrayal night  
With the last advent we unite  
By one blest chain of loving rite,  
Until He come.

O blessèd hope! with this elate  
Let not our hearts be desolate,  
But, strong in faith, in patience wait  
Until He come.



608

Own thy congregation,  
Thou victorious Lamb;  
We are here assembled  
In thy holy name;  
Look upon thy people  
Whom thou by thy blood  
Hast in love redeemèd  
And brought nigh to God.

Thou hast kindly led us  
Through these many years;  
Now accept our praises  
And remove our fears.  
Grant us all with gladness  
To obey thy voice;  
Let thy will and pleasure  
Be our only choice.

May thy Church arrayèd  
In the glorious dress

Of her Lord and Saviour's  
Spotless righteousness,  
Be both now and ever  
By thy blood kept clean,  
And in all her members  
May thy grace be seen.



580

My heart is resting, O my God,  
I will give thanks and sing;  
My heart is at the secret source  
Of every precious thing.

Now the frail vessel Thou hast made  
No hand but Thine shall fill;  
For the waters of the Earth have failed,  
And I am thirsty still.

I thirst for springs of heavenly life,  
And here all day they rise;  
I seek the treasure of Thy love,  
And close at hand it lies.

I have a heritage of joy  
That yet I must not see;  
The hand that bled to make it mine  
Is keeping it for me.

And a new song is in my mouth  
To long loved music set:  
Glory to Thee for all the grace  
I have not tasted yet.

My heart is resting on thy truth.  
Who hast made all things mine;  
O draw my captive will to thee,  
And make it one with thine.



*All having received the Bread, the Congregation stands.*



Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ's body was given for you: and feed upon him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*All partake together, then sit or kneel, and after silent prayer, sing this verse:*

*Tune: Media Vita (Part II)*

*Most holy Lord and God,  
Holy, almighty God,  
Holy and most merciful Saviour,  
Thou eternal God;  
Grant that we may never  
Lose the comforts from thy death,  
Have mercy, O Lord.*



*All stand*

After the same manner also, the Lord Jesus took the cup when he had supped, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, *'Drink ye all of it, for this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins. This do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.'*

*The Wine is distributed while hymns are sung.*



**560**

Come, take by faith the body of our Lord,  
And drink the blood of Christ for you outpoured.

Salvation's giver, Christ, the only Son,  
Who by his cross and blood the victory won.

Offered was he for greatest and for least,  
Himself the Victim and himself the Priest.

He, ransom from death, and light from shade,  
Giveth his holy grace his saints to aid.

Approach ye then with faithful hearts sincere,  
And take the pledges of salvation here.

He, that his saints in this world rules and shields,  
To all believers life eternal yields;

With heavenly bread makes them that hunger whole,

Gives living waters to the thirsty soul.

O Judge of all, our only Saviour thou,  
In this thy feast of love, be with us now.



166

It is a thing most wonderful,  
Almost too wonderful to be,  
That God's own Son should come from heaven,  
And die to save a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true:  
He chose a poor and humble lot,  
And wept and toiled and mourned and died,  
For love of those who loved him not.

I cannot tell how he would love  
A child so weak and full of sin;  
His love must be most wonderful,  
If he could die my love to win.

But even could I see him die,  
I could but see a little part  
Of that great love, which, like a fire,  
Is always burning in his heart.

It is most wonderful to know  
His love for me so free and sure;  
But 'tis more wonderful to see  
My love for him so faint and poor.

And yet I want to love thee, Lord;  
O light the flame within my heart,  
And I will love thee more and more,  
Until I see thee as thou art.



158

My song is love unknown,  
My Saviour's love to me;  
Love to the loveless shown,

That they might lovely be.  
O who am I, that for my sake  
My Lord should take, frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne  
Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange, and none  
The longed-for Christ would know:  
But O, my friend, my friend indeed,  
Who at my need His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew his way,  
And his sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their King:  
Then “Crucify!” is all their breath,  
And for his death they thirst and cry.

Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine;  
Never was love, dear King,  
Never was grief like thine!  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.



*All having received the Wine, the Congregation stands.*

Take and drink this in remembrance that Christ’s blood was shed for you, and be ye thankful.

*All partake together, then sit or kneel, and after silent prayer, sing this verse:*

*Most holy Lord and God,  
Holy, almighty God,  
Holy and most merciful Saviour,  
Thou eternal God;  
Bless thy congregation  
Through thy sufferings, death and blood,  
Have mercy, O Lord.*



*Verses of Thanksgiving may be sung or a prayer of thanksgiving such as the following is offered:*

### **Hymn of Thanksgiving – 588**

For the bread and for the wine,  
For the pledge that seals Him mine,  
For the words of love divine,  
We give Thee thanks, O Lord.

