

SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

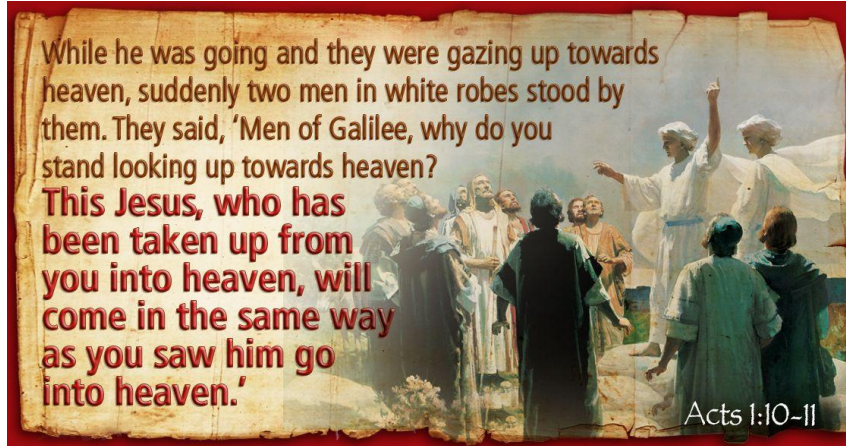
(Built by Slaves - 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

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Sunday, May 16, 2021

Ascension Sunday

9:30 a.m.

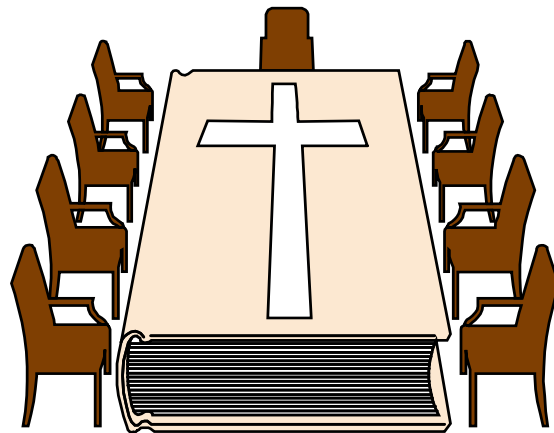
Welcome: Welcome to all as we worship Jesus Christ, our ascended Lord. Ephesians 4:8 affirms, *When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.* With grateful hearts we worship. Welcome to this time of praise.

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

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Movelle Kellman

WATCHWORD: Jesus said, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."
(John 17:17)

COUNCIL MEETING



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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship (Psalm 47:1 – 2): *O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth.*

Litany for Ascension (Liturgy Book, p. 142 / Projected)

Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Hymn 245 – “*Sing With Humble Hearts Your Praises*”

Prayer of Dedication of Offerings

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1 – 11

Hymn of Preparation: “*Majesty, Worship His Majesty*”

Sermon – – *Rev. Ezra Parris*

Prayer of Commitment & Intercession

Hymn 141 – “*Crown Him With Many Crowns*”

Organ Interlude

Church Council

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.



Acts 1:7-11 (NIV2011) 7 “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Call to Worship (Psalm 47:1 – 2): *O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth.*



ASCENSION

All standing.

Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors;
The King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates; even lift them up, O everlasting doors;
The King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

The Lord has prepared his throne in the heavens,
And his kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father;
To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever: Amen.

TUNE: AUSTRIAN HYMN

**Jesus, hail enthroned in glory,
There for ever to abide!
All the heavenly hosts adore thee,
Seated at thy Father's side:
There for sinners thou art pleading,
There thou dost our place prepare,
Ever for us interceding,
Till in glory we appear.**

**Worship, honour, power, and blessing,
Thou art worthy to receive;
Loudest praises, without ceasing,
Meet it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits!**

**Bring your sweetest, noblest lays;
Help to sing your Saviour's merits,
Help to chant Immanuel's praise.**

John Bakewell (1721 – 1819)

The Father of glory has raised Christ from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also that which is to come. He has put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that fills all in all.

We see Jesus who was made a little lower than the angels, who suffered and died, now crowned with glory and honour.

By his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us, now to appear in the presence of God for us.

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever lives to make intercession for them.

Jesus said: In my Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also. I ascend to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.

If we be risen with Christ, let us seek those things which are above, where Christ sits at the right hand of God.

O most merciful Saviour, as you have risen from the dead:

May we also rise to newness of life.

As you have ascended to the Father:

May we set our affections on things above.

As you are seated at the right hand of God:

May we be confident of final triumph.

As you are our Intercessor:

May we rejoice in forgiveness and peace.

As you sent the Comforter:

May we, led by him, follow in your footsteps.

And when you appear in glory:

May we see you as you are, and enter into your joy.

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

Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power be unto him that sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever. Amen.

TUNE: LLANFAIR

**Hail the day that sees him rise, Hallelujah!
Ravished from their longing eyes; Hallelujah!
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Hallelujah!
Enters now the highest heaven! Hallelujah!**

**Him though highest heaven receives, Hallelujah!
Still he loves the earth he leaves: Hallelujah!
Though returning to his throne, Hallelujah!
Still he calls mankind his own. Hallelujah!**

**Lord beyond our mortal sight, Hallelujah!
Raise our hearts to reach thy height. Hallelujah!
There thy face unclouded see, Hallelujah!
Find our heaven of heavens in thee. Hallelujah!**

Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

The service continues with hymn, sermon (if not previously given), hymn and benediction.



