



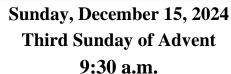
(Built by Slaves – 1799) Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136





"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

-Isaiah 12:2



Welcome: We greet each other in the name of Christ today, and we rejoice in the knowledge of God our Saviour. Welcome to all — whether you are joining us here in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad. A special welcome to those who are here for the blessing of little Jaxon. May the light of God be shed abroad in our hearts as we worship. Welcome.

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

Associate Pastor: Rev. David Ince

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

Email: sharon.moravian.church@gmail.com

Church Vestry Tel: 425-0164

WATCHWORD: Bear fruits worthy of repentance. (Luke 3:8)

Provincial Theme 2024:

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

ORDER OF SERVICE



Organ Prelude Introit – Choir

Invitation To Worship (Isa. 12:4-5):

Minister: Praise The Lord, Call Upon His Name; Declare His Deeds Among

The Peoples, Make Mention That His Name Is Exalted.

People: Sing To The Lord, For He Has Done Excellent Things; This Is

Known In All The Earth

Hymn 528 – "Pleasant Are Thy Courts Above"

Litany for the Third Sunday of Advent p. 91-CMP Liturgy Book / Projected Worship In Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Sentence: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

(Romans 15:13)

Weekly Offerings: 39 – "A Great And Mighty Wonder"

Prayer of Dedication of Offerings

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

Welcome, Celebrations & Announcements

Worship in Songs & Choruses

Ministry of the Word:

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 12:2 – 6 Second Scripture Reading: Luke 3:7 – 18 Choir Anthem – "Light A Single Candle"

Sermon - Rev. Ezra Parris

Prayer of Commitment and Intercession

Hymn 543 – "This Child We Dedicate to Thee"

Blessing of an Infant

Hymn 81 – "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

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.



Prelude

Introit - Choir

Invitation To Worship (Isa. 12:4-5):

Minister: Praise The Lord, Call Upon His Name; Declare His Deeds

Among The Peoples, Make Mention That His Name Is

Exalted.

People: Sing To The Lord, For He Has Done Excellent Things; This Is

Known In All The Earth

FFFFFF

Opening Hymn: 528 –

Pleasant are thy courts above, In the land of light and love; Pleasant are thy courts below, In this land of sin and woe. O, my spirit longs and faints For the converse of thy saints, For the brightness of thy face, King of glory, God of Grace.

Happy birds that sing and fly
Round thine altars, O Most High;
Happier souls that find a rest
In a heavenly Father's breast;
Like the wandering dove that found
No repose on earth around,
They can to their ark repair
And enjoy it ever there.

Happy souls! their praises flow,
Even in this vale of woe;
Waters in the desert rise,
Manna feeds them from the skies;
On they go from strength to strength,
Till they reach thy throne at length,
At thy feet adoring fall,
Who hast led them safe through all.

Lord, be mine this prize to win;
Guide me through a world of sin;
Keep me by thy saving grace;
Give me at thy side a place.
Sun and shield alike thou art,
Guide and guard my erring heart;
Grace and glory flow from thee,
Shower, O shower them, Lord, on me!



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

From the Liturgy Book of the Moravian Church in the Caribbean, p. 92.

All standing.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.

He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to praise him for his grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Indeed, God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

Those who believe in Him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already. He came to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance.

His Divine Power has given us everything needed for life and godliness.

As a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

Tune: Londonderry – # 693

I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship,
Should set His love upon the sons of men,
Or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wanderers,
To bring them back, they know not how or when.
But this I know, that He was born of Mary,
When Bethlehem's manger was His only home,
And that He lived at Nazareth and laboured,
And so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how He will win the nations
How He will claim His earthly heritage
How satisfy the needs and aspirations
Of east and west, of sinner and of sage.
But this I know, all flesh shall see His glory,
And He shall reap the harvest He has sown
And some glad day His sun shall shine in splendour
When He the Saviour, Saviour of the world is known.

William Y. Fullerton (1857 – 1932)

All seated.

The Lord became flesh and lived among us.

We have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Today the scripture has been fulfilled. He has given us a garland for ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

Wherever he went, into villages, cities or farms, people at once recognised him, and brought the sick on mats and laid them in the market place.

They begged that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak and all who touched it were healed.

