



# SHARON MORAVIAN CHURCH

*(Built by Slaves – 1799)*

Sharon, St. Thomas. BB22136

But love ye your enemies, and  
do good, and lend, hoping for  
nothing again; and your reward  
shall be great, and ye shall be  
the children of the Highest:  
for he is kind unto the  
unthankful and to the evil.

LUKE 6:35 (KJV)



Sunday, February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

**BLACK HERITAGE SUNDAY**

9:30 a.m.

*Welcome: "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them;"* Welcome to all, whether you are joining us here in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad, as we celebrate African / Black Heritage Sunday. May you be blessed as we worship today.

*Pastor: Rev. Ezra Parris*

*(Manse: 246-546-0344)*

*Associate Pastor: Rev. David Ince*

*Church Office/Pastor's Study: 246-425-4011*

*Email: [sharon.moravian.church@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.moravian.church@gmail.com)*

*Church Vestry Tel: 425-0164*

**WATCHWORD:** Jesus said, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."  
*(Luke 6:36)*

**Provincial Theme 2025:**

*"SHIFT: Reclaiming Our Identity, Renewing Our Purpose, and Re-Igniting Our Passion"*



## ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Introit – Choir

Call To Worship: *Psalm 34:1-3*

Leader: I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises.

Congregation: *I will boast only in the Lord; let all who are helpless take heart.*

All: *Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together.*

Opening Hymn: 410 – “*God of Mercy, God of Grace*”

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Responsive Reading: Psalm 37:1 – 11, 39 – 40

Worship in Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Sentence: *<sup>9</sup> So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone – especially to those in the family of faith. – Galatians 6:9 – 10*

Offertory Hymn: 469 – “*Come Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs*”

Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory Doxology: “*Thanks, Thanks, I Give You Thanks*”

Greetings, Celebrations & Notices

Adoration in Song

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Scripture Reading: Genesis 45:3 – 11

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 6:27 – 38

Church Choir – “*I Want To Be Ready*”

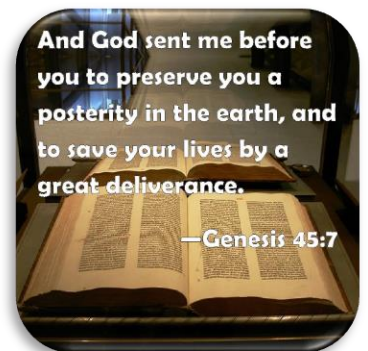
Sermon – *Rev. David Ince*

Prayer of Commitment & Intercession

Hymn of Reflection: 449 – “*Help us to help each other Lord*”

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.



**Prelude**

**Introit – Choir**

**Call To Worship: *Psalm 34:1-3***

**Leader:** I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises.

**Congregation:** *I will boast only in the Lord; let all who are helpless take heart.*

**All:** *Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together.*



**Opening Hymn: 410 –**

God of mercy, God of grace,  
Show the brightness of thy face;  
Shine upon us, Saviour, shine,  
Fill thy Church with light divine;  
And thy saving health extend  
Unto earth's remotest end.

Let the people praise thee, Lord;  
Be by all that live adored;  
Let the nations shout and sing  
Glory to their Saviour King;  
At thy feet their tribute pay,  
And thy holy will obey.

Let the people praise thee, Lord;  
Earth shall then her fruits afford;  
God to man his blessing give,  
Man to God devoted live;  
All below and all above,  
One in joy, and light, and love.



## RESPONSIVE READING – PSALM 37: 1 – 11; 39 – 40

1. Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.
2. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.
3. Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.
4. Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
5. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.
6. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.
7. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.
8. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.
9. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.
10. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.
11. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.
39. But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.
40. And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.



### Prayer & Lord's Prayer



### Worship in Tithes & Offerings

**Offertory Sentence:** <sup>9</sup> *So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.* <sup>10</sup> *Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone – especially to those in the family of faith. – Galatians 6:9 – 10*

**Offertory Hymn: 469 –**

Come, let us join our cheerful songs  
With angels round the throne;  
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,  
But all their joys are one.

