

SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

(Built by Slaves - 1799)

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

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Sunday, February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m.

Welcome: A warm welcome is extended to all as we worship on this the First Sunday in Lent. We gladly set aside this time to give ourselves to praise, prayer and reflection upon God's word. May we all be blessed in this Lenten journey with God.

Pastor: Rev. Ezra Parris

(Manse: 246-546-0344)

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Movelle Kellman

WATCHWORD: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. *(Psalm 25:8)*

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude

Introit

Call to Worship: *Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. (Psalm 29:1 – 2)*

Hymn 24 –*Give To Our God Immortal Praise*

Litany – Lent B (p. 118 – Liturgy Book)

Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

Adoration in Songs & Choruses

Ministry of the Word

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:9 – 15

Hymn of Preparation: 213 –*Saviour Like A Shepherd Lead Us*

Sermon – Rev. Ezra Parris

Prayer of Commitment & Intercession

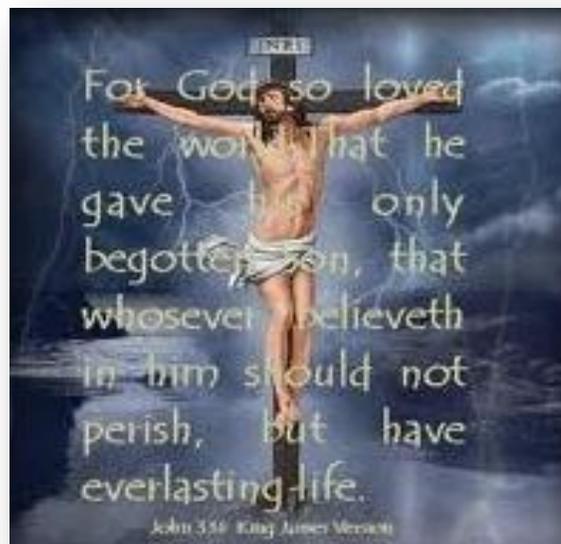
Hymn 305 –*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

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.



Call to Worship: *Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.* (Psalm 29:1 – 2)



Opening Hymn: 24 –

**Give to our God immortal praise;
Mercy and truth are all his ways:
Wonders of grace to God belong,
Repeat his mercies in your song.**

**Give to the Lord of lords renown,
The King of kings with glory crown:
His mercies ever shall endure,
When lords and kings are known no more.**

**He built the earth, he spread the sky,
And fixed the starry lights on high:
Wonders of grace to God belong,
Repeat his mercies in your song.**

**He fills the sun with morning light,
He bids the moon direct the night:
His mercies ever shall endure,
When sun and moon shall shine no more.**

**He sent his Son with power to save
From guilt, from darkness, and the grave:
Wonders of grace to God belong,
Repeat his mercies in your song.**

**Through this vain world he guides our feet,
And leads us to his heavenly seat:
His mercies ever shall endure,
When this vain world shall be no more.**



Lent (B)

All stand

Come people of God, let us walk with our Lord by following His example.

We will follow our Lord.

Tune: DEM HEILIGEN BLUT

**Go, follow the Saviour,
Consider his travail;
Adore him for ever,
Ye sinners, and marvel;
It is for you
He suffers so.**

**Behold the Lord Jesus,
For you he is wounded,
He bleeds to release us;
His love is unbounded:
For evermore,
His name adore.**

John Cennick (1718 – 1755)

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus.

Being justified by faith, let us have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and by Him let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, giving thanks to his name.

God demonstrates His own love for us in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. We give you thanks for granting the penitent sinner justification through your own sacrifice. Your promise is to deliver us from the control of darkness and transfer us into the Kingdom of Light.

Thank you God for the gift of freedom which no one could purchase! Jesus paid the price for us and we are very grateful. Hallelujah!

O Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Grant us sustained peace.