For the feast of love and peace,  
Bidding all our sorrows cease,  
Earnest of the kingdom's bliss,  
We give Thee thanks, O Lord.

For the words that turn our eye  
To the cross of Calvary,  
Bidding us in faith draw nigh,  
We give Thee thanks, O Lord.

Till He come we take the bread,  
Type of Him on whom we feed,  
Him who liveth and was dead;  
We give Thee thanks, O Lord.

Till He come we take the cup;  
As we at His table sup,  
Eye and heart are lifted up!  
We give Thee thanks, O Lord.



O Christ, our ever-living Lord, who in thy great love hast fed us at thy table, we most heartily thank thee for this time of fellowship, and for the spiritual strength and comfort thou dost impart to our souls. Grant us thy help to keep the vows which here we renew. May the uplifting sense of thy presence remain with us to guide and defend our lives.

We praise thee that thou has made us members of thy mystical body, the blessed company of all faithful people: and we commend to thee all those who are joined to us in the one true faith. We bring to thee in love and tenderness all who are dear to us .... Be pleased to unite thy people everywhere in love and charity; and let thy Church spread abroad in the earth, drawing all people unto thyself, that they may find redemption and peace in thee.

Rejoicing in the communion of saints, we thank thee for all thy servants who have departed in the faith, the great cloud of witnesses by whom we are encompassed, who in every age have loved thee in life, and continued faithful unto death, especially those most dear to our own hearts ..... Give us grace with them to follow thee, and bring us at the last to those things which eye hath not seen nor ear heard, which thou hast prepared for them that love thee.

Now, unto him that loved us, and hath loosed us from our sins by his blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto his God and Father, unto him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

*During a covenant hymn, the right hand of fellowship is given, as a pledge of rededication to the service of Christ and a sign of our oneness in him.*



### **Covenant Hymn – 447**

What brought us together, what joinèd our hearts?  
The pardon which Jesus, our High-Priest, imparts;  
'Tis this which cements the disciples of Christ,  
Who are into one by the Spirit baptized.

Is this our high calling, harmonious to dwell,  
And thus in sweet concert Christ's praises to tell,  
In peace and blest union our moments to spend,  
And live in communion with Jesus our Friend?

O yes, having found in the Lord our delight,  
He is our chief object by day and by night;  
This knits us together, no longer we roam,  
We all have one Father, and heaven is our home.



### ***The Blessing:***

THE Lord bless thee and keep thee;  
The Lord make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee;  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

***In the name of Jesus. AMEN.***

*All remain standing whilst the minister removes the elements from the table.*



## Organ Postlude



### Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Welcome is extended today, Unity Sunday, as we observe the 567th Anniversary of the founding of the Moravian Church (March 1, 1457). We are glad you have joined us, whether you are here in the sanctuary or online, at home and abroad. We worship God and give thanks for inspiring those who have left us a legacy of faith and service, and we commit ourselves to God today that we may do the same. Welcome.



*Advanced: Brenda Herbert (4<sup>th</sup>), Heather Beckles (5<sup>th</sup>), Carlos Knight & Chloris Hicks (6<sup>th</sup>), Melik Carmichael, Cowyn Franklyn, Jenyre Maynard & Jean Straker (8<sup>th</sup>), David Greenidge, Earlyne Walrond & Shirnelle Yorke (9<sup>th</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 & Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.
- ✠ MORAVIAN UNITY SUNDAY. At this time of year, we remember the birth of the Unitas Fratrum, the Moravian Church, on March 1, 1457. We are requested to pray for the work and witness of our Church Unity as we seek to be faithful to the mission of God. A special Unity offering will be taken in all Moravian Churches worldwide on Unity Sunday
- ✠ Adventures in worship (All ages) – 10:00 a.m. in the D.C. Moore Centre
- ✠ March of Witness and Open-Air Service at 3:30 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).**

† **Tuesday: Women’s Fellowship – First & Third Tuesdays: In Sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. All other Tuesdays: Online via Zoom at 6:00 p.m.**

† **Wednesday: Bible Study (The Minor Prophets – Hosea) – 6:00 p.m. online via Zoom. Meeting ID: 861 4335 8604 / Passcode: 244093.**

† **Friday: Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.**

† **Next Sunday: Divine Worship 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 March 2024:**