‘Worthy the Lamb that died,’ they cry,  
‘To be exalted thus;’  
‘Worthy the Lamb,’ our lips reply,  
‘For he was slain for us.’

Jesus is worthy to receive  
Honour and power divine;  
And blessings more than we can give  
Be, Lord, for ever thine.

Let all that dwell above the sky,  
And air and earth and seas,  
Conspire to lift thy glories high,  
And speak thine endless praise.

The whole creation join in one,  
To bless the sacred name  
Of him that sits upon the throne,  
And to adore the Lamb.



**Prayer of Dedication of Tithes & Offerings**



**Offertory Doxology:**

**Thanks, thanks, I give you thanks**

*Thanks, thanks, I give you thanks  
For all you've done  
I am so blessed, my soul is at rest  
O Lord, I give you thanks.*



## Greetings, Celebrations & Notices



## Adoration in Song



## Ministry of the Word

### First Scripture Reading: Genesis 45: 3 – 11

3. And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence.
4. And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.
5. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.
6. For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest.
7. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.
8. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.
9. Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not:
10. And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast:
11. And there will I nourish thee; for yet there are five years of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty.



## Second Scripture Reading: Luke 6: 27 – 38

27. But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,
28. Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.
29. And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also.
30. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.
31. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.
32. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.
33. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.
34. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.
35. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.
36. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.
37. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:
38. Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.



### Choir Anthem – *“I Want To Be Ready”*



### Sermon – – *Rev. David Ince*





## Prayer of Commitment & Intercession



### Hymn of Reflection: 449 –

Help us to help each other, Lord,  
Each other's cross to bear,  
Let each his friendly aid afford,  
And feel his brother's care.

Up into thee, our living Head,  
Let us in all things grow,  
And by thy sacrifice be led  
The fruits of love to show.

Drawn by the loadstone of thy love,  
Let all our hearts agree;  
And ever toward each other move,  
And ever move toward thee.

To thee, inseparably joined,  
Let all our spirits cleave;  
O may we all the loving mind  
That was in thee receive.

This is the bond of perfectness, –  
Thy spotless charity;  
O let us still, we pray, possess  
The mind that was in thee.



### The Benediction



### Organ Postlude



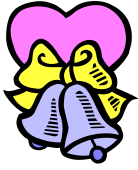
### Welcome, Celebrations & Notices

***“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them;”***  
**Welcome to all, whether you are joining us here in the sanctuary or online, at home or abroad, as we celebrate African / Black Heritage Sunday. May you be blessed as we worship today.**





*Advanced: Felicia Best & Ebony Knight (24<sup>th</sup>), Norma Meek (26<sup>th</sup>), Frances Barker, Clarence Cummings & Claudette Jones (28<sup>th</sup>)*



*Congratulations to Bro. Ricardo & Sis. Lelia Gibbs, who will celebrate their 57<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on February 24, 2025.*



### 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. **BLACK HERITAGE SUNDAY**
- † Adventures in Worship (All ages) – 10:00 a.m. in the D.C. Moore Centre
- † Harvest Festival at Clifton Hill at 3:30 p.m.

### **THIS WEEK**

**Office Hours for the Pastorate: Tuesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. (D. C. Moore Centre).**

- † Office Hours – Tuesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. (D. C. Moore Centre).
- † Tuesday: Women's Fellowship – First & Third Tuesdays: In Sanctuary at 3:30 p.m. All other Tuesdays: Online via Zoom at 6:00 p.m.
- † Wednesday: Bible Study – 6:00 p.m. online via Zoom. Meeting ID: 861 4335 8604 / Passcode: 244093.
- † Friday: Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.
- † Next Sunday: **UNITY SUNDAY**
  - † Divine Worship at 9:30 a.m. & Holy Communion
  - † Adventures in Worship (All ages) – 10:00 a.m. in the D.C. Moore Centre

- † March of Witness – From Malvern Great House to the Mt. Tabor church, commencing at 3:30 p.m.