All sit

Let us pray:

Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, you have enabled us to gather in your name. We are awed by your power and majesty, and touched by your love revealed to us in your Son Jesus Christ. Today, we remember with devotion, his last journey to Jerusalem to complete his work as our Messiah; to suffer, die and rise again. Our spirits are humbled by his obedience to your perfect will. O Father, we confess with shame, our slowness to learn from the example of our Lord. Look mercifully upon us, we pray, as we acknowledge and confess our sins:

Father, we confess that we have sinned against you, yet we know that you love us still. In your steadfast love, forgive our feeble worship which we offer to you; pardon our paltry praise; extend your mercy to us in our failure to be genuine in our fellowship one with the other, and absolve our tendency to neglect attending to the needs of those who are the least among us within our communities. Reclaim us as your own for we truly repent of our sins as we resolve to follow in the footsteps of your Son. We embrace God's promise to us: A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. Amen.

Jesus, you were tempted in every way as we are yet you did not sin. You triumphed over temptation by the power of your word.

As we are bombarded daily by temptations of the body, mind and spirit, may we see ourselves as overcomers because of the power of your Holy Word which we have hidden in our hearts so that we may not sin against you.

Empowering Holy Spirit of God, the source of all that is good and true in this life:

Give us the courage to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tune: NEAR THE CROSS

**Jesus, keep me near the Cross;
There a precious fountain,
Free to all – a healing stream –
Flows from Calvary's mountain.**

*In the Cross, in the Cross,
Be my glory ever,
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.*

**Near the Cross! O Lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day,
With its shadow o'er me.**

Fanny Crosby (1820 – 1915)

All stand

By your agony and passion;
By all your sacred wounds;
By your cross and precious blood;
By your innocent suffering and dying;
By your stripes which heal;
By your rest in the grave;
By your triumphant victory over death;
By your resurrection and ascension.

Bless us and save us, O Christ, our Redeemer.

Tune: *POWER IN THE BLOOD*

**Would you be free from the burden of sin?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you o'er evil a victory win?
There's wonderful power in the blood.**

*There is power, power, wonder-working power
In the blood of the Lamb;
There is power, power, wonder-working power
In the precious blood of the Lamb.*

Lewis E. Jones (1865 – 1936)

Our Saviour in his living never failed to teach, heal, encourage and befriend all people. May we, even as we follow his perfect example and bear our own crosses, likewise demonstrate Christ's compassion to all we meet.

May we become aware that we are channels of God's grace, not magnifying our troubles or forgetting our blessings. May God give us a ready mind to minister to others on their journey, to share our gifts with those in need, and to be always willing to proclaim to all, the good news of salvation.

We give you thanks for the obedience of Christ, who by his death on the cross purchased our redemption; to the same one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be all glory, honour and power for ever.

Amen

Tune: *ROCKINGHAM*

**When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748)



Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

A warm welcome is extended to all as we worship on this the First Sunday in Lent. We gladly set aside this time to give ourselves to praise, prayer and reflection upon God's word. May we all be blessed in this Lenten journey with God.





*Today: Keandra Eversley, Simone Jean-Marie & Roseann Lewis
Advanced: Felicia Best & Ebony Knight (24th), Norma Meek (26th)*



Congratulations to Bro. Ricardo & Sis. Lelia Gibbs who will celebrate their 53rd Wedding Anniversary on February 24, 2021.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT

† Today: Worship – 9:30 a.m.

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).

† Monday – Friday: Lenten Devotions – 8:00 p.m. online via Zoom.

† Wednesday: Bible Study – 6:00 p.m. online via Zoom.

† NEXT SUNDAY Worship – 9:30 a.m.



SIS ASHLEY CLARKE

There're not many people to whom one could turn at the last minute to get a hymn or song written for a special occasion. Sis Ashley Clarke, however, had the talent to do such.

Ashley Clarke was what people would call a “bred and born” Sharonite, having been a member of the Sharon Congregation from childhood. She wrote hymns for harvests, for birthdays, for anniversaries, for her beloved Women’s Fellowship, or just for the love of writing. Because she had a hearing and speech impediment, Sis Clarke used this writing forum to share her love of God. She did not know music, but every hymn could be sung to the tune of a well-known hymn.

