

**Welcome** to Fort Massey. We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, confused, well-heeled or down at heel. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers. We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing,' just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Moderator of the United Church of Canada, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago. We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, hockey dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organized religion.' (*We're not that keen on it either!*) We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to the ol' Kirk. We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids or got lost on the Armdale roundabout and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters, and you!

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[www.fortmasseychurch.com](http://www.fortmasseychurch.com)

T. D. Cleveland-Thompson, Minister; Vurain Tabvuma, Liturgical Assistant;  
Jenny Trites, Music Director/Organist; Jade Fraser: Soloist;  
Diemo Landgraf and John Walter, Assistant Organists;  
Ian MacDonald, Camera; Kevin Robarts, Sexton;  
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator.;  
Sancia Knorr, Church School; Lilli Knorr, Nursery;  
Andrew Mackay, Yoga

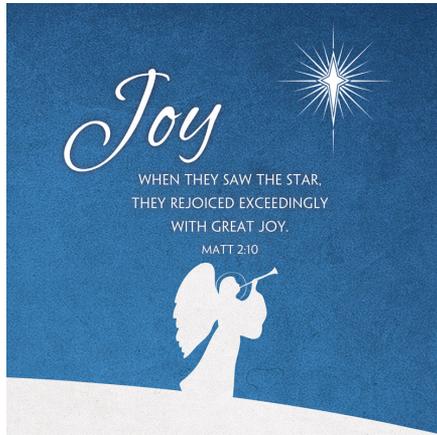


# Fort Massey Church

Spiritual Seekers **United** in Community

HALIFAX ~ NOVA SCOTIA

Our Sesquicentennial 1871-2021



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**December 13, 2020, 10:30 a.m.**

## **The Word Made Fresh**

**PRELUDE**      **Gabriel's Message (John G Barr)**

### **ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING – JOY**

Liturgy by Lori Megley-Best, *Ryerson U.C., Vancouver, B.C.* (adapted)  
– *John Gillis & Rhia Perkins, Owen & Morgan*

**INTROIT**      **Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
telling the world that the Saviour is born.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be  
strong, and none shall be afraid.      v. 3, VU 7**

**GATHERING WORDS**      **The Lord's Prayer**      **VU 921**

**HYMN: VU 28** Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness

**PASSING THE PEACE** *Peace be with you.*  
**And also with you.**

**WELCOME & NOTICES** Minute for Mission – *Colleen Estabrooks*

**OFFERING** Offertory:  
\*Response: **O Lord, how shall I meet you,  
how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you,  
my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, then, most holy,  
a lamp within my breast,  
to do in spirit lowly  
all that may please you best.**  
v. 1, **VU 31**

**READINGS** Excerpt from “Unplug the Christmas Machine” by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli; Matthew 1:18-24  
*Offered as wisdom for the journey.*  
**May we walk in its light.**

**HYMN: VU 8** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

**SERMON** The Joys of the Christmas Family

**AFFIRMATION** A New Creed **VU 918**

**HYMN: VU 18** There's a Voice in the Wilderness

**PARTING WORDS** *Amen. May it be so.*

**POSTLUDE** **O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
(Andrew Tessman)**



**We minister together, thanks to your support.** Please call or e-mail the church office to contact Ruth MacKenzie re financial giving; or Linda MacDonald re serving on a committee.

**Happy December Birthdays:** 15<sup>th</sup>, Alan Hayman; 16<sup>th</sup>, Holly MacIntosh Benninger; 29<sup>th</sup>, Maddy Spicer.

**Thank You card** from the Rev'd Daniel MacDoanld is posted in the Tobin St lobby.

**Get ready for Christ(mas)!** For Advent and Christmas family activities visit [united-church.ca](http://united-church.ca) and search "advent unwrapped".

**Gifts with Vision Christmas catalog** is available in the Tobin St lobby or online at [giftswithvision.ca](http://giftswithvision.ca).

**Christmas Gift.** Our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook for \$20 makes a great stocking stuffer. Contact the office.

**Another gift idea.** A donation to Fort Massey can be made as a gift to a friend or family member. Contact the office for details.

**This Week @ the Fort:**

**Tue** Christmas Trivia Night, *via Zoom*, 7:30 PM

**Wed** Coffee Party *via Zoom*. Topic - "my favourite home Xmas tradition", 10:30 AM;

**Thu** Book Study *via Zoom*, 10:30 AM;

*Contact info will be sent out that each day for Zoom events.*

**Sat** recording of Sunday Service in the sanctuary, 10:30 AM.

**White Gift Service**, Dec 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM. In lieu of food goods, you may give a financial donation to *Brunswick Street Mission*.

**Our Christmas Eve Service** will be virtual only this year.

**Hope Cottage Casserole.** Thank you to all our cooks who signed up for Jan 7, and to our co-ordinator, Teresa.

**1 Herald! Sound the note of gladness!**

**VU 28**

Tell the news that Christ is here;  
make a pathway through the desert  
for the one who brings God near.

Sound the trumpet!

Tell the message!

Christ the Saving One has come!

2 Herald! Sound the note of judgement,  
warning us of right and wrong,  
turning us from sin and sadness,  
till once more we sing the song. R

3 Herald! Sound the note of pardon!  
Those repenting are forgiven;  
God receives these wayward children,  
and to all new life is given. R

4 Herald! Sound the note of triumph!  
Christ has come to share our life,  
bringing God's own love and power,  
granting victory in our strife. R

**1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming**

**VU 8**

from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old have sung.  
It came a blossom bright,  
amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright  
she bore for us a Saviour when half spent was the night.

**1 There's a voice in the wilderness** crying,

**VU 18**

a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,  
get thee up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
Like the flowers of the field they perish,  
like grass our works decay;  
the power and pomp of nations  
shall pass, like a dream, away.

3 But the word of our God endureth,  
whose arm is ever strong;  
God stands in the midst of nations,  
and soon will right the wrong.  
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs so gently hold;  
to pastures of peace will lead them,  
and bring them safe to fold.

4 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

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O Lord, How Shall I Meet You: Words: Paul Gerhardt 1653, trans. Catherine Winkworth 1863, et al., alt.  
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