### Activities in the Month of February 2025:

- † Black Heritage Sunday – 23<sup>rd</sup>. Come in your Afro wear. Celebrate our identity and heritage.
- † Harvest Festival at Clifton Hill – Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup>



### Activities in the Month of March 2025:

- † Provincial Day of Prayer – Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup>, Online.
- † Moravian Unity Sunday – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:30. At this time of year, we remember the birth of the Unitas Fratrum, the Moravian Church, on March 1, 1457. We will pray for the work and witness of our Church Unity as we seek to be faithful to the mission of God. A special Unity offering will be taken in all Moravian Churches worldwide on Unity Sunday
- † Pastorate Joint Ash Wednesday Service – 5<sup>th</sup> online, 7:30 p.m.
- † World Day of Prayer – Friday, 7<sup>th</sup>
- † Meeting of Island Conference – Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m., D.C. Moore Centre.
- † Harvest Festival at Gracehill – Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup>
- † Mount Tabor Harvest Fair – Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m.
- † Harvest Festival at Mount Tabor – Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup>
- † Theological Education Sunday – 23<sup>rd</sup>



## **NEWS, INFORMATION & REMINDERS**

1. We have closed our year of celebrating 225 years since the laying of the cornerstone here at Sharon. One planned event remains outstanding, that is the Planting of a Time Capsule, which will be completed when all the items have been gathered.
- † We are still open to contributions under our “225 for 225” drive, in which we ask persons to donate \$225 or multiples of \$225 towards the continuing work of the church. You don’t have to give it all at once, you can fill the envelope over time and bring it in at your convenience. We look forward to your participation in our “225 for 225” drive. **Envelopes are available for collection.** For 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. Pay to: *Biller*

– The Moravian Church, Account No – 1765-1768-0000, Name – Sharon Moravian Church. A specimen of the envelope is displayed below.



2. If you plan to claim on contributions to our church when filing your 2024 Income Tax Return, please make a request and submit your TAMIS Number, so that a statement can be forwarded to the Barbados Revenue Authority on your behalf. Please send an email to [sharon.moravian.church@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.moravian.church@gmail.com) or call the Church Office during Office Hours.
3. From the Provincial Board:
  - ✠ The funeral service for Rev. Julie Joefield-Parris takes place in Barbados on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at the Sharon Moravian Church, St. Thomas, Barbados at 2:00 p.m. The service will be streamed on Sharon Moravian's YouTube Channel – [www.youtube.com/@sharonmoravianchurch](http://www.youtube.com/@sharonmoravianchurch).
  - ✠ The next Provincial Day of Prayer will be held on March 1, 2025, at 6:00 a.m., led by the Virgin Islands Conference. This will mark the 5th anniversary of Provincial Day of Prayer, having started on March 1, 2020. The link for our prayer meeting will be shared in due course.
  - ✠ The Moravian Unity celebrates its 568th anniversary on March 1, 2025. As we celebrate and reflect, let us intentionally follow the Lamb to change the world. A special Unity Offering will be collected on February 2, 2025, to fund the creation of a Common Moravian Theological Education Curriculum. Please continue to pray for the work and witness of our Church.
  - ✠ The Unity Prayer Watch is a special service to the world, offered by the worldwide Moravian Church. The Eastern West Indies Province will participate in the Unity Prayer Watch from April 03 – April 17, 2025. The Schedule is as follows:
    - ✠ Tobago – 12 a.m. April 3 – 11:59 a.m. April 5, 2025
    - ✠ St. Kitts & The Grenada Mission – 12 p.m. April 5 – 11:59 p.m. April 7, 2025