† **Moravian Unity Sunday – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30. At this time of year, we remember the birth of the Unitas Fratrum, the Moravian Church, on March 1, 1457. We are requested to pray for the work and witness of our Church Unity as we seek to be faithful to the mission of God. A special Unity offering will be taken in all Moravian Churches worldwide on Unity Sunday**

† **Harvest Festival at Gracehill – Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup>**

† **Meeting of Island Conference – Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m., D.C. Centre.**

† **Mount Tabor Harvest Fair – Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m.**

† **Harvest Festival at Mount Tabor – Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup>**

† **Theological Education Sunday – 24<sup>th</sup>**



**NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS**

1. We are celebrating 225 years since the laying of the cornerstone here at Sharon. We held our Anniversary Service on February 10th; Other events being planned, include:

† **Food & Fun Day – April 1, 2024. Admission is free. Food and drinks will be on sale!**

† **“The George Ramsay Memorial” Lecture – Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The lecture will be presented by Dr. Pedro Welch.**

† **Anniversary Dinner & Gala – Date to be confirmed.**

† **225 for 225! As part of our 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations which will be year-round, we have launched our “225 for 225” drive, where we ask persons to donate \$225 dollars 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 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. At SurePay you can make payments anonymously to the Moravian Church (*Account No: 1765-1768-0000, Name: Sharon Moravian Church*). A specimen of the envelope is displayed below.



## 2. From the Superintendent:

- ✝ The Moravian Church worldwide will observe Unity Sunday on Sunday, March 3, 2024. It was on March 1, 1457, that the Moravian Church was founded. We ask for your continued prayers for the work and witness of our church.
- ✝ A special Unity Offering is received in all Moravian Churches worldwide on Unity Sunday. This year, the Unity Offering has been earmarked for churches in Germany and the Czech Republic helping to resettle Ukrainian refugees and provide missional help in Ukraine.
- ✝ Here in the Barbados Conference, our “Unity Sunday activities” will include:
  - A March of Witness and Outdoor Worship Service. The March will commence at 3:30 p.m. from Bunkers Hill, where Moravians first began work in Barbados, and will end at Sharon for the outdoor service. As the Sharon congregation is marking 225 years since the laying of the cornerstone at Sharon, the Conference is invited to join in this march and service to give witness to Christ and to remind the community of the presence of the church. Congregations should dress in their colours as usual.
- ✝ The Annual General Meeting of Island Conference will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Duncan C. Moore Educational Centre,

Sharon, St. Thomas.

- ✠ On Sunday, March 24, 2024, the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province will observe Theological Education Sunday. On this day annually, we remember in prayer our Warden/Tutor and all of our Moravian ministers in training at the United Theological College of the West Indies in Jamaica. A special offering towards ministerial training is also received. Currently, there is one (1) minister in training from this Province: Sis. Chioma Henry. Let us remember them especially in our prayers.
- 3. If you plan to claim on contributions to our church when filing your 2023 Income Tax Return, please make a request and submit your TAMIS Number, so that a statement can be forwarded to the Barbados Revenue Authority on your behalf. Please send an email to [sharon.moravian.church@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.moravian.church@gmail.com) or by writing your TAMIS Number just once on your offering envelope.
- 4. We are thankful for your financial support.
  - ✠ We do need your ongoing support so that we can maintain our ministry, our facilities and pay 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.
- 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/](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)



## The Past 225 Years



3. Thanks to the untiring work of Bro Benjamin Brookshaw, Bunker's Hill in St. Thomas became the first official site of Moravian Missionary work in Barbados. Now a residential area, the location is called "Old Sharon."



### 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)*
3. The Bereaved: *We express condolences to and pray for: Kofi and Kymani Gilkes and the entire Gilkes family, on the passing of their mother, Sandra Gilkes.*
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.



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.



### 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*



## UNITY PRAYER DAY OFFERING 2024.

Support for Ukrainian Refugees in Germany and the Czech Republic

### GERMANY

The Russian war of aggression triggered a large movement of refugees within Ukraine, but also to safe neighbouring countries. More than 1.3 million refugees – mostly women with their children – arrived in Germany alone as of February 2022.

Partly through personal contacts, partly because of the proximity of various congregations to the border, the Moravian Church in Germany had already recognized the responsibility to provide active help at an early stage. The first

women and children arrived at the Moravian guest house KOMENSKÝ at the beginning of March 2022 during the days of the Synod meeting. Spontaneously, an information and discussion session was arranged at Synod. In the following weeks, several rooms in the KOMENSKÝ were made available for refugees. Some moved on later, for others, flats were sought in and around Herrnhut. There was a great readiness to help, within the congregation and also among many people in the surrounding area who donated necessary clothing or furniture.

