

SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

(Built by Slaves - 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

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Sunday, May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

9:30 a.m.

Welcome: A sincere welcome is extended to all on this Mother's Day as we celebrate and give God thanks for our mothers. May each and every woman worshipping with us today be assured of our appreciation of their maternal love and care. Welcome.

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

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Movelle Kellman

WATCHWORD: Make a joyful noise to the Lord,
all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing
praises.
(Psalm 98:4)

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



ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship (Psalm 98:1 – 2): *Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.*

Hymn 161 – “O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing”

Litany for Women and Mothers (Liturgy Book, p. 210 /Projected/Leaflet)

Video Presentation

Poem – “Only A Mother” – Written by Nicole Lewis

Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Adoration in Songs & Choruses

Prayer of Dedication of Offerings

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 4:8 – 37

Scripture Reading: John 15:9 – 17

Hymn of Preparation: 163 – “Hark, My Soul, It Is the Lord”

Sermon – Rev. Ezra Parris

Prayer of Commitment & Intercession

Hymn 652 – “Faith of our Mothers, Living Still”

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.



Call to Worship (Psalm 98:1 – 2): *Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory. The LORD has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.*



Opening Hymn: 161 –

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of his grace!**

**Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease,
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.**

**His grace subdues the power of sin,
He sets the prisoner free,
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood availed for me.**

**He speaks, and listening to his voice,
New life the dead receive,
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
The humble poor believe.**

**Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Saviour come;
And leap, ye lame, for joy!**

**Look unto him, ye nations; own
Your God, ye fallen race;
Look and be saved through faith alone,
Be justified by grace.**



WOMEN AND MOTHERS

All standing.

Today, Lord God, we give thanks and praise for all women and mothers; all who have joined with you in the special task of co-creating.

For them and their labours, we praise you.

For all women who have yielded their bodies as vehicles and borne children and replenished your creation.

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For women who have nurtured and cared for other people's children and loved them as their own.

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For women who each day make personal sacrifices as they toil to provide for fatherless children.

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For women who have lost their lives while giving life to others.

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for all other Christian women who taught their children the faith and to walk in your fear.

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For women who have successfully served and excelled in their chosen careers and for those who have supported their efforts and lauded their achievements;

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those women who have given of their best, whether with the family, the marketplace, the Church, or seats of leadership;

Father in heaven, we thank you.

TUNE: THANK YOU LORD

Thank you Lord, thank you Lord, thank you Lord.

I just want to thank you; I just want to thank you;

I just want to thank you Lord.

Traditional

All seated.

We pray, O heavenly Father:

For mothers who have laboured with men to bring up their children in your faith and favour.

Strengthen them O Lord.

For women and mothers who teach our children in the classrooms of life.

Strengthen them O Lord.

For those who are frustrated with demands and responsibilities of nurturing young lives.

Strengthen and encourage them O Lord.

For those who feel broken and bruised by the pressures of this life.

Strengthen and encourage them O Lord.

All Women:

Loving God, you created us for yourself. Forgive us where we have taken lightly the tasks of motherhood and the blessings of womanhood.

For those who have not given love and care to others in need;

For those who have not lived out their faith so that others can see;

For those who have failed to be who you call us to be, we seek forgiveness, Lord.

Help us to see that you desire to fill us with yourself and make us whole.

TUNE: FILL MY CUP

**Like the woman at the well, I was seeking
For things that could not satisfy;
And then I heard my Saviour speaking:
‘Draw from my well that never shall run dry.’**

*Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up Lord!
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul;
Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more –
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!*

Richard E. Blanchard (1925 – 2004)

Lord, we pray for women who are victims of war and poverty and for those who are raped and brutalized daily.

*Speak your peace, Lord, to the troubled sea of their lives and change their course.
Speak your courage and your power that they may rise up and change the course of
their lives.*

Lord, we pray for women and mothers who struggle to make ends meet and have nothing to set before their children. We lift up before you women and others who live in situations of domestic violence; those who feel small and worthless to change their situation; those who feel ashamed and endure their pain in silence. Lord, hear our prayer.

And let our cry come unto you.

Loving Lord, we think of those women, who as mothers, have suffered the loss of children. We remember especially the children who have died in their youth and infancy. We are confident, good Lord, that you have taken them into your everlasting arms. Help us to not forget the women who are mothers of unborn children – pregnancies which have been miscarried or aborted. We also lift before you women who patiently await the joys of motherhood and those who have not had that privilege.

