



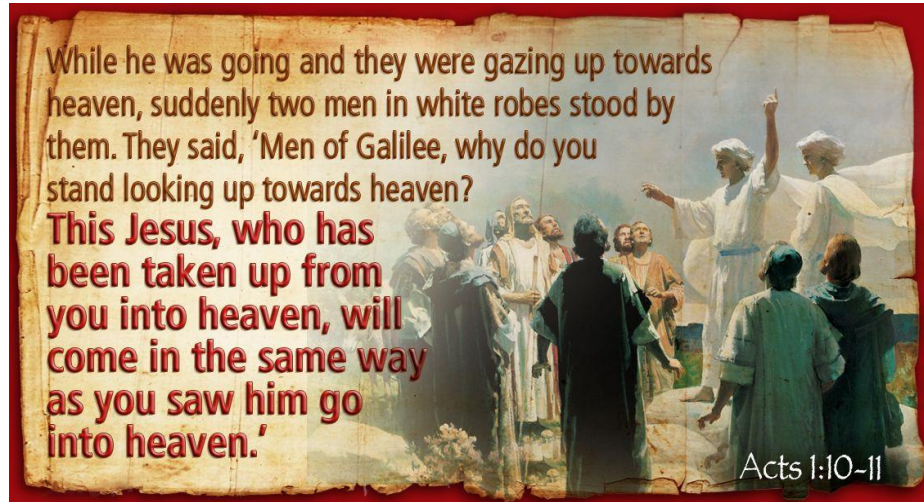
SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

(Built by Slaves – 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136



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



While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?

This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Acts 1:10-11

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Ascension Sunday

9:30 a.m.

Welcome: Welcome to all, whether you are in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad; as we worship our ascended Lord. We worship with grateful hearts, for *when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men* (Eph. 4:8). Welcome.

Pastor: Rev. Ezra Parris

(Manse: 246-546-0344)

Church Office/Pastor's Study: 246-425-4011

Email: sharon.moravian.church@gmail.com

Church Vestry Tel: 425-0164

WATCHWORD: Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

(1 Peter 5:7)

Provincial Theme 2023:

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Introit

Call to Worship (Psalm 9:1 – 2):

Leader: *I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.*

All: *I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.*

Hymn 480 – “*The Lord Is King! Lift Up Thy Voice*”

Litany for Ascension (p. 143 – Liturgy Book / Projected)

Worship in Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Sentence: “*Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. ²³ They are new every morning; . . .*” (Lamentations 3:22 – 23)

Offertory Hymn: 136 – “*All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!*”

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

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

Greetings, Celebrations & Notices

Adoration in Songs & Choruses

MINISTRY OF THE WORD:

First Scripture Reading: Acts 1:6 – 14 – Bro. Luther Barker

Second Scripture Reading: John 17:1 – 11 – Sis. Ismay Straker

Choir Anthem – “*Joyful, Joyful, we adore thee*”

The Sermon – – Rev. Ezra Parris

Hymn 546 – “*A Charge To Keep I Have*”

Prayer of Commitment and Intercession

Hymn 135 – “*Rejoice the Lord is King!*”

The Benediction

Organ Postlude



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



Organ Prelude

Introit

Call to Worship:

Leader: *I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.*

All: *I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.*



Hymn 480 –

The Lord is King! lift up thy voice,
O earth, and all ye heavens, rejoice;
From world to world the joy shall ring,
‘The Lord Omnipotent is King!’

The Lord is King! who then shall dare
Resist his will, distrust his care,
Or murmur at his wise decrees,
Or doubt his royal promises?

The Lord is King! child of the dust,
The Judge of all the earth is just;
Holy and true are all his ways:
Let every creature speak his praise.

He reigns! ye saints, exalt your strains;
Your God is King, your Father reigns;
And he is at the Father's side,
The Man of love, the Crucified.

Come, make your wants, your burdens known;
He will present them at the throne;
And angel bands are waiting there
His messages of love to bear.