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices



Hymn 245 –

**Sing with humble hearts your praises
For our Saviour's boundless grace;
Pay due homage to Christ Jesus,
Come with thanks before his face:
Praise him for his death and bleeding,
All our happiness lies there;
Praise him for his gracious leading;
Praise your faithful Shepherd's care.**

**Praise for every scene distressing;
Praise for all thou didst endure;
Praise for every gift and blessing
Which thy griefs for us procure:
In thy ransomed congregation
Shall thy death our theme remain,
Till thou com'st with full salvation,
Lord of glory, Lamb once slain.**



Prayer of Dedication of Offerings



Ministry of the Word

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1 – 11

- 1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,
- 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:
- 3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:
- 4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.
- 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.
- 6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?
- 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.
- 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- 9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.
- 10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;
- 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.



Hymn of Preparation –

**Majesty, worship His majesty.
Majesty, worship His majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory, honour, and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority
Flows from His throne unto His own;
His anthem raise.
*So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship His majesty;
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.***



Sermon – – *Rev. Ezra Parris*



Prayer of Commitment & Intercession



Hymn 141 –

**Crown him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon his throne:
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Lord of love:
Behold his hands and side,
Those wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye
At mysteries so bright.**

**Crown him the Lord of peace:
Whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
Absorbed in prayer and praise.**

His reign shall know no end;
And round his pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years:
The potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me:
Thy praise shall never, never fail
Throughout eternity.



Organ Interlude



Church Council



Doxology



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Welcome to all as we worship Jesus Christ, our ascended Lord. Ephesians 4:8 affirms, *When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.* With grateful hearts we worship. Welcome to this time of praise.



Today: Coraleen Greenidge

Advanced: Jarad Lewis & Kianna Rouse (20th), Shirley Cadogan & Dalicia Gittens (21st), David King & Joan Taylor (22nd)



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT

- † TODAY: Worship & Church Council Meeting – 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
- † NEXT SUNDAY: Worship – 9:30 a.m. A walk-up offering will be taken, to assist our brothers and sisters in St. Vincent and the Grenadines



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. The Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province is seeking to support our sisters and brothers in St. Vincent and the Grenadines who have been affected by the eruption of the La Soufriere Volcano.
 - † Based on the initial conversation and the changing dynamics, the suggestion is that we provide cash to purchase items such as food, water, and bedding to support the displaced peoples.
 - † These items will be shipped from nearby islands (Barbados, Trinidad, Grenada) in coordinated efforts. Our partner in this effort is the Methodist Church which has two circuits in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
 - † Here in Barbados we are invited to give towards the purchase of the above items.
 - † Here at Sharon, a walk-up offering will be received on Sunday, May 23, 2021. Alternatively, you can place a marked envelope in the offering basket any Sunday or drop an envelope off at the church office or the drop-box at the Manse. Those who give electronically can do so and notify us by email.
2. Moravian Music Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday June 6, 2021. The thematic focus this year is Trust in God.
3. The Moravian Trinidad Conference will be hosting an online preaching academy; May to July 2021, two Saturdays per month, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. See the promotional video for more information, here: <http://bit.ly/mctcpreachingacademyad>
4. The Provincial Board of the European Continental Province (ECP) has drawn the Watchword for each Province and Unity Undertaking for 2021. The watchword drawn for the Eastern West Indies Province (EWIP) is “*He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth*” (Psalm 105:7). The watchword is assigned for April 3, 2021.
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. 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, Grace Lashley, Muriel Moore, Carol St. John.*
2. **The Bereaved:** *We express condolences and pray for Sis Patricia Brathwaite-Marshall and family on the passing of her aunt.*
3. The people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados and other nearby islands as we deal with the effects of the eruption of the La Soufriere volcano in St. Vincent.



AVAILABLE:

- ✝ Offering Envelopes for 2021 – 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
- ✝ On order from the Church Office, copies of Sunday sermons on CD – \$2.00.
- ✝ Greeting Cards (\$2.00) and Prints (\$20.00) of a painting of Sharon Church from the Church Office.
- ✝ Books by Rev. Neilson Waithe: Understanding the Caribbean Worker – \$25.00; Provocation – \$20.
- ✝ The Book, ‘Created in Their Image: *Evangelical Protestantism in Antigua and Barbados 1834-1914*’ written by Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts. The cost is \$50.00.



Protocol for Worship Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic – 2021

In keeping with the directive given by the Prime Minister of Barbados:

1. Sanitisation stations shall be set up at the entrances and exits which shall be manned by ushers.
2. All attending shall sanitise their hands upon entering the church.
3. The names of all who attend service shall be recorded.
4. The temperature of each worshipper and minister shall be taken before entering the church, using a contactless thermometer;
 - ✝ persons whose temperature exceed 37.5° C shall not be allowed to enter the church;
 - ✝ persons who are coughing repeatedly, sneezing or exhibit any flu-like symptoms shall not be allowed to enter the church.
5. Face masks shall be worn throughout the service by all persons present in the church. Worship Leaders may remove their masks temporarily to fulfil their roles, provided that there is at least six 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 three 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 three 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. Confirmation, Dedication, 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.