Like Herrnhut, several other congregations helped immediately with the most necessary items. It soon became clear that housing, clothing, and food could only be the basics of support. From the beginning, personal relationships were also important. Parishioners who spoke Russian often volunteered to help with visits to offices and doctors or started German language courses. In Herrnhut, the “Café Odessa” was founded – a meeting place for newcomers and residents, which continues to open its doors once a week. In Cottbus, the “Haltestelle”, a missionary project of the Moravian Church, invited refugee children to the “Ukrainian School”. Here they could learn German in a playful way, but above all enjoy hours of levity after the often-traumatic experiences of the war. The Haltestelle is still an important anchor point for Ukrainian children and their parents.

Supporting children and young people also became a task for the Moravian schools. Ukrainian classes were established at both the Zinzendorf schools in Königsfeld and Herrnhut. The goal of integrating the children into the regular classes after intensive German language courses has been achieved in the meantime. The Königsfeld Zinzendorf School also provided cost-intensive accommodation for an unaccompanied Ukrainian girl in the boarding facilities.

In addition to helping refugees in the congregations and institutions, the Moravian Church also helped directly in Ukraine. Aid transports to the war-torn regions were supported. In cooperation with other Christian organizations, almost 10,000 copies of the Moravian Daily Watchwords in Ukrainian language have been distributed since the beginning of the war. The books were distributed by pastors and staff of local church congregations, mostly together with aid packages. The soldiers at the front received the Watchwords together with the food packages.

We will continue to distribute the Moravian Watchwords to sow hope with the word of God in a country where war has devastated so many places and

landscapes, in a society where joy of life and confidence are hard to find at the moment.

## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

**In February 2022, the war in Ukraine began. Due to the war situation, many residents were forced to flee Ukraine and look for a new home in various European countries. Over 500,000 Ukrainian refugees also received temporary protection in the Czech Republic. These are mainly women and children, possibly the elderly, as the men stayed in Ukraine to defend their country.**

**The Moravian Church Unity Province also got involved in helping Ukrainians without hesitation: by providing accommodation, donating clothes and household items, offering opportunities for work and spending free time, practical help and support. Thanks to the cooperation with the Moravian Church Choir, the community united around the New Generation Christian elementary school in Kyiv, approx. 120 people, moved to Nová Paka - the Nová Paka choir, in cooperation with the region and other organizations, and with the support of donors from UF, managed to secure for them accommodation and spaces for teaching. During this year, some returned or moved to other countries, in the following school year the students from this school will be educated directly in our primary school.**

**We are still continuing this assistance: in some of our congregations, Ukrainian families continue to stay, or women with children, several women are even employed in our congregations. In our Christian schools and kindergartens, we not only provide education for registered Ukrainian pupils and students (Nová Paka, Hejnice, Liberec), but we also help them and their families, if possible, with solving their needs and the traumas that war brings, our congregations offer the possibility of leisure activities - participation of children in clubs, summer camps, involvement in various activities within the community (mothers' clubs, senior clubs), etc. If possible, Ukrainians participate in our services, which are adapted for them, a Ukrainian Christian group meets weekly in the premises of the Nová Paka church.**





Sharon Moravian Church

1799 **225** 2024

Celebrating the Past  
Pursuing the Vision of God's Kingdom

## 225TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS CALENDAR 2024

**225TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
SERVICE**



**FEB 11 | 4:00PM**

**MAR 3 | 3:30PM**



**MARCH OF  
WITNESS**  
(UNITY SUNDAY)

**FUN DAY**



**APR 1 | 11:00AM**

**MAY 16 | 7:00PM**



**'THE GEORGE  
RAMSAY  
MEMORIAL'  
LECTURE**

**ANNIVERSARY  
DINNER &  
GALA**



**TBA**





Join us for

# Harvest Fair

Sat  
**16 March**  
2024

from 11.30am

**Mount Tabor  
Moravian Church**  
St. John

Delicious Food & Refreshments





Sharon Moravian Church



1799 **225** 2024

Invites you to our

# FOOD & FUNDAY

Bring your family and friends  
for a day of fun!

ADMISSION  
**FREE!**

ADMISSION  
**FREE!**

**MONDAY**



**APRIL  
1ST**



**1-6 pm**



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MORAVIAN  
CHURCH**

**FUN ACTIVITIES**

**PRIZES & SURPRISES**



**FOOD**



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