- ✠ Trinidad – 12 a.m. April 8 – 11:59 a.m. April 9, 2025
  - ✠ Barbados – 12 p.m. April 9 – 11:59 p.m. April 11, 2025
  - ✠ Antigua – 12 a.m. April 12 – 11:59 p.m. April 14, 2025
  - ✠ Virgin Islands – 12 a.m. April 15 – 11:59 p.m. April 17, 2025
- ✠ Conferences are asked to use creative and innovative ways to observe the time allotted for our members to participate in this unbroken prayer chain.
- ✠ This prayer meeting began on August 13, 1727, when the Moravian Church had its Pentecost experience. Prayer is still a vital part of our walk with God and the life of the church. Let us therefore be in readiness for this prayer event as we continue to seek God’s guidance and direction for our Church, the world, and ourselves.
4. From the Superintendent:
- ✠ The 34th Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province will be held in the Trinidad Conference in July 2025. The Synod will be both virtual and in-person. Synod will convene virtually on May 15, 2025, and June 12, 2025, to conduct housekeeping matters and to receive reports. The in-person sessions will be held from July 10 – 16, 2025 in Trinidad, with the 10th and 16th being travels days.
  - ✠ The Congregations of the Province are being asked to cover the fees and costs of their Pastor(s)/Clergy Delegate(s) as usual. The estimated cost per delegate from Barbados is BD\$3,000, covering a Synod Fee of US\$1,000 and travel cost from Barbados to Trinidad of approximately BD \$1,000.
  - ✠ The election of delegates is scheduled for Sunday, March 9, 2025, in the congregations of the Conference. Pastors have been asked to begin the process of having the Joint Board nominate one person from their congregation.
  - ✠ As per the Book of Order (Paragraph 4.17), members of the Moravian Church Eastern West Indies Province may submit proposals on any aspect of our church’s life, for resolution at the 34th Provincial Synod. Proposals should be seconded by a member of the Moravian Church and submitted to the Conference Office by February 14th, for consideration by the Island Conference and further submission to the Provincial Office by April 15, 2025.
  - ✠ Please begin to make preparations and to pray for the Synod.
- ✠ You can sign up for the upcoming courses offered by the Moravian Institute for this Semester 2. You can learn more and register by following this link: <https://bit.ly/TheMoravianInstitute2025>

5. We have resumed the “Basket of Hope” ministry. Each Sunday you are invited to make contributions of non-perishable food items, which will be distributed to those in need. Contributions can be made during the offertory hymn. We are appealing for volunteers to provide the needed management and helping-hands for this ministry. Please let the Pastors know of your interest.
6. 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](http://www.sharonmoravian.info/giving-monetary) for these details.
7. 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/](http://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](mailto:moravianvoice@gmail.com)
  - † Remember to listen to the Moravian Radio Programme: “Moravian Voice” on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on Life 97.5 FM.



## PRAYER NEEDS:



1. Our Shut-ins: *Sis. Aileen Bowen, Sis. Vernice Alberta Osbourne*
2. The Sick/Recovering:
  - ✠ Of our congregation: *Sis. Ansonia Cox-Burgess, Sis. Zelia Kellman, Sis. Shanna King (USA)*
3. The Bereaved: *We express condolences to, and we pray for Rev. Ezra Parris and the entire family on the passing of Rev. Julie Joefield-Parris. A Service of Thanksgiving for her life will be held here at Sharon on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, commencing at 2:00 p.m.*
4. World Peace



## AVAILABLE (Through the Church Office):

- ✠ Offering Envelopes for 2025 – 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.
- ✠ Missionary Collection Boxes 2025 – If you had a box last year, please collect it from the Vestry. If you desire a box for the first time, please inquire at the vestry after worship or at the Church Office.
- ✠ Sharon Burgundy Shirts: Polos – \$30 / T-Shirts – \$15
- ✠ 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.





## Provincial Theme 2025

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

The focus for 2025 will be: Re-igniting our passion; for souls, service, and sustainability.

*“Broadly speaking, renewing identity speaks of who we are as Christ-followers; renewing our purpose speaks to why the church exists; re-igniting our passion speaks to our willingness to share our faith with others. — Chairman of PEC*



**CLIFTON HILL  
MORAVIAN CHURCH**  
Clifton Hill, St. Thomas

**Harvest  
FESTIVAL**

THEME:  
*Our Stewardship  
of God's World*

**SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 23RD, 2025  
3:30 PM**





# MARCH OF WITNESS



Come and join us to make memories, stay active, and enjoy an evening full of positive energy.



**2 MARCH, 2025**

**3:30 P.M**

**MALVERN GREAT HOUSE  
THROUGH VENTURE  
MT TABOR MORAVIAN CHURCH**



For more information contact  
The Moravian Church Barbados Conference Office - 537-7390

Gather your friends and family, and join us for a day of joy, fitness, and community spirit.