Tune: Ellacombe – # 261

And lo! your touch brought life and health,
Gave hearing, strength, and sight;
And youth renewed and frenzy calmed
Owned you, the Lord of light:
And now, O Lord, be near to bless,
Almighty as of yore,
In crowded street, by restless couch,
As by Gennesaret's shore.

Edward H. Plumptre (1821 – 1891)

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, Creator of heaven and earth: to you belong all praise and glory. We thank you for your unspeakable gift of grace and for the lifelong example of our Saviour's obedience. He showed obedience by the things he suffered, and through his death he made eternal life available to all believers. Merciful Father, as we celebrate his Advent, and as we live in expectation of his second coming, grant that he may be born anew in our hearts, to the praise and the glory of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Holy Child of Bethlehem, you are Lord. We worship and adore your name. You came as a babe in a manger but you are King of all ages. May your pure and blameless existence be the test and aim of our lives. You, O Lord, were born of a woman, and yours was a full, devoted and consecrated life, surrendered in love to the Father. As you sought only the peace of the Father; as you grew in favour with God and humanity, grant us the will to surrender our own lives in love and through faith to be as devoted. Grant us the power through your Holy Spirit for your Name's sake.

Amen

All standing.

In confessing our sins in true repentance,

We learn that we are saved by grace through faith.

In dying to self and worldly passions,

We learn that life in all fullness is hidden in God in Christ.

In our willingness to forgive the wrongs of others,

We learn to cherish the reality of sins forgiven and are assured of God's forgiveness.

In being led by the Spirit of God,

We learn to discern the will of God and experience a foretaste of the life to come.

In being faithful to our earthly calling and the sovereign rule of God,

We learn patience through suffering and rejoice in hope of the surpassing glory of heaven.

In being born of God,

We learn to overcome the world through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tune: Blaenwern – # 175

Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all your grace receive; Suddenly return and never, Nevermore your temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, Serve you as your hosts above, Pray and praise you without ceasing, Glory in your perfect love.

Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

May the God of peace sanctify you entirely and may your spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen.



Worship in Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Sentence: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

(Romans 15:13)

Offertory Hymn: 39 –

A great and mighty wonder
A full and holy cure:
The Virgin bears the Infant
With virgin-honour pure
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men'.

The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high. The angel host sings anthems To shepherds, from the sky:

Repeat the hymn again!

'To God on high be glory, And peace on earth to men'.

While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
Ye oceans, clap your hands!

Repeat the hymn again! 'To God on high be glory, And peace on earth to men'.

Since all he comes to ransom,
By all be he adored,
The infant born in Bethlem,
The Saviour and the Lord:
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men'.

All idol forms shall perish,
All error shall decay,
And Christ shall wield his scepter,
Our Lord and God for aye:
Repeat the hymn again!
'To God on high be glory,
And peace on earth to men'.



Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings



Offertory Doxology:

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



Worship in Song & Choruses



Ministry of the Word

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 12: 2 – 6

- 2. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.
- **3.** Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.
- **4.** And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.
- 5. Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.
- **6.** Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.



New Testament Reading: Luke 3: 7 – 18

- 7. Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
- **8.** Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.
- **9.** And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.
- 10. And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?
- 11. He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.
- **12.** Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?
- 13. And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.
- **14.** And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.
- **15.** And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;

- **16.** John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:
- 17. Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.
- **18.** And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.



Choir Anthem – "Light A Single Candle"



Sermon - - Rev. Ezra Parris



Prayer of Commitment & Intercession



Hymn 543 –

This child we dedicate to thee,
O God of grace and purity;
Shield *him* from sin and threatening wrong,
And let Thy love *his* life prolong.

O may Thy Spirit gently draw *His* willing soul to keep Thy law; May virtue, piety, and truth, Dawn even with his dawning youth.

We, too, O God, thy children are; And if our feet have wandered far; Recall us to our Father's home, And keep us that no more we roam.



Blessing of an Infant



Closing Hymn: 81 –

Thou didst leave thy throne
And thy kingly crown
When thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home
Was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus!
There is room in my heart for Thee.

Heaven's arches rang
When the angels sang,
Proclaiming thy royal degree;
But of lowly birth
Cam'st thou Lord, on earth,
And in great humility.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus!
There is room in my heart for Thee.

The foxes found rest,
And the birds had their nest
In the shade of the cedar tree;
But thy couch was the sod,
O thou Son of God,
In the deserts of Galilee.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus!
There is room in my heart for Thee.

