

Happy New Year!

Welcome to Fort Massey. A special welcome to our visitors. We are delighted to have you joining us at our Sunday Gathering . You are invited to sign our Guest Book; if you're looking for a church home, please fill out a Welcome Card at the left of the main doors upon exiting the nave, leaving it with the guest book.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music.

The format was based on an Order drawn up by Edward Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury but at that time Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, for use on Christmas Eve (24 December) 1880. Tradition says that he organized a 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve in a temporary wooden structure serving as his cathedral and that the purpose of the service was to keep men out of the pubs.

The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world. Lessons and Carols most often occur in Anglican churches. However, numerous Christian denominations have adopted this service, or a variation on this service, as part of their Christmas celebrations. In the UK, the service has become the standard format for schools' Christmas carol services.

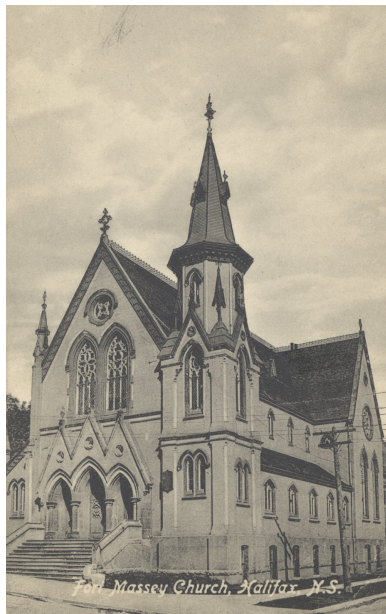
The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. It features carols sung by the famous Choir of King's College. Groton School of Groton, Massachusetts, has performed the festival longer than any institution other than King's, holding its first Lessons and Carols in 1928.

Church Office will re-open, Friday, Jan 2, 2015

Please call the church manse, 902.425.3810, for any emergencies.

Next Sunday, Jan 4, Epiphany & New Year's Communion, 10:30 a.m.

UCW Annual Meeting, Sunday, Jan 11, after the Sunday Gathering. Brown Bag Lunch. Plans for upcoming events and dates will be decided. All women are welcome.



Fort Massey by-the-Sea

*Watching over Halifax
Harbour since 1871*

*A Congregation of
The United Church of
Canada*

5303 Tobin Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1S3
902.423.4294 ftmassey@eastlink.ca
www.fortmasseychurch.com

Our Leadership

T. D. Cleveland-Thompson, Pastor
Simon Abbott, Organist/Music Director
Leah Collins-Lipsett, Pianist/Jr. Choir
John Walter, Assistant Organist
Kevin Robarts, Flutist
Elliott Prouty, Head Usher
Sancia Knorr, SS Co-ordinator
Elaine Janson, Nursery
Richard & Carol Robinson, Sextons
Kathy Cochran, Office Administrator
Alison McDonald, Clerk of Session
Alasdair Sinclair, Clerk Emeritus
Alan G. Hayman, Sr. Trustee
Leslie Pezzack, Treasurer
Ruth MacKenzie, Chief Steward
Martina Sommer, Facilities Rental
Ian MacDonald, Technical Support
Irene Parks, UCW President
Presbytery Representatives:
Elliott Prouty, Ian MacDonald

2015, Year of the Evangelist – YOU!

It is a well-known fact the best way for a church to grow is by invitation. This year we commit ourselves to growing a vibrant presence in the community.



10:30 am, December 28, 2014

1st Sunday after Christmas

ORDER *of* SERVICE

* indicates standing for those who are able

PRELUDE

Carols on the Fort Massey Chimes

The Trinity Bell is rung and the Community Candle lit.

OPENING SENTENCES

In places of war and in places of peace...

There we will find the Christ child.

In places of sorrow and in places of joy...

There we will find the Christ child.

In places of despair and in places of hope...

There we will find the Christ child.

In places of hate and in places of love...

There we will find the Christ child.

We find the Christ child in all places,

for where two or more are gathered in his name...

There we will find the Christ child!

Come, follow me...but quietly!

Where are we going?

Out back – to the stable.

To the stable?

Yes...there's something you just have to see!

What?

A baby.

A baby?

The Christ!

THE CHRIST?

Shh! Come and see!

Come and see of whom the prophets foretold!

Come and see of whom the angels sang!

Come and see our heart's desire.

Jesus, the Christ.

King of hearts. Kin of our lives.

Come and see!

OPENING PRAYER

We pray: **The messengers' voices can be a cacophony, but the message itself is clear – "Peace on earth, goodwill to all." O, God! Still our rushing bodies. Silence our babble. Help us to hear the joy of Christ's coming! Amen.**

*CAROL

Child in the Manger

Text: Mary MacDonald; Music: Gaelic Traditional; Tune: Bunessan (Morning has broken)

Child in the manger, infant of Mary,

Outcast and Stranger, Lord of us all,

Child Who inherits all our transgressions,

All our demerits upon Him fall.

**Once the most holy Child of salvation
Gently and lowly lived here below.
Now as our glorious mighty Redeemer,
See Him victorious over each foe.**

**Prophets foretold Him, Infant of wonder;
Angels behold Him, King on His throne.
Worthy our Savior of all our praises;
Happy forever are all His own.**

THE PEACE *The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.*

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

MINUTE FOR MISSION “Helping Widows to be Seen” – *Sally DeWolf*

OFFERINGS

(responsively)

**The presents are unwrapped. The meals eaten.
The families celebrated. For those gifts and for all gifts,
we say “Thank you!” We have been blessed by a Love
we name God.**

Our offerings for this place and beyond shall now be received.

Offertory Carol: All Poor Ones and Humble

VU 68

* Please stand as the offering is brought forward during the last verse of the carol.

THE FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

Genesis 3: 8-19

Genesis 22: 1-18

CAROL: Once in Royal David’s City, v.1

VU 62

Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7

Isaiah 11: 1-3a; 4a; 6-9

CAROL: Once in Royal David’s City, v.2

VU 62

Luke 1: 26-35; 38

Luke 2: 1; 3-7

Luke 2: 8-16

CAROL: Once in Royal David’s City, v.3

VU 62

Matthew 2: 1-12

John 1: 1-14

CAROL: Once in Royal David’s City, v.4

VU 62

PRAYER & PRAYER OF JESUS

***CAROL**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

VU 43

***PARTING WORDS**

POSTLUDE

* * *