



SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

(Built by Slaves - 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

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Sunday, December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m.

Welcome: All glory be to God on high. With grateful hearts we declare our joy in knowing God and the grace of Christ our Saviour. As we gather for worship, may light of the Star of David continue to brighten our way. Welcome to all worshipping here today and those who join by way of our livestream on YouTube and FaceBook.

Pastor: Rev. Ezra Parris

(Manse: 246-546-0344)

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Movelle Kellman

WATCHWORD: The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. *(Luke 1:49)*

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





ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Introit

Invitation to Worship

Litany: The Fourth Sunday of Advent p. 97 – Liturgy Book / Projected

Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Blessing of Tithes & Offerings

Adoration In Songs & Choruses

Ministry of the Word

First Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1 – 11, 16

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26 – 38

Choir Anthem

Sermon — Rev. Ezra Parris

Prayer of Commitment & Intercession

Hymn 64 – “O Little Town of Bethlehem” *Tune: FOREST GREEN – # 62*

The Benediction

Organ Postlude



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

All standing.

Tune: ST. THEODULPH – # 67

**All glory, laud and honour
To thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou art the King of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son,
Who in the Lord's name comest,
The King and blessed one.**

John M. Neale (1818 – 1866)

Therefore, the Lord shall give a sign;

Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

For unto us a child is born,

Unto us a Son is given.

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God;

The Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

Tune: UNIVERSITY – # 49

**Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne
And every voice a song.**

**He comes the prisoners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.**

Philip Doddridge (1702 – 1751)

This is what the Lord says: I will shake all nations and the desire of all nations shall come and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord.

Arise, shine for the light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Tune: HAGEN – # 281 Moravian USA Hymnal

**(Solo): Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere Thou cam'st, how dark earth's night
(All): Morning Star, O cheering sight!
Ere Thou cam'st, how dark earth's night!**

(Solo): Jesus mine,

(All): In me shine;

(Solo): In me shine,

(All): Jesus mine;

Fill my heart with light divine.

Bennet Harvey (1829 – 1894)

Behold I lay in Zion a foundation stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest.

And the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father, David.

He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever:

And of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Wherefore God has highly exalted him:

And given him a name which is above every name.

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow;

And every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

All seated.

Let us pray:

Fulfill in us, O Lord, your purpose to spread the proclamation, "Jesus is Lord". May your glory be revealed in us as we prepare once more for the coming of your light into the world. Grant that we may not only receive the light and the peace you bring, but also share it with others. Loosen hearts of stone and bend wills of steel. Speak peace to every soul. Act even now, O Lord, for with you nothing shall be impossible; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

How my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour!

For he took notice of his lowly servant, and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me.

He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him.

His mighty arm has done tremendous things! He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.

He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands.

He has helped his servant Israel and remembered to be merciful.

For he made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever.

All standing.

Tune: HYFRYDOL – # 192

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring;
By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne**

Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

We are witnesses of the dawning of the Great Light come into the world.

May we as we depart from worship today set our faces always on the Son and announce through our living, the Advent of the Messiah. Amen.

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



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

All glory be to God on high. With grateful hearts we declare our joy in knowing God and the grace of Christ our Saviour. As we gather for worship, may light of the Star of David continue to brighten our way. Welcome to all worshipping here today and those who join by way of our livestream on YouTube and FaceBook.



Today Sidaine Pilgrim & Brandon Taylor

Advanced: Mavis Adams, Maureen Chase & Krystal Eversley (21st), Elroy Carter & Edwin Lawrence (23rd), Veronica Leacock (24th), Roseanne Eversley (25th)



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)
- Friday:** Christmas Day – Worship at 5:00 a.m.
- Next Sunday:** Divine Worship– 9:30 a.m. – Recitations and Skit by our youth.



ACTIVITIES IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2020:

- † Watch-Night Service – Thursday, 31st, 10:30 p.m.



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. The Moravian Church Barbados Conference extends congratulations to Mr. Emerson Millard Howard, JP of the Mount Tabor congregation upon whom was conferred the accolade of Silver Crown of Merit for his contribution to nursing in Barbados.
2. The Moravian Church Barbados Conference extends congratulations to Brigadier General Rudyard Eggleton Carrington Lewis, GCM, CVO, JP of the Clifton Hill congregation upon whom was conferred the accolade of Knight of St. Andrew, the nation's highest award. Bro Lewis was honoured for his extraordinary achievement and meritorious service to the military in Barbados.
3. The Provincial Board makes the following announcements:
 - † The Moravian Provincial family extends congratulations to the Rev. Dr. Cicely Athill-Horsford on her election as the Chairman of the Barbados Christian Council. The election was held on December 7, 2020. Sis. Athill-Horsford is the first female to be elected Chairman of this Christian Council. Let us pray for Sis. Athill-Horsford as she assumes this role in the wider Christian community in Barbados.
 - † The Rev. Hilton Joseph who now serves as the Superintendent of the Moravian Church St. Kitts Conference and as Pastor of the Zion and Bethel Pastorate in St. Kitts, has accepted a call to serve as the pastor of the Spring Gardens Moravian Church in Antigua. This call takes effect from March 1, 2021.
 - † The Rev. Onita Samuel-Warner, who now serves as Associate Pastor of the Zion and Bethel Pastorate in St. Kitts, has accepted a call to serve as the Pastor of the Zion and Bethel Pastorate in St. Kitts. This call takes effect from March 1, 2021.
 - † The Rev. Erwin Warner, who serves as the Pastor of the Bethesda and New Dawn Pastorate in St. Kitts, has accepted a call to serve as the Acting Superintendent of the St. Kitts Conference. This call takes effect from March 1, 2021. Please keep Bro. Joseph, Sis. Samuel-Warner, and Bro. Warner and their families in your prayers as they prepare to assume these new calls.

- ✝ The Moravian Provincial family expresses condolences to the Rev. Eulencine Christopher and Mrs. Joan Thomas and their family on the death of their uncle Mr. Jeremiah Ralph also known as Rolston Ralph of All Saints Village, Antigua, last residing in Bronx, New York. Mr. Ralph died on November 17. His funeral service will be held on December 13, 2020 in New York. Please keep Sis. Christopher and Sis. Thomas and their family in your prayers as they mourn.
4. 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.
5. 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 the weekend of June 12 – 13, 2021.
- ✝ 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. Remember to listen to the Moravian Radio Programme: "Moravian Voice" on LIFE 97.5 FM, Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.
9. 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).
10. 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*



The Bereaved: *We express condolences to and pray for: Sis Shirley Hall and family on the passing of her mother, Sis Ottaline Hall.*



Blessing of Tithes & Offerings



Adoration In Songs & Choruses



Ministry of the Word

First Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1 – 11, 16

- 1 And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies;
- 2 That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.

- 3 And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the LORD is with thee.
- 4 And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying,
- 5 Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?
- 6 Whereas I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.
- 7 In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?
- 8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the shepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:
- 9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth.
- 10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime,
- 11 And as since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.
- 16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.



Second Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26 – 38

- 26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,
- 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.
- 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

- 29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.
- 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.
- 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.
- 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:
- 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.
- 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?
- 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.
- 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.
- 37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.
- 38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.



Choir Anthem



Sermon – –Rev. Ezra Parris



Prayer of Commitment & Intercession



Closing Hymn: 64 –

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessèd Child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel.



Benediction



Organ Postlude



AVAILABLE:

- **Moravian Daily Text 2021:**
 - **American Regular Print Paperback Edition – \$24**
 - **American Large Print Paperback Edition – \$29**
- 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.



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.