One Lord, one empire all secures;
He reigns, and life and death are yours:
Through earth and heaven one song shall ring,
‘The Lord Omnipotent is King!’



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)



WORSHIP IN TITHES & OFFERINGS

Offertory Sentence: *“Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not. ²³ They are new every morning; . . .”*

(Lamentations 3:22 – 23)

Offertory Hymn: 136 –

All hail the power of Jesus’ name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem
To crown him Lord of all.
Crown him, ye martyrs of your God,
Who from his altar call;
Praise him whose way of pain ye trod,
And crown him Lord of all.

Ye prophets who our freedom won,
Ye searchers, great and small,
By whom the work of truth is done,
Now crown him Lord of all.
Sinners, whose love can ne’er forget
The wormwood and the gall,

Go spread your trophies at his feet,
And crown him Lord of all.

Bless him, each poor oppressèd race
That Christ did upward call;
His hand in each achievement trace,
And crown him Lord of all.

Let every tribe and every tongue
To him their hearts enthrall:
Lift high the universal song,
And crown him Lord of all.



Prayer of Dedication of Offerings

Offertory Doxology

*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.*



Greetings, Celebrations & Notices



Adoration in Songs & Choruses



MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Scripture Reading: Acts 1:6 – 14 – Bro. Luther Barker

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.
12. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.
13. And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.
14. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.



Second Scripture Reading: John 17: 1 – 11 – Sis. Ismay Straker

1. These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:
2. As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.
3. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.
4. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.
5. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.
6. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.
7. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

8. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.
9. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.
10. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.
11. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.



Choir Anthem – “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”



Sermon – – Rev. Ezra Parris



Hymn 546 –

A charge to keep I have,
 A God to glorify,
 A never-dying soul to save,
 A rest to gain on high:

To serve the present age,
 My calling to fulfil:
 O may it all my powers engage
 To do my Master’s will!

Arm me with watchful care,
 As in thy sight to live;
 And O thy servant, Lord, prepare
 A strict account to give.

Help me to watch and pray,
 And still on thee rely,
 And let me not my trust betray,
 But press to realms on high.



Prayer of Commitment & Intercession



Closing Hymn: 135 –

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore!
Mortals, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again, ye saints, rejoice.

Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains,
He took his seat above;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again, ye saints, rejoice.

His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are unto Jesus given;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again, ye saints, rejoice.

He sits at God's right hand,
Till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command,
And fall beneath his feet:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again, ye saints, rejoice.

Rejoice in glorious hope,
Jesus our Lord shall come,
And take his brethren up
To their eternal home:
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
The trump of God shall sound, rejoice.



The Benediction



Organ Postlude



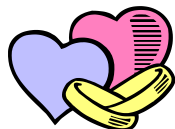
Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Welcome to all, whether you are in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad; as we worship our ascended Lord. We worship with grateful hearts, for *when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men* (Eph. 4:8). Welcome.



Today: Shirley Cadogan & Dalicia Gittens

Advanced: David King & Joan Taylor (22nd), Elizabeth Ifill (23rd), Dwight Waithe (24th), Amaiya Greenidge, Anson Skeete, Carlo Smith-Tull & Mechelle Lewis-Downer (25th), Tricia Babb, Heather Barker & Deighton Davis (27th)



Congratulations to Bro. Bro. Steven & Sis. Sonia King who will celebrate their 21st Wedding Anniversary on May 25, 2023.

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: ASCENSION SUNDAY

† 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).

† Tuesday: Women's Fellowship – Online via Zoom at 6:00 p.m.

