

## 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 Halifax Regional Municipality. 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.)

**Let us be gentle, patient and kind in 2021.**



# Fort Massey Church

Spiritual Seekers **United** in Community

**HALIFAX ~ NOVA SCOTIA**

**Our Sesquicentennial 1871-2021**

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



**Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
**May 16, 2021**

*A Virtual Service*

Found online ~ FMC Facebook & Web Page

## The Word Made Fresh

PRELUDE	Lighting of Community Candle
GATHERING WORDS	
HYMN: MV 6	Holy Spirit, Come into Our Lives
THE PEACE	<i>Peace be with you.</i> <b>And also with you.</b>
WELCOME & NOTICES	
OFFERING: MV 191	What Can I Do?
PRAYER	The Lord's Prayer VU 921
HYMN: VU 654	All My Hope Is Firmly Grounded
READING	Gospel of Matthew 7:24-29 <i>Offered as wisdom for the journey.</i> <b>May we walk in its light.</b>
SERMON	<u>Shifting Sands</u>
AFFIRMATION	A New Creed VU 918
HYMN: VU 660	How Firm a Foundation
PARTING WORDS	<i>Amen. May it be so!</i>
POSTLUDE	

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**We minister together**, thanks to your support. Please contact Ruth MacKenzie <raem@ns.sympatico.ca>, (902.477.5365) re financial giving through weekly **envelopes**, or the convenience of **PAR**. You can also give through **Canada Helps** to which you can find a link on our website. **Cheques** in the post or dropped off are always welcome, or you might want to try using **e-transfers** to [fmchurch@eastlink.ca](mailto:fmchurch@eastlink.ca)

**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 **internet** and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters... and you!

**May Birthdays:** Mary Carmichael (23<sup>rd</sup>), Lilli Knorr (31<sup>st</sup>).

**Our building** is temporarily **closed** for all In Person Services, meetings & groups, until Public Health states otherwise. Memorial Services have been postponed.

**Kirk Session** will meet via conference call, Tue, May 25, at 7:30 PM.

**Sunday Church School & Nursery** begin their summer break early this year thanks to our present lockdown. We extend our appreciation to Sancia & Lilli Knorr for their ministry over the past school year.

**Hope Cottage Casseroles.** Hope Cottage continues to serve approx 150 ToGo lunches DAILY and the hot meal options are very welcomed. We could use 1-2 more volunteers for Jun 24, Aug 19, Oct 14, and 5-6 more Dec 9. To volunteer, please contact Teresa Orser at 902-266-7959 cell/text or ptmhorser@yahoo.ca. Check link for sign-up sheet/schedule:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RGrfq9bcU1XBmdDKNXyxi-C3BAcCd4AchHEpRDUOA8/edit?usp=sharing>

## Holy Spirit, Come into Our Lives

MV 6

### *Refrain*

Holy Spirit, come into our lives.  
Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.

- 1 Give us a spirit of wisdom, an understanding heart.  
Give us a spirit of knowledge, and lead us to the truth. *R*
- 2 Give us a spirit of courage, and judgment that is wise.  
Give us a spirit of rev'rence, of wonder and of awe. *R*
- 3 Spirit of love and compassion, give hope to all the poor.  
Spirit of justice and mercy, come open ev'ry door. *R*
- 4 Spirit of all consolation, O lift our hearts this day.  
Spirit of all understanding, O help us know your way. *R*
- 5 Spirit of light and of wisdom, O lift us from our sorrow.  
Spirit of peace and forgiveness, O help us face tomorrow. *R*
- 6 Spirit of strength and of healing, bend stubborn hearts and will.  
Spirit of trust and of caring, O melt us, warm our chill. *R*

**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.

MV 191

- 1 **All my hope is firmly grounded** **VU 654**  
in our great and living Lord;  
who, whenever I most need him,  
never fails to keep his word.  
God I must wholly trust,  
God the ever good and just.
- 2 Tell me, who can trust our nature,  
human, weak, and insecure?  
Which of all the airy castles  
can the hurricane endure?  
Built on sand, naught can stand  
by our earthly wisdom planned.

- 3 But in every time and season,  
out of love's abundant store,  
God sustains the whole creation,  
fount of life forevermore.  
We who share earth and air  
count on God's unfailing care.
- 4 Thank, O thank, our great Creator,  
through God's only Son this day;  
God alone, the heavenly potter,  
made us out of earth and clay.  
Quick to heed, strong in deed,  
God shall all the people feed.

1 **How firm a foundation**, you servants of God,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!  
What more can be said than to you has been said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

**VU 660**

2 'Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

3 'When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

4 'When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:  
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

5 'The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not - I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,  
I'll never - no, never - no, never forsake!

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