



Let us go
to Bethlehem and see...

LUKE 2:15

SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

(Built by Slaves – 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

Email: sharon.moravian.church@gmail.com

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

Church Vestry Tel: 425-0164



Christmas Day

Monday, December 25, 2023

Nativity of the Lord

5:00 a.m.

Welcome: *“His name shall be called . . . Wonderful Counsellor.”* Welcome to one and all as we celebrate the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and give thanks for the hope we have in him. Welcome.

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

Associate Pastor:
Rev. David Ince

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 2023:

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





ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Invitation to Worship (Psalm 148:11-13):

Leader: *Kings of the earth and all peoples; Princes and all judges of the earth; Both young men and maidens; Old men and children.
13 Let them praise the name of the LORD,*

Congregation: *For His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven.*

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

Liturgy For Christmas p. 100 – CMP Liturgy Book /Projected

WORSHIP IN TITHES & OFFERINGS

Offertory Sentence: *“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: 39 – “Great and Mighty Wonder”

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Doxology: *Praise God From Whom . . . (Tune: O come, ... Immanuel)*

Welcome, Greetings & Celebrations

Hymn 62 – “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Ministry of the Word:

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 52:7 – 10

Choir Anthem – “His Name Shall Be Called Peace”

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1 – 20

Hymn 70 – “The First Noel”

Sermon – Rev. Ezra Parris

Hymn of Reflection: 63 – “I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day”

Intercessory Prayers (Christmas Liturgy continued)

Closing Hymn: 49 – “Go, Tell It On the Mountain”

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.



Hymn 56

Christians, awake, salute the happy morn
Whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
Rise to adore the mystery of love
Which hosts of angels chanted from above;
With them the joyful tidings first begun,
Of God incarnate, and the virgin's Son.

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
Who heard the angelic herald's voice, "Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth,
To you and all the nations of the earth;
This day hath God fulfilled his promised word,
This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

In David's city, shepherds, ye shall find
The long-foretold Redeemer of mankind
Wrapt up in swaddling clothes, the Babe divine
Lies in a manger; this shall be the sign."
He spake, and straightaway the celestial choir
In hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire.

The praises of redeeming love they sang,
And heaven's whole orb with hallelujahs rang:
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
Peace on the earth and unto men good-will.
To Bethlehem straight, the enlightened shepherds ran
To see the wonder God had wrought for man.

O may we hope, the angelic throngs among,
To sing, redeemed, a glad triumphant song:
He, that was born upon this joyful day,
Around us all his glory shall display;
Saved by his love, incessant we shall sing
Of angels, and of angel-men, the King.



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. Frederick Oakeley (1802 – 1880)



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: 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 Offerings



Doxology for Christmas
(Tune: O come, . . . Immanuel)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.



Welcome, Greetings & Celebrations



Hymn 62 –

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold: –
“Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
From Heaven’s all gracious King!”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats

O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the age of gold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.



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 – *“His Name Shall Be Called Peace”*



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 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.



Sermon – – Rev. *Ezra Parris*



Hymn of Reflection: 63 –

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head.
'There is no peace on earth,' I said,
'For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
God is not dead; nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!'

Till, ringing, singing, on its way,
The world revolved from night to day –
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men!



Intercessory Prayers (Christmas Liturgy continued)

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.*



Closing Hymn: 49 –

*Go, Tell It On The Mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, Tell It On The Mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold, throughout the heavens,
There shone a holy light:

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Saviour's birth.

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation,
That blessed Christmas morn.



Benediction



Organ Postlude



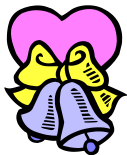
Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

“His name shall be called . . . Wonderful Counsellor.” Welcome to one and all as we celebrate the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and give thanks for the hope we have in him. Welcome.



Today: *Roseanne Eversley*

Advanced: *Shamia Corbin & Merville Franklyn (27th), Curtis Drakes, Joan Lewis & Chanel Rock-Waithe (28th), Steven King & Edwin Sandiford (29th),*



Congratulations to Bro. Terry & Sis. Norma Meek who will celebrate their 34th Wedding Anniversary on December 27, 2023.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT

✝ **This Week:**

✝ **Office Hours – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. (D. C. Moore Centre).**

✝ **Tuesday: PUBLIC HOLIDAY – BOXING DAY.**

✝ **Next Sunday: Divine Worship at 9:30 a.m.**

✝ **Watchnight Service at 10:30 p.m.**



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. Thanks to all who supported our Missionary Festival. We have collected so far, \$10,578.60 on our way to our target of \$13,000 for 2023. If you have not made your contribution as yet or returned your collection box, you can still do so. Direct contributions can also be made and contributions in memory of loved-ones. 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. February 10, 2024 will be Sharon's 225th Anniversary of the first laying of a cornerstone here at Sharon. A committee has been at work and the activities planned so far include:

✝ 225th Anniversary Service – February 11, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.

✝ Fun Day – April 1, 2024

✝ "The George Ramsay Memorial" Lecture – Thursday, May 16, 2024

✝ Anniversary Dinner & Gala – Date to be confirmed.

3. The PEC (Provincial Board) announces:

✝ The Provincial family expresses condolences to Rev. Vera Waithe and family of the Barbados Conference on the death of her brother Feliston Gilkes. Bro. Gilkes died on Sunday, December 3rd in Canada after a brief illness. He was 56 years old. Please remember the family in prayer, especially his wife Sandra and their sons Kofi and Kymani.

4. 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.

5. Remember to listen to the Moravian Radio Programme: “Moravian Voice” on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on Life 97.5 FM.

† 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



PRAYER NEEDS:



1. Our Shut-ins: *Sis. Aileen Bowen, Sis. Thora Moore, Sis. Patterson Williams*

2. The Sick/Recovering:

† Of our congregation: *Sis. Ansonia Cox-Burgess, Sis. Shanna King (USA), Sis. Lelia Gibbs*

3. The Bereaved: We express condolences to and pray for:

† *Sis. Carmel Downes and the entire Gilkes family on the passing of her brother, Bro. Feliston Gilkes.*

4. World Peace



AVAILABLE (Through the Church Office):

- ✚ Moravian Daily Text 2023: American Paperback Edition – \$25
- ✚ Offering Envelopes for 2023 – 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
- ✚ Copies of Sunday sermons on CD – \$2.00.
- ✚ Books:
 - 📖 Rev. Neilson Waithe: Understanding the Caribbean Worker – \$25; Provocation – \$20.
 - 📖 Rev. Dr. Winelle Kirton-Roberts: Created in Their Image: Evangelical Protestantism in Antigua and Barbados 1834-1914 – \$50.
 - 📖 Rev. Dr. Joseph Nicholas: Baptism Is a Gift of God: As Such It Is More Than Water – \$35.
- ✚ Greeting Cards (\$2.00) and Prints (\$20.00) of a painting of Sharon Church.





United Theological College of the West Indies

is offering


3 **FREE** Courses

<u>OPTION 1 - Free</u>	<u>OPTION 2 - Paid</u>	<u>Courses</u>
Enroll in the class	Enroll in the class	
Participate in class activities	Participate in class activities	▼ Grief Counselling
No assignments	Complete all assignments	▼ Spiritual Formation
No exams	Pass exams	▼ Church Management
No certificate	Awarded a certificate	

January - May 2024
Online / Face-to-face

Persons have the option of registering for other courses at a cost.

**Contact us for
more info.**

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