Thou camest, O Lord,
With the living word,
That should set thy children free;
But with mocking scorn,
And with crown of thorn,
They bore Thee to Calvary.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus!
Thy cross is my only plea.

When heaven's arches shall ring,

And her choirs shall sing,
At thy coming to victory,
Let thy voice call me home,
Saying "Yet there is room,
There is room at my side for thee."
And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus!
When thou comest and callest for me.



The Benediction



Organ Postlude



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

We greet each other in the name of Christ today, and we rejoice in the knowledge of God our Saviour. Welcome to all — whether you are joining us here in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad. A special welcome to those who are here for the blessing of little Jaxon. May the light of God be shed abroad in our hearts as we worship. Welcome.



<u>Today:</u> Richard Lewis

<u>Advanced:</u> Judy Dear (17th), Alvin Maynard & Amani Millar (17th),

Brian Maynard & Resa Williams (18th), Sidaine Pilgrim & Brandon

Taylor (20th), Mavis Adams, Maureen Chase & Krystal Eversley

(21st)



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: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 - **†** Divine Worship at 9:30 a.m.
 - **♣** Adventures in Worship (All ages) 10:00 a.m. in the D.C. Moore Centre

THIS WEEK

Tuesday: Women's Fellowship - First & Third Tuesdays: In

Sanctuary at 3:30 p.m. All other Tuesdays: Online via

Zoom at 6:00 p.m.

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

♦ Next Sunday: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

† 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 December 2024:

- **♥** Worship on Christmas Day Wednesday, 25th at 5:00 a.m.
- **♥** Watch-Night Service Tuesday, 31st, 10:30 p.m.



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

- 1. Thanks to all who supported our Missionary Festival on October 27, 2024. We raised so far \$14,229.15. Funds raised will go towards local missions, and to missionary endeavours across the region and the world through the various mission organisations of the Moravian Church.
- 2. We say thanks to all who supported in any way our (225th Anniversary) Sharon Men Cooking, last week. It was a success! Special thanks to the men who cooked: Chef Anthony, Chef Berkeley, Chef Darwin, Chef David G., Chef David I., Chef George, Chef Graham, Chef Gregory, Chef Kelvin, Chef Luther, Chef Matthew, Chef Michael, Chef Winston. Everything was excellent. Thanks to the women who arranged the event and provided the drinks.
- 3. We are celebrating 225 years since the laying of the cornerstone here at Sharon. Upcoming events being planned include:
 - ♣ Anniversary Dinner & Gala February 8, 2025, at the Hilton. Dinner \$200.

- † Planting of a Time Capsule February 9, 2025
- **†** Closing Service − February 9, 2025
- ₩e have launched a "225 for 225" drive, in which we ask persons to donate \$225 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 in 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. Pay to: Biller The Moravian Church, Account No 1765-1768-0000, Name Sharon Moravian Church. A specimen of the envelope is displayed below.



- 4. From the Provincial Board: The Provincial family extends heartiest congratulations to Bishop Dr. Conrad Spencer on the successful defense of his PhD dissertation with Carolina University. This degree is a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Leadership with a concentration in Educational Administration. The dissertation topic is "An Investigation of Perceived Authentic Leadership in Jamaican Christian Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs)." We pray that God will continue to empower Bishop Spencer for life and the work of ministry.
- 5. The assignment of Elders Districts is as follows:

No.	DISTRICT	ELDERS
1	Edgehill Rd., Near Sharon, Upper Jackson.	Sis. Ismay Straker
2	Cane Garden, Cane Garden Park, Cane Garden New Development, Cane Garden Crescent, Cane Garden Heights.	Bro. Anthony Ifill
3	Lower Jackson, 1 st Avenue Jackson, Browne's Gap, Arthur Seat (W – West of Quarry Rd. to Warrens).	Bro. Edwin Sandiford
4	Canewood Rd., Lears Corner, St. George, St. John, Christ Church, Brittons Hill.	Sis. Ismay Straker

