

**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!

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



# *Fort Massey Church*

Spiritual Seekers *United* in Community

**HALIFAX ~ NOVA SCOTIA**

**Our Sesquicentennial 1871-2021**

5303 Tobin Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1S3

902.423.4294    [ftmassey@eastlink.ca](mailto:ftmassey@eastlink.ca)

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

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



**Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Christian Family Sunday, May 9, 2021**

*A Virtual Service*

Found online ~ FMC Facebook & Web Page

## The Word Made Fresh

**PRELUDE** Lighting of Community Candle

### GATHERING WORDS

**HYMN: VU 395** Part of the Family (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

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

### WELCOME & NOTICES

**OFFERING: MV 191** What Can I Do?

**PRAYER** The Lord's Prayer VU 921

**HYMN: VU 556** Would You Bless Our Homes  
and Families

**READINGS** Excerpt from "Sidemother's"  
by Heather Mallick;  
Proverbs 31:25-31  
*Offered as wisdom for the journey.*  
**May we walk in its light.**

**SERMON** Onions on the Side

**AFFIRMATION** A New Creed VU 918

**HYMN: VU 554** God Made from One Blood

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

**POSTLUDE**

\* \* \*

The flowers in the chancel today are given in loving memory of

**Margaret Townshend Sherwood Ritcey**  
by son, Andrew Ritcey.



**May Birthdays:** Heather Wills (3<sup>rd</sup>), Jean Brown & Saul Janson (7<sup>th</sup>), Sharon Ross (8<sup>th</sup>), Vurain Tabvuma (12<sup>th</sup>), Mary Carmichael (23<sup>rd</sup>), Lilli Knorr (31<sup>st</sup>).

**We minister together**, thanks to your support. Please contact Ruth MacKenzie <[raem@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:raem@ns.sympatico.ca)>, 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. As the bank is less accessible for depositing cheques during the lockdown, for those who are comfortable doing online banking, you might want to temporarily use **e-transfers** to [fmchurch@eastlink.ca](mailto:fmchurch@eastlink.ca).

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

**Board of Management** will meet Tue, May 11, at 7:30 PM, via conference call.

**Thank you** to those who have committed to making a PUTT donation for the purchase of a weed whacker & leaf blower.

**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](mailto:ptmhorser@yahoo.ca). Check link for sign-up sheet/schedule: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RGtfq9bcU1XBmdDKNXyxi-C3BAcCd4AchHEpRDUOA8/edit?usp=sharing>

## Part of the Family

VU 395

**Come in, come in and sit down,** you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.

- 1 You know the reason why you came,  
yet no reason can explain;  
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,  
for we are a part of the family. R
- 2 God is with us in this place,  
like a mother's warm embrace.  
We're all forgiven by God's grace,  
for we are a part of the family. R
- 4 There's rest for the weary and health for us all;  
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.  
So come in and worship and answer the call,  
for we are a part of the family. 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 **Would you bless our homes and families,** VU 556  
Source of life who calls us here;  
in our world of stress and tension  
    teach us love that conquers fear.  
Help us learn to love each other  
    with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles,  
    love's expressed in many ways.
- 2 When our way is undemanding,  
    let us use the time that's ours  
to delight in simple pleasures,  
    sharing joys in gentle hours.  
When our way is anxious walking  
    and a heavy path we plod,  
teach us trust in one another  
    and in you, our gracious God.

- 3 From the homes in which we're nurtured,  
with the love that shapes us there,  
teach us, God, to claim as family  
every one whose life we share.  
And through all that life may offer,  
may we in your love remain;  
may the love we share in families  
be alive to praise your name.

4 Let us reach beyond the boundaries  
of our daily thought and care  
till the family you have chosen  
spills its love out everywhere.  
Help us learn to love each other  
with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles  
love's expressed in many ways.

1 **God made from one blood** all the families of earth,  
the circles of nurture that raise us from birth,  
companions who join us to walk through each stage  
of childhood and youth and adulthood and age. VU 554

2 We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears  
for all of the families we've known through the years,  
the intimate networks on whom we depend  
of parents and partners and children and friends.

3 Through families we've tasted the value of trust  
and felt what it means to be loving and just,  
yet families have also betrayed their best goals,  
mistreating their members and bruising their souls.

4 Help families in all of their various forms  
to face with integrity struggles and storms;  
grant peace in our homes that will nurture the bud  
of peace for the families you made from one blood.

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