- † Wednesday: Bible Study – 6:00 p.m. online via Zoom. Meeting ID: 861 4335 8604 / Passcode: 244093.
- † Friday: Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.
- † Saturday: Leadership Enrichment – 10:00 a.m. D.C. Moore Centre
- † Next Sunday: PENTECOST
 - † Divine Worship at 9:30 a.m.
 - † Adventures in Worship (All Ages) – 10:00 a.m. at the D. C. Moore Centre



In the Month of May 2023:

- † Meeting of the Provincial Elders Conference (The Administrative Board of the Province) – May 24 – 28, 2023 in Barbados.
- † Grace Hill Moravian Preschool Fund Day – May 27th, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the School Grounds. Admission: Adult – \$10, Child – \$5, Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) – \$25.
- † Pentecost – Sunday, 28th (Testimony Service)
- † Calvary’s Luncheon – May 28th, 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Leonard’s School Auditorium. Tickets – \$60.

In the Month of June 2023:

- † Trinity Sunday – 4th
- † Fellowship Sunday Outdoor Worship – 11th. We will invite our friends and people from our community to have an open-air worship experience with us; then we will open our picnic baskets and have lunch and fellowship on the grounds.
- † Father’s Day – 18th
- † Conference Evangelism – 25th – 30th



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. The Women’s Fellowship will hold a Farmer’s Market immediately after Church on Sundays. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the financial proceeds will go to the Church. Items will cost either \$3.00 or \$5.00.
2. From the Chairman of P.E.C:
 - † The Provincial Elders’ Conference will meet from May 24 – 28, 2023 in the Barbados Conference. Your prayers are requested as we deliberate on significant matters before the Province while also interacting with members of the Barbados Conference.

- † **Leadership Training Opportunity:** As we continue to SHIFT into alignment with the plans and purposes of God, the Provincial Board has arranged for all leaders throughout the Province to be part of a training opportunity under the theme “*Reimagining Leadership in the EWI Province.*” These are in-person events led by Sis. Carol David Kendell, a thought leader and expert in Business Alignment and Agile Transformation; she is a member of the Trinidad Conference.
 - † The training session will examine our current location and how we might be repositioned for a more effective ministry. We will look at strategic objectives to include three-dimensional growth (numeric, spiritual, and financial), community building, asset utilization, and sustainability. Let us prepare to be fully engaged in these sessions as we migrate to a new place in God’s unfolding work in this Province. Please also pray for these sessions. Each Conference will schedule its individual sessions in the coming months.
 - † The Provincial family extends warm congratulations to the Rev. Dr. Nevin Lewis on the successful defense of his Doctor of Ministry dissertation on May 12, 2023. His dissertation was entitled “The impact of pre-marital counseling on marital satisfaction.” Dr. Lewis passed with distinction. Bro. Lewis pursued his studies at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Jersey. Let us pray for Bro. Lewis and family and they continue to follow the call of God to serve the present age.
- 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 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/) 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

5. Our Bus is back on route on Sundays. Invite someone to get on board! The Route to Sharon: Quarry Road (8:40 a.m.), Padmore Village (8:45), Melrose, Edge Hill Terrace (8:50), First Ave. Jackson (8:55), Lodge Hill (9:00), Sharon (9:15). Contributions to the Bus Fund are welcome. Envelopes are available from the vestry.



Provincial Theme 2023:

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

“Broadly speaking, renewing identity speaks of who we are as Christ-followers; renewing our purpose speaks to why the church exists; re-igniting our passion speaks to our willingness to share our faith with others. – Chairman of PEC



PRAYER NEEDS:



1. Our Shut-ins: *Sis. Aileen Bowen, Sis. Thora Moore*

2. The Sick/Recovering:

† Of our congregation: *Sis. Marva Craigwell, Bro. Athelston Lawrence, Sis. Norma Nicholls, Sis. Cynthia Eversley*

3. The Bereaved: We express condolences to and pray for: *The Waithe family, on the passing of Bro. Hugh Waithe. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life will be held here at Sharon on Tuesday May 30, 2023, commencing at 3:00 p.m.*

4. World Peace



AVAILABLE (Through the Church Office):

- † **Moravian Daily Text 2023: American Paperback Edition – \$25**
- † **Offering Envelopes for 2023 – 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 2023 – 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.**



