



SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

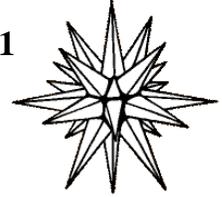
(Built by Slaves - 1799)

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54

Sunday, November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday Closest to National Independence

9:30 a.m.

Welcome: Welcome on this First Sunday of Advent. In this season we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ as the light of the world. Today we also celebrate 54 years of national independence. So as we worship, together in this sanctuary and with those who join in by way of our livestream on YouTube and FaceBook, we pray for the light of Christ to be seen in us and in our nation. Welcome.

Pastor: Rev. Ezra Parris

(Manse: 246-546-0344)

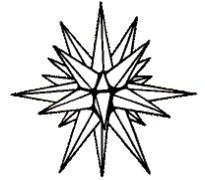
Associate Pastor:

Rev. Movelle Kellman

WATCHWORD: Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. *(Mark 13:26)*

Provincial Theme 2020: *"Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T."*





ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Introit

Invitation to Worship

Litany: The First Sunday of Advent p. 84 – Liturgy Book / Projected

Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Blessing of Tithes & Offerings

Adoration In Songs & Choruses

Ministry of the Word

First Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 6:1 – 7

Canticle 7 – The Hosanna Anthem p. 32 – Hymnal

Second Scripture Reading: Mark 13:24 – 37

Hymn 351 – “*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*” (*Special Request*)

Sermon – – *Rev. Ezra Parris*

Choir Anthem – “*Lift Every Voice and Sing*”

Prayer of Commitment & Prayer for the Nation of Barbados

The National Anthem of Barbados

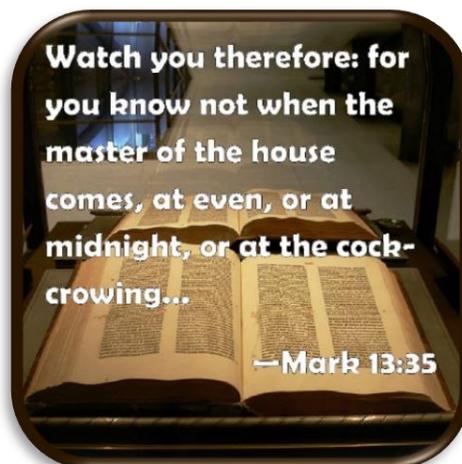
The Benediction

Recessional Hymn: 717 – “*Once To Every Man And Nation*”

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.



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

From the Liturgy Book of the Moravian Church in the Caribbean

All standing

Sing, O heaven, and be joyful, O earth, for the majesty and splendour of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together just as God has said.

Rejoice greatly! Celebrate, Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and victorious.

Tune: CRUGER - # 381

**(All) Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.**

**(Choir) He comes with succour speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong,
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in his sight.**

**(All) O'er every foe victorious,
He on his throne shall rest;
From age to age more glorious,
All-blessing and all-blest;
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove:
His name shall stand for ever,
That name to us is love.**

The congregation sits

Let us pray

O God, you promised that your majesty and splendour should be revealed and that all flesh should see it together; stir up our hearts we implore you, to prepare the way of your one and only Son, and pour out upon us your loving kindness, that we who are afflicted because of our sins may be made whole by the coming of our Saviour. Help us to rejoice in his advent as we see his glory and receive his blessing, who lives and reigns as one, world without end. **Amen.**

Praise to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and set his people free.

He has sent us a mighty Saviour from the royal line of David his servant; just as he promised through his holy prophets of long ago:

To show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham.

To rescue us from the hand of our enemies, so we can serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him as long as we live.

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him;

To give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,

Through the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will break in upon us.

To shine on those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, then show us the way, one step at a time, down the path of peace.

Tune: ELLACOMBE - # 261

**O how shall I receive thee,
How greet you, Lord aright?
All nations long to see thee,
My hope, my heart's delight.
O kindle, Lord, most holy,
Thy lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please thee best.**

**Thy Zion palms is strewing
And branches fresh and fair;
My heart, its powers renewing,
An anthem shall prepare.
My soul puts off her sadness,
Thy glories to proclaim;
With all her strength and gladness,
She fain would serve thy name.**

All standing

A voice of one calling in the wilderness: "Prepare for God's arrival! Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God.

"Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; mercy and truth go before you.

Blessed are those who have learned to praise you, who walk in the light of your presence, LORD.

He won't brush aside the bruised and the hurt and he won't disregard the small and insignificant, but he'll steadily and firmly set things right. Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come to save you.

Like a shepherd, he will care for his flock, gathering the lambs in his arms, hugging them as he carries them.

