



Fort Massey
by~the~Sea
A Congregation of
The United Church of
Canada
Watching over Halifax
Harbour
since 1871

~ **Creating**
Community ~

T. D. Cleveland-Thompson, Pastor
Daniel MacDonald, Student Minister
Simon Abbott, Director of Music
John Walter, Assistant Organist
Kevin Robarts, Flutist
Richard & Carol Robinson, Sextons
Kathy Cochrane, Office Administrator
Elliott Prouty, Head Usher
Alison McDonald, Clerk of Session
Alasdair Sinclair, Clerk Emeritus
Nancy E. Riggs, Treasurer
Ruth MacKenzie, Chief Steward
Alan Hayman, Sr. Trustee
Sancia Knorr, Church School
Elaine Janson, Nursery

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WARNING! To enter into the life of this people of God is to encounter Christ's soul challenging, life-changing, radicalizing love. Will you join us? Do you dare



4th Sunday of Advent
LOVE
December 20, 2015
10:30 AM

The Sunday Gathering

* indicates standing for those who are able; silent reflection begins with the Prelude

PRELUDE	Chorale Prelude on <i>Personent Hodie</i>	
*PROCESSIONAL	O Come, All Ye Faithful	VU 60
SILENT REFLECTION	Trinity Bell is rung. Community Candle is lit.	
INTROIT	“How the world longs for your birth” — Music by Johann Walther, harm. J.S. Bach	
GATHERING WORDS		
THE PEACE	<i>The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.</i>	
SOLO	“Flößt mein Heiland” from the Christmas Oratorio — J.S. Bach “Ah! My Saviour” — Jennifer Farrell, soprano	
WELCOME & THE NOTICES		
MINUTE FOR MISSION	“Smokey Mountain” – Jake Janson	
OFFERING CAROL	Down to Earth, as a Dove Offering is brought forward on v. 3	VU 42
TIME WITH THE SUNDAY’S COOL CROWD		
*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING		INSERT
PRAYER	I Wonder as I Wander – John Jacob Niles <i>Kevin Roberts, flute</i>	
PRAYER OF JESUS	The Lord’s Prayer	VU 914
ANTHEM	<i>God so loved the world</i> — Bob Chilcott	
READINGS	“What I really, really, really want for Christmas” Excerpt from Robert Fulghum Gospel of Luke 2:15-20	
*CAROL	While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks	VU 75
SERMON	<u>All I want for Christmas...</u> – Rev. Trent	
*CLOSING CAROL	Angels We Have Heard on High	VU 38
*PARTING WORDS	<i>Amen. May it be so.</i>	
POSTLUDE	<i>Carillon-Sortie</i> — Henri Mulet	

Please be seated after the ministers have left the nave of the sanctuary; after which you may rise and exit, or remain for part or all of the Postlude.

Welcome to Fort Massey! Merry Christmas! May your holiday travels with family and friends be *of good cheer!* We are delighted to have all **visitors** joining us today; please sign our Guest Book. If you're looking for a church home, you may fill out a **Welcome Card** (found with the guest book) leaving it with the guest book. Please join us in the lower hall after our Gathering for our special **Coffee & Conversation/baby shower**.

2016 Offering Envelopes are available in the Tobin St. lobby. Please contact our Chief Steward, *Ruth MacKenzie @ raem@ns.sympatico.ca*, 902.477.5365, if you have questions about weekly envelopes or the advantages of PAR.

Door Fund. You are invited to give a special Christmas gift to Fort Massey this year for the purchase of new Tobin St. doors. We'll be warmer, safer, richer and more environmentally friendly. Mark it DOORS on your envelope. Raised as of Dec 13 - \$1,595.00.

2016 Canadian Church Calendars for sale during C&C. \$10.

'Gifts with Vision' Catalogues are available in the lobbies.

Year of Caring to the Brunswick Street Mission. Contact 902.423.4605 OR www.brunswickstreetmission.org.

Next Men's Breakfast, Fri, **Jan 8**, 9:30 AM, Athens on Quinpool.

Mission to Seafarers Boxes/Bags are due TODAY, **Dec 20**.

The choir of the Presbyterian Church of Saint David will present a service of Lessons and Carols at 4:00 pm on Sunday, **December 20th**. Saint David's Organist and Music Director *Tristan Cleveland-Thompson* has assembled a group of extremely talented choristers for this annual celebration. A freewill offering will be taken to be directed toward Refugee sponsorship and support.

Concert. St. John's United Church (Halifax) Choir and Handbell Ringers present "O Holy Night" on Sunday, Dec. 20 – 7p.m. in the Lilian Piercey Concert Hall, 6199 Chebucto Road. Music for Advent and Christmas will be presented and a reception will follow. Admission \$10. All welcome.

Capella Regalis Men & Boys Choir performs *To Bethlehem With Kings* on **December 22** at 7:00 p.m. at All Saints Cathedral, 1330 Martello Street, Halifax. www.capellaregalis.com or 902.422.6278.

Christmas Services @ the fort:

Dec 24, 7 PM, *Christmas Eve Service*, "Refuge-e in a stable"

Dec 27, 10:30 AM, *Sharing & Caroling*. Come prepared to sit in the BIG Red Chair – Children are welcome to show one of their Christmas gifts; Adults are invited to share a Christmas story from their past.

Jan 3, 10:30 AM, *The Epiphany - New Year's Communion*

Fort Massey, St. Matthew's & St. David's Refugee Committee: Three churches have banded together to sponsor a refugee family. We will need to raise \$30,000.00 to support our family for a year. A volunteer group met last week to begin writing the application. Through a local family and their contacts we have a specific family in mind to sponsor. We would like to invite everyone to support our fund-raising campaign. In order to begin the fundraising at each of the three participating churches the Fundraising Committee proposes three possibilities: (1) mark your special contribution to your church "for refugees;" (2) consider making a contribution to the refugee fund in lieu of Christmas gifts, either from you or to you; (3) Sign a pledge card available during the coffee hour for a monthly amount for one year. Information and gift cards will be available after the Service.

A second meeting of the full sponsorship committee on **January 10th** at St. Matthew's United Church which will begin as soon after 12 noon as we can. The meeting will take place in the gymnasium. On the agenda of that meeting, among other things, will be the following items.

- Establishing an executive committee representative of the constituent churches and friends who make up the committee.
- Organizing working groups to plan for and carry out the different aspects of the project. This is an important starting point as it will enable us to fill out the "Settlement Plan" forms. The settlement plan is an essential aspect of the application to sponsor a refugee family.
- A discussion of the fund raising goal. Perhaps an additional \$15,000 – \$20,000 that would be a contribution to the United Nations Refugee Agency. The work to sponsor one family is vitally important, but we also need to remember there are millions of refugees who will not be invited to live in Canada. They need our assistance too.

You now have the convenience to donate on the Fort Massey website at www.fortmasseychurch.com