Give your grace and strength, merciful Lord.

Lord, we thank you for all women and for our mothers. We are grateful for the sacrifice they have made. We thank you too for the Christian example they have set by raising those entrusted to their care in the house of God. Forgive us where we have neglected to express our love and gratitude to those women whose lives have impacted ours. Lead us to honour and respect our mothers and the women in our lives.

May Almighty God bless all women and mothers. May Jesus Christ empower them to do His will. And, may the Holy Spirit lead them into all truth, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Amen.*



Video Presentation



Poem – “Only A Mother” – Written by Nicole Lewis



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices



Adoration In Songs & Choruses



Prayer of Dedication of Offerings



Ministry of the Word

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 4:8 – 37

- 8 And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.
- 9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually.
- 10 Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.
- 11 And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there.

- 12 And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call this Shunammite. And when he had called her, she stood before him.
- 13 And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.
- 14 And he said, What then is to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.
- 15 And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door.
- 16 And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.
- 17 And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life.
- 18 And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers.
- 19 And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother.
- 20 And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.
- 21 And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out.
- 22 And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men, and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again.
- 23 And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him to day? it is neither new moon, nor sabbath. And she said, It shall be well.
- 24 Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, Drive, and go forward; slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee.
- 25 So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, yonder is that Shunammite:
- 26 Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well:

- 27 And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the LORD hath hid it from me, and hath not told me.
- 28 Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me?
- 29 Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child.
- 30 And the mother of the child said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her.
- 31 And Gehazi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked.
- 32 And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed.
- 33 He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD.
- 34 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.
- 35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.
- 36 And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.
- 37 Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.



Scripture Reading: John 15:9 – 17

- 9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.
- 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.
- 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.
- 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.
- 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

- 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.
- 15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.
- 16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.
- 17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.



Hymn of Preparation: 163 –

Hark, my soul, it is the Lord;
'Tis thy Saviour, hear his word;
Jesus speaks, and speaks to thee,
“Say, poor, sinner, lovest thou me?”

“I delivered thee when bound,
And when bleeding, healed thy wound;
Sought thee wandering, set thee right,
Turned thy darkness into light.

“Can a woman’s tender care
Cease toward the child she bare?
Yea, she may forgetful be,
Yet will I remember thee.

“Mine is an unchanging love,
Higher than the heights above,
Deeper than the depths beneath,
Free and faithful, strong as death.

“Thou shalt see my glory soon,
When the work of grace is done;
Partner of my throne shalt be;
Say, poor sinner, lovest thou me?”

Lord, it is my chief complaint
That my love is weak and faint;
Yet I love thee, and adore;
O for grace to love thee more!



Sermon – – *Rev. Ezra Parris*



Prayer of Commitment & Intercession



Closing Hymn: 652 –

**Faith of our mothers, living still,
First known in mother's tender care
And still guiding us in life's way
In spite of strife and worldly cares.**

*Faith of our mothers, living faith,
We will be true to thee till death*

**Faith of our mothers, well infused
By prayer, by word, and faithful life.
Thus o'er the years our hearts were shaped
And shown our heavenly father's love.**

**Faith of our mothers, you have kept
Our spirits bright in life's dark hour.
And through the grinding storms of life,
Your truth has been our hope and power.**

**Faith of our mothers, holy faith;
That binds our souls to God's good grace.
So may His perfect cleansing lead
To justice, truth, a saintlier race.**



Benediction



Organ Postlude



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

A sincere welcome is extended to all on this Mother's Day as we celebrate and give God thanks for our mothers. May each and every woman worshipping with us today be assured of our appreciation of their maternal love and care. Welcome.





Advanced: Tiffany Chase & Wendy Davis (10th), Lucine Baker (13th), Gwendolyn Brewster & Gabrielle Cumberbatch (14th), Dawn Maynard (15th)



Congratulations to Bro. Luther & Sis. Candace Barker who are celebrating their 51st Wedding Anniversary today; Bro. Dennis & Sis. Julia Depeiza who will celebrate their 43rd Wedding Anniversary on May 13, 2021; Bro. Martin & Sis. Sophia Codrington who will celebrate their 17th Wedding Anniversary on May 15, 2021.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT

† **TODAY:** Worship – 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 & Church Council Meeting – 9:30 a.m.



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. Our Annual Church Council will be held on Sunday, May 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Please let others know. Reports will be distributed next week.
2. 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.
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. 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 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.