(Here the congregation shall sing the Hosanna Anthem.)

Praise the Lord for he is good, and his mercy endures for ever.

God's mercy endures for ever.

Grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The God of all grace, who called us to his eternal glory in Christ; restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

To him be the splendour and power for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Tune: REGENT'S SQUARE - # 113

(All) Praise to you, O Lord we render,
For your love in Jesus shown;
May that love, so strong and tender,
Bind us fast to him alone,
(Choir) Now and ever,
(All) Now and ever,
Gather us among your own.



Prayer of Adoration, Confession and Thanksgiving



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Welcome on this First Sunday of Advent. In this season we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ as the light of the world. Today we also celebrate 54 years of national independence. So as we worship, together in this sanctuary and with those who join in by way of our livestream on YouTube and FaceBook, we pray for the light of Christ to be seen in us and in our nation. Welcome.





*Today Ken Adams, Marcia Coombs, Athelstan Headley & Ingrid Ibrahim
Advanced: Ricardo Carter, Thora Moore & Ismay Straker (30th), Annie Harris (Dec. 1st), Stephanie Mayers (2nd), Patricia Brathwaite-Marshall, Daniel Jackman & Kaylah Watts (4th), Mia Best & Carlos Depeiza (5th)*



Congratulations to Bro. Athelstan & Sis. Fraulene Headley who are celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary today; Bro. Michael & Sis. Jan Lewis who will celebrate their 30th Wedding Anniversary today.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT

- Today:** Divine Worship – 9:30 a.m.
- 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 – 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday:** Online Prayer Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
- Next Sunday:** Divine Worship & Holy Communion – 9:30 a.m.



ACTIVITIES IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2020:

- † Provincial Day of Prayer – Tuesday, December 1st
- † Joint Board Planning Meeting – Thursday, 3rd at 7:30 p.m.
- † Annual General Meeting of the Moravian Church Co-op. Credit Union – Saturday 5th at 4:00 p.m. at the D. C. Moore Centre
- † Meeting of Island Conference – Saturday, 12th at 10:00 a.m. at the D. C. Moore Centre
- † Service of Nine Lessons and Carols – Sunday, 13th
- † Worship on Christmas Day – Friday, 25th at 5:00 a.m.
- † Watch-Night Service – Thursday, 31st, 10:30 p.m.



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. We are thankful for all who supported our Independence Cou-Cou Day, yesterday; whether by making preparations, donating funds or food items, cooking the Cou-Cou or purchasing a meal. Thank you.
2. From the PEC: Dear Brothers and Sisters, Warm Christian greetings in the name of Jesus, our Chief Elder. As we approach the end of 2020, we look back over the

journey. Much of our journey was handled with prayer on the first day of the month. Looking to our Day of Prayer for December 1, 2020, let us commit the entire day to prayer – 12:00 am to 11:59 pm. Each hour will afford us to hear the spoken word, to engage in moments of prayer on various topics, to have moments of silence, to receive special ministry, to hear from God. With all the uncertainty around us and ahead of us, our best posture is to look to Jesus.

This prayer event requires much effort. However, we invite members to commit to the time that suites them. This may be part of family devotions in the morning or in the evening. Coworker may join you at lunch time. You may have a poem, a spoken word, or some other special item the Spirit is impressing upon you to share. Congregations may also commit a time when they will gather to join this 24 hour intercession.

This event provides a range of options for members to participate. Members can share with pastors how they would like to participate in this time of intercession. The zoom link will be sent in time for this prayer event. Let us see this as a worship opportunity and not just another activity.

