

A brief history...

The Name: The unique name of Fort Massey Church recalls the early years of the garrison town when there was a blockhouse on the site. The fort was named after *General Eyre Massey* who was commander-in-chief at Halifax from 1776-1780.

The Building: From the *Halifax Reporter*, 1871: "The interior ... has almost a cathedral appearance. In form and style there is nothing like it in Nova Scotia." From the *Canadian Illustrated News*, 1873: "...one of the most handsome specimens of Gothic architecture to be met in the Dominion." Opened in 1871, the Scottish architect, *David Stirling*, made skilful use of Gothic designs with more than a dozen window shapes and sizes and numerous versions of decorative window tracery. Inside there are richly-carved ceiling braces supported by hammer-beams, ornamental kings' heads and bands of trefoil arches punctuated by protruding, small winged creatures which gaze down into the nave below. The church hall with gymnasium was added in 1898, and is shared with numerous community and faith groups.

The Organ: The three manual Casavant organ, installed in 1913, was played by television's first lady of the organ, *Diane Bish* (Joy of Music) to a full house; and the local chapter of the *Royal Canadian College of Organists* (RCCO) often brings together organists and musical guests for an October evening of frighteningly fine music at the *Phantoms of the Pipes* concert!

The People: Fort Massey, along with the majority of Presbyterian churches, joined the Methodists and Congregationalists in the union of *The United Church of Canada* in 1925. Over the years many notable Haligonians have been affiliated with Fort Massey including *Lucy Maud Montgomery* (author of *Anne of Green Gables*), *Anna Leonowens* (Governess to the King of Siam's children – *The King and I* musical), and Nova Scotia's reformer *Joseph Howe* (Premier & Lt. Gov.). Some of the original subscribers included politicians such as *Hiram Blanchard*, Premier of Nova Scotia in 1867; *William Garvie*, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) and Commissioner of Public Works; and *Sir Robert Boak*, President of the Legislative Council and Provincial Treasurer. Other noted subscribers included merchant *William Robertson*, proprietor of Robertson's Hardware (now part of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic) and President of the Union Bank; *Andrew Muir*, who had fought at the Battle of Trafalgar; and *Captain J. Taylor Wood*, grandson of American President Zachary Taylor.

Today, the congregation consists of long-time south-enders, students, seniors, young families, and new residents who live in the neighbouring buildings, as well as people from throughout the HRM, from Lower Sackville to Eastern Passage. We strive to be a welcoming oasis in the midst of city living.

(Adapted from a brief history of Fort Massey Church written by Dr. Elizabeth Pacey OC, for the occasion of Fort Massey's Provincial Heritage designation on Sep 12, 1996.)

Spiritual Seekers United in Community

HALIFAX ~ NOVA SCOTIA

Fort Massey Church

CORNERSTONE LAID IN 1870
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www.fortmasseychurch.com



T. D. Cleveland-Thompson, Minister; Vurain Tabvuma, Liturgical Assistant; Jenny Trites, Music Director/Organist; Diemo Landgraf, Assistant Organist; John Walter, Assistant Organist; Kevin Robarts, Sexton; Tamara Mugford, Office Admin.; Sancia Knorr, Church School; Elizabeth Dorey, Nursery; Andrew Mackay, Yoga; Martina Summer, Tea and Tango.

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! (adapted, used with permission, *Coventry Cathedral, England*)

COVID-19: wash your hands...physical distance...wear a face mask...
sneeze/cough into the elbow...stay home if unwell...limit travel...call a friend

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2020, A Virtual Service

Found on our Facebook & Web Pages

Ian MacDonald, Camera/Editor



United against Racism



The Word Made Fresh

PRELUDE **Voluntary on “I’ve Got Peace Like a River”**
Dennis Janzer

SILENT REFLECTION Trinity Bell is rung. Community Candle is lit.

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

HYMN: MV 55 Song of Waters
– *Jennifer Billard*, soprano

PASSING THE PEACE

WELCOME & NOTICES

OFFERING What Can I Do? **MV 191**
What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I’ll sing with joy. I’ll say a prayer.
I’ll bring my love. I’ll do my share.

READINGS Excerpt from “Mask” by Robert
Fulghum; Psalm 38:9-15
Offered as wisdom for the journey.
May we walk in its light,

SERMON Masking Reality

AFFIRMATION A New Creed **VU 918**
HYMN: MV 150 Embracing Change

PARTING WORDS *Amen. May it be so.*

POSTLUDE **Trumpet Tune on Hanover**
William D. Gudger

* * *

We minister together, thanks to your support. Please call or e-mail the church office to contact Ruth MacKenzie for inquiries around financial giving (envelopes/PAR); or Linda MacDonald re serving on a committee.

Our Sunday Spiritual Gatherings will continue on-line while the minister is on vacation, from Aug 2 to Sep 6. The United Church East staff and friends will lead Aug 9 to 30. Jennifer Evans Billard will lead in a Song Service on Aug 2 and Sep 6.

Re-opening Day. Assuming there is no second wave, Fort Massey will re-open its doors on **Sunday, Sep 13**, for the 10:30 Gathering. Seating is limited to 50 which includes Sunday Church School & Nursery, complying with the NS physical distancing restrictions; and facemasks are recommended. Note that the Services will continue to be recorded and found on our Web page and Facebook page after the in-person gatherings. There will be no Coffee & Conversations.

Happy Birthday: Sheila Sinclair (AUG 15th), Roxann Tupper Grant (16th), Colleen Estabrooks (18th), Carol Sinclair (22nd), Sally DeWolf (28th), Jamie Grant (29th); and Richard Robinson (SEP 7th)

Hope Cottage: We need folks to help in **Aug**, Oct and Dec. Sandwich meats, juice boxes, granola bars, fruit are, or financial donations. We will collect/deliver, or you can drop off at Hope Cottage. Contact Teresa Orser via the church office.

Brunswick St Mission Financial donations are gratefully received. *Brunswick Street Mission*, 2107 Brunswick St., Halifax, NS B3K 2Y4 902-423-4605 bsm1@eastlink.ca

Corona Cookbook. We are looking for recipes you have been cooking during the pandemic; and for a paragraph about your quarantine activities and why this recipe resonated. A high resolution (jpeg) photo to accompany the piece is optional. Deadline Sep 15. Hope to have out for your Christmas shopping as a fundraiser in celebration of FMC's 150th anniversary and a vaccine discovery in 2021. Send to Carol Dobson or Kathy Evans via the church office.

Song of the Waters MV 55

1. Watch once more the windswept storm clouds;
Suddenly the sky has wings!
God has come to rain among us,
Giving hope to all dry things.
Sing a song of splashing waters,
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

2. Taste the moisture of the morning,
Smoother than the best red wine;
Toast the lifeblood of the planet:
Here's to God's wild wet design!
Sing a song of flowing waters,
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

3. View anew the dark blue ocean,
Whales cavorting, spraying foam;
God at play with deep sea monsters,
Feeling very much at home.
Sing a song of laughing waters,
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

4. Feel the breath of God move softly,
Gentle mists that brush the skin;
Earth is breathing God's own spirit,
Life renewed from deep within.
Sing a song of living waters,
Pulsing through the veins of Earth.

Embracing Change MV 150

1. Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn.
Spirit God, be our song.
2. Patient God: sooth our pride, calm our fear.
Comfort us. When we know you are near
we grow more certain, our vision is clear.
Patient God, calm our fear.
3. Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.
Reaching our, joining hands as we share.
We seek your guidance through friendship and care.
Loving God, be our song.
4. Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.
Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new
dawn.
Spirit God, be our song.

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