She would dutifully walk to church for every service in the sanctuary, regardless of the distance she had to travel. In her latter days she moved even closer to her Sharon and at the time of her death, she lived in the shadow of the church building.

We at Sharon are even more proud of Sis Ashley Clarke, as we salute her during this Black History Month, for when we pick up our Hymn Book – Caribbean Moravian Praise – we find that Hymns 520 and 658 were penned by her! To God be the glory!

Sis Ashley Clarke – a true daughter of the soil!



NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS

1. From the PEC:

✝ Warm Christian greetings in the name of Jesus, our Chief Elder! As we look toward Lent and Easter, the Province is called to an intentional time of prayer and fasting for the duration of Lent. We are encouraged to adhere to the basic principles Daniel followed in Daniel 10: 3 – Prayer, no sweets, no meat, and no alcohol. The Provincial Newsletter for February has more details on the Daniel Fast. During this period, Mondays – Fridays, scripture verses to guide personal morning reflections and prayer will be distributed. In the evenings, there will be short, impactful devotions beginning at 8:00 pm on Zoom. Each Conference will lead evening devotions for one week during Lent as follows:

Conference	Devotion Dates	Sub-Theme
Trinidad	February 18-19	Seek
Tobago	February 22-26	Submit
Barbados	March 1 – 5	Hear and Heed
St. Kitts	March 8 – 12	Imagination and Insight
Antigua	March 15 – 19	Focus and Function
Virgin Islands	March 22 – 26	Total Transformation

✝ We need God to do mighty things in us, through us, in the church, in our communities, and the world. Let us ready our hearts and minds for the journey

✝ March 07, 2021 is Unity Sunday. At this time of year, we remember the birth of the *Unitas Fratrum*, the Moravian Church, on March 1, 1457. We ask for your continued prayers for the work and witness of our Church. A special Unity offering will be taken in all Moravian Churches worldwide on Sunday, March 7, 2021. This offering will go towards constructing a multipurpose hall in Malawi in Africa. Details on the project are attached.

✝ The Provincial Board of the European Continental Province (ECP) has drawn the Watchword for each Province and Unity Undertaking for 2021. The watchword drawn for the Eastern West Indies Province (EWIP) is “*He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth*” (Psalm 105:7). The watchword is assigned for April 3, 2021.

2. From the Superintendent: In compliance with the national directive to pause from broad social interaction to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Moravian Church in Barbados will extend the suspension of gatherings or assemblies for a further month, through to February 28, 2021. We are encouraged to remain engaged by making use of our online resources such as our social media pages and our livestreamed worship services on YouTube and Facebook.

✝ Worship times are as follows:

✝ Calvary / Grace Hill / Fulneq Pastorate – Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

✝ Sharon / Dunscombe Pastorate – Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

✝ Bethlehem / Faith Pastorate – Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

- ✝ Continue to follow the directives and recommendations of our public health officials and agencies, that we may do our part in maintaining the health of our community and fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- 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. 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Remember to listen to the Moravian Radio Programme: “Moravian Voice” on LIFE 97.5 FM, Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.
- 7. 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).

8. 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, Sydney Gibson, Grace Lashley, Muriel Moore, Carol St. John.*



Adoration In Songs & Choruses

Ministry of the Word

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:9 – 15

- 9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.
- 10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:
- 11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
- 12 And immediately the spirit driveth him into the wilderness.
- 13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.
- 14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,
- 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.



Hymn of Preparation: 213 –

SAVIOUR, like a shepherd lead us
Much we need thy tender care;
In thy pleasant pastures feed us;
For our use thy folds prepare:
Blessèd Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

**We are thine, do thou befriend us;
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep from ill, from sin defend us;
Seek us when we go astray:
Blessèd Jesus,
Hear us children when we pray.**

**Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse and power to free:
Blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to thee.**



Sermon – – *Rev. Ezra Parris*



Prayer of Commitment & Intercession



Closing Hymn: 305 –

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land:
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore.**

**Open thou the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.**



Benediction



Organ Postlude



AVAILABLE:

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

