

SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

(Built by Slaves – 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

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

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Sunday, December 26, 2021

**First Sunday after Christmas
A Christmas Celebration**

9:30 a.m.

Welcome: *God, . . . Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son (Heb. 1:1-2).* Today we rejoice over the message of love brought to us in Jesus Christ. Welcome to all here in the sanctuary and those worshipping with us by way of our livestream on YouTube and Facebook. May our hearts be blessed by the message we receive of God today.

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

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Movelle Kellman



WATCHWORD: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

(Psalm

**Provincial Theme 2021: "Advance the Kingdom:
S.H.I.F.T."**

ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Introit

The Invitation to worship

Liturgy for Christmas p. 100 – CMP Liturgy Book

Welcome & Greetings

Adoration in Songs & Choruses

Prayer of Dedication of Offerings

Recitation: “*Happy Bells*” – Ahmir Worrell

Recitation: “*What Christmas Is About*” – Kyle Blackman-Gibbons

Hymn: “*I heard the Bells on Christmas Day*” (# 63) – Adult Sunday School Class

Instrumental – Christina Edwards

Hymn 64 – “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*”

Decorating the Tree:

▲ Aiden McClean

▲ Jamario Lewis

▲ Davian Newsam

▲ Jamario Lewis

▲ Asha Jones

▲ Zia McClean

▲ Aiden McClean



Hymn 70 – “*The First Noel*”

Recitation: “*The Christmas Bells*” – Jarad Lewis

Recitation: “*Kneel & Adore*” – Tahlia Miller

Choir Anthem – “*Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*”

Reflection – Rev. Ezra Parris

Prayer of Commitment

Courtesies & Notices

Hymn 49 – “*Go Tell It On the Mountain*”

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.



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



Adoration in Songs & Choruses



Prayer of Dedication of Offerings



Recitation: “Happy Bells” – **Ahmir Worrell**

Recitation: “What Christmas Is About” – **Kyle Blackman-Gibbons**

Hymn: “I heard the Bells on Christmas Day” (# 63) – Adult Sunday School Class

Instrumental – **Christina Edwards**



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 blessed 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.



Decorating the Tree:

-  **Aiden Mclean**
-  **Jamario Lewis**
-  **Davian Newsam**
-  **Jamario Lewis**
-  **Asha Jones**
-  **Zia Mclean**
-  **Aiden Mclean**



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.



Recitation: “*The Christmas Bells*”

–

Jarad Lewis

Recitation: “*Kneel & Adore*”

–

Tahlia Miller



Choir Anthem – “Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”



Reflection – – Rev. Ezra Parris



Prayer of Commitment



Courtesies & Notices



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.



The Benediction



Organ Postlude



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

God, . . . Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son (Heb. 1:1-2). Today we rejoice over the message of love brought to us in Jesus Christ. Welcome to all here in the sanctuary and those worshipping with us by way of our livestream on YouTube and Facebook. May our hearts be blessed by the message we receive of God today.



Advanced: Shamia Corbin & Merville Franklyn (27th), Curtis Drakes, Joan Lewis & Chanel Rock-Waithe (28th), Steven King & Edwin Sandiford (29th), Xolani Archer, Wendy Cadogan-Hoyte & Kerry Headley (31st)



Congratulations to Bro. Terry & Sis. Norma Meek who will celebrate their 32nd Wedding Anniversary on December 27, 2021.

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: Divine Worship at 9:30 a.m. A Christmas Celebration involving our youth.
- † This Week:
- † Office Hours – Tuesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. (D. C. Moore Centre).
- † Friday (New Year's Eve): Worship at 10:30 p.m.
- † Next Sunday (Jan 2, 2022): Divine Worship & Holy Communion – 9:30 a.m.

IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2022:

- † Sharon / Dunscombe Week of Prayer Services – Sunday, 3rd to 7th, online via Zoom.



Thank You!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. We acknowledge:

- A card and a gift of CA \$300 from Sis. Donna Lovell-Mannick who resides in Canada.
- A gift of BD \$500 from the Ramsay family in memory of Bro. George Ramsay.



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. We are permitted eighty-two (82) attendees for in-sanctuary worship at Sharon, with a separation of six (6) feet between individuals or household groups.
✝ There will be no registration for Friday, December 31st, 10:30 p.m. We will resume registration when our attendance approaches the limit.
2. As part of a fundraising project, we have church branded cloth masks on sale at a cost of \$15 each and they are available in black, burgundy and navy.



3. From the P.E.C.:

- ✝ The Provincial family expresses condolences to the Rev. Dr. Errol Connor on the death of his uncle, Mr. John Connor, who died in Anguilla on December 18, 2021. Mr. Connor was 84 years old.
- ✝ Condolences are also expressed to the family of the late Sis. Olga Baird-Joefield of Tobago, former missionary to the Grenada Mission. Sis. Olga Baird-Joefield was also the mother of Rev. Julie Joefield-Parris, Minister of Christian Education in the Barbados Conference. Sis. Olga died in Tobago on December 21, 2021.

- † The Provincial family expresses condolences to the Rev. Winston Jones on the death of his eldest sibling, Ms. Jacqueline Jones, who died in Barbados on December 23, 2021. Ms. Jones was 59 years old at the time of her death.
- † Please pray for Bro. Errol Connor and family, Sis. Julie Joefield-Parris and family, and Bro. Winston Jones and family as they journey through the valley of grief and loss. May the comfort of God surround them and all who grieve.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Remember to listen to the Moravian Radio Programme: “Moravian Voice” on LIFE 97.5 FM, Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.



PRAYER NEEDS:



1. Our Shut-ins: *Daphne Bispham, Aileen Bowen, Royle Deane, Sydney Gibson, Muriel Moore, Carol St. John.*
2. The Sick/Recovering:
 - † Of our congregation: *Sis. Ruth Bishop, Sis. Andilla Haynes, Sis. Margaret Haynes, Bro. Ryan Hinds.*
 - † Of the Provincial family: *Rev, Dr. Cortroy Jarvis who is hospitalized at the Cleveland Clinic in Miami, Florida. He is receiving treatment and doing well so far.*
3. Our nation, for strength and deliverance as we continue to battle the COVID-19 Pandemic.



AVAILABLE (Through the Church Office):

- ✦ 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
- ✦ 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.



Protocol for Worship Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic – 2021

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 (6) 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 six (6) 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 six (6) 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, and rites involving the 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.**

