

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 each October the local chapter of the *Royal Canadian College of Organists* (RCCO) brings together organists and musical guests for an 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 FMC's Provincial Heritage designation on Sep 12, 1996.)

Fort Massey *United* Church

HALIFAX ~ NOVA SCOTIA

Creating Community c. 1871

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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

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24, 2020

A Virtual Service

Found on our Facebook & Web Pages

Ian MacDonald, Editor/Camera



The Word Made Fresh

PRELUDE

A Mighty Fortress
Johann Christoph Bach

SILENT REFLECTION

Trinity Bell is rung. Community Candle is lit.

GATHERING WORDS

HYMN: VU 406

See the Morning Sun Ascending
– Jennifer Billard, Song Leader

PASSING THE PEACE

– David Griffiths

WELCOME & NOTICES

MINUTE FOR MISSION

– Colleen Estabrooks

OFFERING SONG

What Can I Do? (2x) **MV 191**

PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer **VU 921**

HYMN: MV 126

Are You a Shepherd?

READINGS

Excerpt from Robert Fulghum
“Plan C or D”; Psalm 27:1-3
Offered as wisdom for the journey.
May we walk in its light.

SERMON

Risking Reality

HYMN: VU 657

He Leadeth Me

PARTING WORDS

Amen. May it be so.

POSTLUDE

Prelude
David Schack

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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 volunteering or serving on a committee.

Thank you to Alison McDonald who made a PUTT contribution towards our online recording ministry.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Glory be to God on high!

2 So may we, in lowly station,
join the choristers above;
singing with the whole creation,
praising you for your great love.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Glory be to God above!

3 For your loving-kindness ever
shed upon our earthly way;
or your mercy, ceasing never,
for your blessing day by day:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Glory be to God always!

4 'Wisdom, honour, power, and blessing!'
with the angelic host we cry;
round your throne, your name confessing,
now we would to you draw nigh.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Glory be to God on high!

Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us **MV 126**
safely through danger, while calming our fears?
Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,
shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?

Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.
Holy and living, loving and giving,
God, you are with us wherever we go.

Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,
comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?
Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,
challenging students to offer their best? (refrain)

Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,
lead all your children in paths that are right.