5	Bridgefield, Whitehall – St. T, Hopewell, Bloomsbury.	Sis. Merville Franklyn
6	Jackson Terrace, Jackson Tenantry, Arsenal Playing Field Rd.	Sis. Carmel Downes
7	Arthur Seat (East – Quarry Rd to Melrose Cnr.)	Sis. Ingrid Ibrahim
8	Melrose, Arthur Seat (Central), Welches, Padmore Village.	Sis. Denise Grant
9	Edgehill Terrace, Edgehill Heights, Shop Hill, Content, Spring Farm, Farm Path, White Hill Terrace, Hillaby.	Sis. Lelia Gibbs
10	Eden Lodge, Under Lodge Hill, White Hall – St. M, Cave Hill, Grazettes, Codrington Hill, Spooners Hill, Green Hill.	Bro. Steven King
11	Friendship Terrace, Lodge Hill, Rock Dundo Park, Farm Rd., Clermont, Lodge Terrace, Mahaica Gap.	Sis. Veronica Leacock
12	Black Rock, Fitts Village, West Terrace, Oxnards, Wanstead Heights & Gardens, Husbands, Hinds Hill, Thorpes, Holders Hill, Hoytes Village, Prior Park.	Sis. Cora Cumberbatch
13	Warrens, Welches – North, Redman's Village, Bagatelle, Baywoods, Bakers Woods, Mt. Brevitor.	Sis. Hazel Carter

- 6. We have resumed the "Basket of Hope" ministry. Each Sunday you are invited to make contributions of non-perishable food items, which will be distributed to those in need. Contributions can be made during the offertory hymn. We are appealing for volunteers to provide the needed management and helping-hands for this ministry. Please let the Pastors know of your interest.
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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
- **♦** Remember to listen to the Moravian Radio Programme: "Moravian Voice" on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on Life 97.5 FM.
- 9. The Board of Management of the Gracehill Moravian Preschool is seeking to employ a General Worker for the Preschool. The general worker shall: Sanitize and clean around the classrooms and other school areas in line with our policies and procedures Assist in looking after all domestic duties to support the smooth running of the preschool Assist in the daily cleaning of the kitchen Follow a daily, as well as a weekly indoor cleaning regime, and deep cleaning regime to a high standard Maintain a daily cleaning of the outdoors of the preschool Sanitize and clean the bathrooms on a regular basis during the day Ensure that all supplies required are there when needed; and manage stock levels Adhere to all Health and Safety requirements as set out by the Ministry of Health. Applications are to be sent to: The Board of Management Gracehill Moravian Preschool, c/o Moravian Church Barbados Conference, D.C. Moore Centre, Sharon Complex, St. Thomas BB22136.



The Past 225 Years

35. History shows that after the missionaries moved to the new, and current, location at the bottom of the hill, the original site at Bunkers Hill became known as 'Old Sharon', to this day.





PRAYER NEEDS:



- 1. <u>Our Shut-ins:</u> Sis. Aileen Bowen, Bro. Tyrone Waithe, Sis. Vernice Alberta Osbourne
- 2. The Sick/Recovering:
 - † <u>Of our congregation:</u> Sis. Ansonia Cox-Burgess, Sis. Zelia Kellman, Sis. Shanna King (USA)
- 3. World Peace



AVAILABLE (Through the Church Office):

- 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.
- **♦** Sharon Burgundy Shirts: Polos \$30 / T-Shirts − \$15
- **†** Books:
- Rev. Neilson Waithe: <u>Understanding the Caribbean Worker</u> \$25; Provocation \$20.
- Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts: <u>Created in Their Image: Evangelical Protestantism in Antigua and Barbados 1834-1914</u> \$50.
- m Rev. Dr. Joseph Nicholas: <u>Baptism Is a Gift of God: As Such It Is More Than</u> <u>Water</u> \$35.
- **†** Greeting Cards (\$2.00) and Prints (\$20.00) of a painting of Sharon Church.



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





Moravian Church - Barbados Conference Presents

"Food For The Journey"

Sunday School Teachers' Workshop 2025



Keynote Speaker:
Sis. Lou Anne Gardiner
from the Tobago Conference

Saturday, January 4, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.

Online via Zoom

Meeting ID: 824 7616 2584 | Passcode: 158386

Scan or Click to join:



Come, share and recommit yourself to your calling.

Moravian Church - Barbados Conference Presents a Youth Conference



"Empowered For Tomorrow"



Keynote Speaker:
Sis. Launée D.A. Richards
from the Antigua Conference

Saturday, January 11, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.

Online via Zoom

Meeting ID: 856 4518 9841 | Passcode: 901382

Scan or Click to join:



Come and be inspired to make big changes.