*I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.*

3. We say “Thank you” to those who supported our Missionary Festival held on Sunday, October 25, 2020. Rev Dr Mikie Roberts, Programme Executive for Spiritual Life and for Faith and Order at the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland delivered the Sermon with the theme, *Tell Just One*. To date, we have raised \$13,261.45 towards our target of \$18,000. We commend the groups and individuals who contributed to the effort in any way.
4. Flower Festival 2021: As 2020 draws to a close, we look with faith to a brighter 2021 in every area of our lives. We seek a renewal physically, spiritually and morally, and we pray for a Rebirth!
 - ✠ Hence the theme for the FLOWER FESTIVAL 2021 – REBIRTH! The Festival is scheduled for Whitsuntide Weekend 2021 – May 22-24.
 - ✠ The Flower Festival Committee has met and plans are in progress. This is an invitation to ALL members and friends to once again sponsor and donate to this event. Sponsorship fees remain unchanged at \$300.00. We look forward to your support as before. All persons desirous of sponsoring – again or for the first time – should indicate by the end of December, so that a location can be reserved for you.
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. Flowers are needed for our church! You will find on the Notice Board next to the main door to the church, a roster in the shape of flower. You may sign up to indicate that you would (1) cover the cost to obtain flowers for the arrangements or (2) provide the complete arrangements, for a particular Sunday(s). Feel free to join with others to provide the flowers to celebrate your birthday(s) etc.
 7. Remember to listen to the Moravian Radio Programme: “Moravian Voice” on LIFE 97.5 FM, Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.
 8. Remember our Basket of Hope Ministry. There are still those in our community that are in need of our assistance. You are invited each Sunday to make donations of non-perishable food items, which can be deposited in the basket placed at the rostrum (Altar).
 9. Invite someone to get on board! Our Bus is back on Route on Sundays. The Route to and from Sharon remains: Quarry Road (8:30 a.m.), Redman's Village (8:35), Padmore Village (8:45), Melrose, Edge Hill Terrace (8:50), Canewood, Jackson Tenantry (9:00 a.m.), Sharon (9:05). Contributions to the Bus Fund are welcome. Envelopes are available from the vestry.



PRAYER NEEDS:



Our Shut-ins: *Daphne Bispham, Aileen Bowen, Royle Deane, Grace Lashley, Muriel Moore, Erla Reid, Carol St. John.*

The Sick / Recovering: *Bro Sydney Gibson*



Blessing of Tithes & Offerings



Adoration In Songs & Choruses



Ministry of the Word

First Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 6:1 – 7

- 1 And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us.
- 2 Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye.
- 3 And one said, Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants. And he answered, I will go.
- 4 So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood.
- 5 But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed.
- 6 And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim.
- 7 Therefore said he, Take it up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it.



Canticle 7 – Hosanna Anthem (Matthew 21:9)

(The anthem is written for boys and girls to sing in alternate parts. It may, however, easily be sung according to any other responsive arrangement.)

- B. Hosanna, blessed is he that | comes!
G. | Hosanna, blessed is he that | comes!
B. | Hosanna,
G. Hosanna, –
B. Hosanna, –
G. Hosanna, –
B. Blessed is he that | comes!
G. | Blessed is he | that comes!
B. | he that comes in the Name | of the Lord!
G. | he that comes in the Name of the Lord!
B. Hosanna, blessed is he that | comes!
G. Hosanna, blessed is he that | comes!
B. Hosan– | na,
G. | Hosan– | na,
B. | Hosan– | na,
G. | Hosan– | na,
B. | Hosan– | na,
G. | Hosanna in the high– | - - - - -
- | est.

- B. | in the high-| est.
- B. Hosanna, –
- G. Hosanna, –
- B. Hosan- | na,
- G. | Hosanna in the highest, |
| Hosanna in the highest.
- B. | Hosanna in the highest.



Second Scripture Reading: Mark 13:24 – 37

- 24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,
- 25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.
- 26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.
- 27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.
- 28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:
- 29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.
- 30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.
- 31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.
- 32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.
- 33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.
- 34 For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.
- 35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:
- 36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.
- 37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.



Hymn 351 –

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not,
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness: Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided,
“Great is Thy faithfulness”, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!



Sermon – – *Rev. Ezra Parris*



Choir Anthem – – *“Lift Every Voice and Sing”*



Prayer of Commitment & Prayer for the Nation of Barbados



The National Anthem of Barbados



Benediction



Recessional Hymn: 717 –

**Once to every man and nation,
Comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of truth with falsehood,
For the good or evil side;
Some great cause, God's new Messiah,
Offering each the bloom or blight,
And the choice goes by for ever,
'Twixt that darkness and that light.**

**Then to side with truth is noble,
When we share her wretched crust,
Ere her cause bring fame and profit,
And 'tis prosperous to be just;
Then it is the brave man chooses,
While the coward stands aside,
Till the multitude make virtue
Of the faith they had denied.**

**By the light of burning martyrs,
Christ, thy bleeding feet we track,
Toiling up new Calvaries ever
With the cross that turns not back.
New occasions teach new duties;
Time makes ancient good uncouth;
They must upward still and onward
Who would keep abreast of truth.**

**Though the cause of evil prosper,
Yet 'tis truth alone is strong;
Though her portion be the scaffold,
And upon the throne be wrong,
Yet that scaffold sways the future,
And, behind the dim unknown,
Standeth God within the shadow,
Keeping watch above His own.**



Organ Postlude



AVAILABLE:

- **Offering Envelopes for 2020** – 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**– 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**
- **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 – 2020

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. Infant Baptism, 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.**

