



Let us go
to Bethlehem and see...

L U K E 2:15



SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

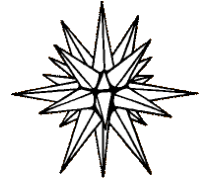
(Built by Slaves - 1799)

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Christmas Day

Friday, December 25, 2020

Nativity of the Lord

5:00 a.m.

Welcome: For unto us a Son is born” . . . A warm Christmas welcome is extended to all worshipping here today and those who join by way of our livestream on YouTube and FaceBook, as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. His was a lowly birth, but his rise to faithfulness and service is an inspiration to all. May we follow his light today.

Pastor: Rev. Ezra Parris

(Manse: 246-546-0344)

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Movelle Kellman

WATCHWORD: Jesus is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.
(Hebrews 1:3)

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



ORDER OF SERVICE



Organ Prelude

Call to worship

Hymn 56 – *“Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn”*

Liturgy for Christmas (p. 100, Liturgy Book / projected)

Welcome & Greetings

Worship in Tithes and offerings

Offertory Text: *“And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”* (Matthew 2:11)

Offertory Hymn: 66 – *“All Poor Men and Humble”*

Prayer of Dedication of Offerings

Hymn 70 – *“The First Noel”*

Reading of Scripture: Isaiah 52:7-10

Choir Anthem – *“All Is Well”*

Reading of Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Hymn 58 – *“Angels, From the Realms of Glory”*

Sermon – Rev. Ezra Parris

Hymn of Reflection – *“O Holy Night”*

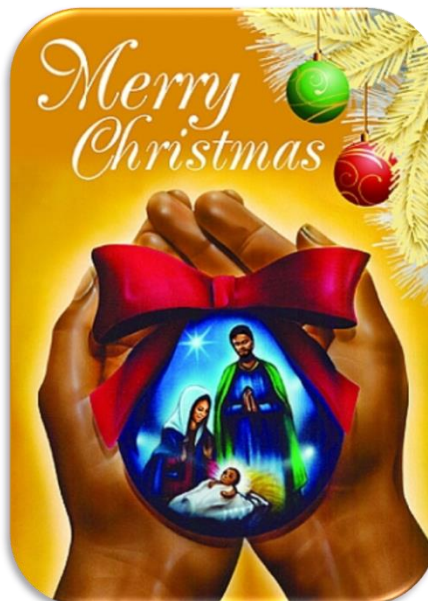
Intercessory Prayers (Christmas Liturgy continued)

Hymn 47 – *“Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!”*

Benediction

Greeting Song: *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*

Organ Postlude



CHRISTMAS

From the Caribbean Moravian Praise Liturgy Book, p. 101

All standing.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
For he has visited and redeemed his people.

The Dayspring from on high has visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness,
And to guide our feet into the way of peace.

For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given.

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW — # 51

**Today we celebrate the birth
Of Jesus Christ, who came on earth
To make himself as Saviour known,
And claim us sinners as his own.**

**Awake, my heart; my soul, arise;
Look who in yonder manger lies;
Who is that child, so poor and mean?
'Tis he who all things does sustain.**

**Immanuel, incarnate God,
Prepare my heart for thy abode:
O may I, through thy aiding grace,
In all I do, show forth thy praise.**

Martin Luther (1483 - 1546)

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that everyone who believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son that we might receive adoption as his children.

Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.

And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts.

Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.

Our eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.

Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.

O come, let us adore him, Christ our Lord.

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES — # 47

**O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the king of Angels:**

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

**Sing choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God
In the highest'.**

O come, let us adore him . . .

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing,**

O come, let us adore him . . .

Latin tr. Frederich Oakeley (1802-1880)

All standing.

Let us confess our faith:

In the beginning was the Word;

And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

All things came into being through him;

And without him not one thing came into being.

In him was life;

And the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness;

And the darkness did not overcome it.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him;

Yet the world did not know him.

He came to his own,

And his own people did not accept him.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name,

He gave power to become children of God.

The word became flesh and lived among us,

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

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace,

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, revealed to us through the Word made flesh,

Have mercy upon us.

Lord Jesus Christ, sharing our human form,

Have Mercy upon us,

Holy Spirit, revealed in all true fellowship,

Have mercy upon us.

For our dullness of vision,

For our weakness of faith,

For our joylessness,

Have mercy upon us.

For our preoccupation with the things of this world,

For our lack of fellowship with one another,

For our failure to enter into fellowship with you,

Have mercy upon us.

Eternal, faithful and just to forgive us our sins,

Have mercy upon us.

Lord God, you choose to live in the hearts of the lowly: we give thanks that you revealed yourself in the holy child Jesus, and that parenthood and infancy have been sanctified through his nativity. We thank you for the peace, goodwill and joy of this holy season; for the softening of hearts, and the promptings to forgive and forget past wrongs; for the grace and truth in our Lord's life, which revealed your true nature and what your children may grow to be. Make us

so simple in faith and love, that we may know the joy of the Gospel that is hidden from the wise and prudent, but revealed to little children. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ who, sharing our life, grew in wisdom and in divine and human favour.

Glory to God in the highest.

Father of all, at this time when the solitary are set in families, and wanderers and exiles think longingly of home, we think of you, the home of us all, where all are welcome. May kind thoughts find lodging in the hardest heart; may longing for purity be born in minds that are unclean; and may the lonely and the labouring hear the song of the angels.

Glory to God in the highest.

God of love, hear us as we remember those for whom the joys of this Christmas season will be shadowed: the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the bereaved, the lonely, the unloved, those who are ill and those who have no help May all who know your love show compassion and kindness, that having freely received they may also freely give, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Glory to God in the highest.

Heavenly Father, your will is that all people should live in peace and unity. Give to all the loving wisdom of Christ, that they may overcome all thoughts of malice, envy, greed, prejudice and selfishness. Increase among us people of goodwill so that there may truly be your peace on earth.

Glory to God in the highest.

Here all join to say the Lord's Prayer:

Let us pray as our Saviour has taught us:

***Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
The power and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.***



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

For unto us a Son is born” . . . A warm Christmas welcome is extended to all worshipping here today and those who join by way of our livestream on YouTube and FaceBook, as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. His was a lowly birth, but his rise to faithfulness and service is an inspiration to all. May we follow his light today.



Today: Roseanne Eversley



Flowers today are donated by Sis. Maureen Chase in celebration of her birthday on December 22, 2020, and Sis. Margaret Best



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT

Today: Divine Worship – 5:00 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)
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.

ACTIVITIES IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2021:

- † Sunday School Teachers' Workshop – Saturday, 2nd
- † Sharon / Dunscombe Week of Prayer Services – Sunday, 3rd to 9th, online.
- † Conference Youth Workshop – Saturday, 9th
- † Moravian Disciples Concert – Saturday 16th
- † Moravian Church Barbados Conference at Prayer – Saturday, 23rd
- † Annual Church Council – Sunday, 24th
- † Harvest Festival at Centenary – Sunday, 24th



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Remember to listen to the Moravian Radio Programme: “Moravian Voice” on LIFE 97.5 FM, Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.
6. 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).

7. 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. A Service of Thanksgiving for her life will be held here at Sharon on Wednesday, December 30, 2020 commencing at 3:00 pm.*



Worship in Tithes and offerings

Offertory Text: *“And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11)*

Offertory Hymn: 66 – *“All Poor Men and Humble”*

All poor men and humble,
All lame men who stumble,
Come haste ye, nor feel ye afraid;
With Jesus, our treasure,
With love past all measure,
In lowly poor manger was laid.

Though wise men who found him
Laid rich gifts around him,
Yet oxen they gave him their hay;
And Jesus in beauty
Accepted their duty;
Contented in manger he lay.

Then haste we to show him
The praises we owe him;
Our service he ne'er can despise:
Whose love still is able

To show us that stable
Where softly in manger he lies.



Prayer of Dedication of Offerings



Hymn 70

The first Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.*

They lookèd up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star where'er it went.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon the knee,
And offered there, in His presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought,
And with His blood mankind hath bought.



Ministry of the Word

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 52: 7 – 10

- 7 **How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!**
- 8 **Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion.**
- 9 **Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.**
- 10 **The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**



Choir Anthem – *“All Is Well”*



Second Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1 – 20

- 1 **And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.**
- 2 **(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)**
- 3 **And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.**
- 4 **And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)**
- 5 **To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.**
- 6 **And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.**
- 7 **And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.**
- 8 **And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.**
- 9 **And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.**
- 10 **And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.**

- 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
- 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
- 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
- 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
- 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.
- 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.
- 17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.
- 18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
- 19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.
- 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



Hymn 58

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth,
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant-light:
*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

**Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear.**

*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*



Sermon – – Rev. Ezra Parris



Hymn of Reflection –

O Holy Night!

**The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!**

*Fall on your knees
Oh hear the angel voices
Oh night divine
Oh night when Christ was born
Oh night divine
Oh night divine*

**Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the wise men from Orient land
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friend**

**Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.**

Intercessory Prayers *(Christmas Liturgy continued)*



Closing Hymn: 47 –

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.**



Benediction



Greeting Song: *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*



Organ Postlude



AVAILABLE:

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

