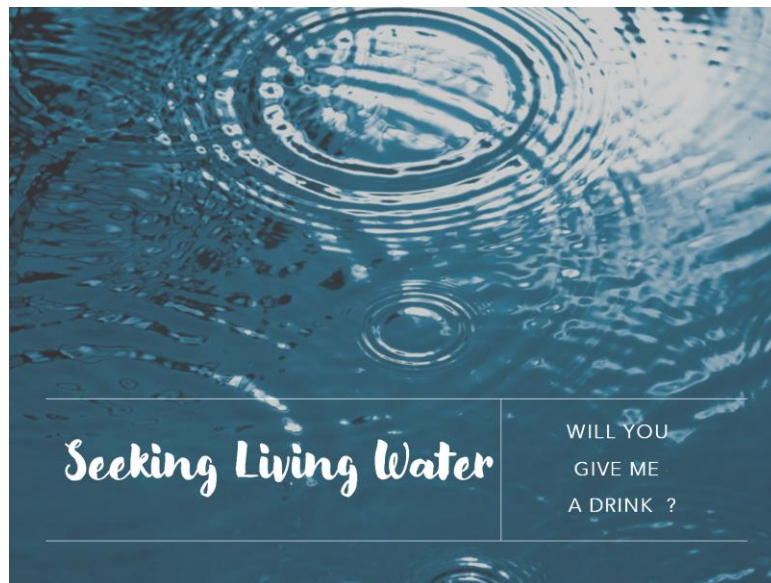


Fort Massey Church

Spiritual Seekers **United** in Community
HALIFAX ~ NOVA SCOTIA

5303 Tobin Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1S3
902.423.4294 ftmassey@eastlink.ca
www.fortmasseychurch.com

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God;
Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne, Intentional Interim;
Cliff Ballantyne, Liturgical Assistant; Diane Gillis, Scripture Reader;
Sally DeWolf, Usher; Garry Williams, Guest Pianist;
Jenny Trites, Music Director; Robert Best, Assistant Pianist;
John Walter, Assistant Organist; Jade Fraser, Soloist;
Sancia Knorr, Church School; Lilli Knorr, Nursery;
Ian MacDonald, Janson Family, Tech Team;
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator



Third Sunday in Lent
March 12, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

Fort Massey's annual report, presented at the annual meeting in February 1880, so impressed the Morning Chronicle editor, W. S. Fielding (a Baptist), that it was given its own article: "The annual statement of the Fort Massey Church, Dr Burns, pastor, ... shows the following amounts as paid for church purposes during the past year ... Total for 1879 — \$8009.78. The Sabbath offerings ... were \$4533.40, showing an increase in 1879 of \$88.69. The floating debt amounting to \$3184.50 is to be wiped out at once, a subscription having been all but completed for this purpose. The sum of \$5178.98 has been paid into the college endowment fund [Presbyterian College, Halifax] since 1877, the highest amount contributed as yet. Since the formation of the Missionary Association in 1872 the collections for the missions and schemes of the Church have reached a total of \$7153. Fort Massey, though during these hard times carrying a heavy debt contracted in the erection of a church, which is an ornament to the city, has thus maintained its well-earned reputation for liberality. For a congregation of over 88 families, and with 200 members, its rate of giving is remarkably high."

THE WORD MADE FRESH

** indicates rise in body or spirit
(please stand or remain sitting according to your comfort.)*

PRELUDE

*INTROIT

Come and Find the Quiet Centre (*v 1*)

VU 374

**Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.**

LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LANDS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather together—

All: the seekers, the dreamers, the shooting-star wishers, in hopes of seeing God.

One: We gather together—

All: the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely, in hopes of finding peace.

One: We gather together—

All: those who are thirsty and those with water to spare, in hopes of finding justice.

One: So come to the well, come to the table. Come, let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

*HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

VU 264

WELCOME

*THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***AFFIRMATION**

A New Creed

VU 918

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

DISCIPLESHIP AND MINUTE FOR MISSION**OFFERING**

Offertory: *The offering will now be received.*

*Response: standing

VU 537

**Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.**

**Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.**

DEDICATION PRAYER**A TIME FOR THE YOUNG, AND THE YOUNG AT HEART****PRAYER****LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

***HYMN**

Jesus Christ Is Waiting (*v 1,2,4,5*)

VU 117

SCRIPTURE

John 4:5-42 *Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well*

Offered as wisdom for the journey.
May we walk in its light.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

In the Palm of His Hand

SERMON

Seeking Living Water (Will you give me a drink?)

Please remain seated for the short music response of MV 14 which is played right after the message, inviting us all into prayer.

HYMN

Where Two or Three Are Gathered

MV 14

**Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN

Like a Healing Stream

MV 144

*BENEDICTION

Fellow seekers, go into the world with bold discipleship, deep spirituality and daring justice. Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary. Seek the good in every person you pass. Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful. Seek God in each of us. As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for. In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us, go now in peace. God bless you and Amen.
May it be so.

*CHORAL BLESSING

Go Now in Peace

VU 964

**Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

POSTLUDE

Liturgy Credits: Rev. Sarah A. Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org, adapted. Used with permission.

Music Credits: Reprinted & streamed under ONE LICENSE #A-734498. All rights reserved.

Come and Find the Quiet Centre:

Words: Shirley Erena Murray © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

Music: attrib. Benjamin Franklin White 1844.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise:

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith 1867, alt. 1987.

Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands:

Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer 1927, alt.

Music: Neil Dougall ca. 1831.

Jesus Christ Is Waiting:

Words: John L. Bell.

Music: 15th century French carol, arr. John L. Bell © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc.

In the Palm of His Hand:

Words & Music: Patricia Mock, arr. Jon Paige © 2014 Hal Leonard Corporation.

Where Two or Three Are Gathered:

Words & Music: Bruce Harding © 2002 www.evensong.ca.

Like a Healing Stream:

Words & Music: Bruce Harding © 2003 www.evensong.ca.

Go Now in Peace:

Words & Music: Natalie Sleeth © 1976 Hinshaw Music Inc.

Happy birthday to Vi MacDougall on March 15

Blessings and our best wishes to all who are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries or other celebrations this week.

Notices

Thank you for choosing to join us in-person. Please feel comfortable to sit, stand, stretch, move for your own self-care and comfort. Our services generally are an hour-ish in length. We encourage people, if they can, to continue their worship through to the end of the offering of our postlude, the instrumental music that closes our service. Often needs require people to leave at different times. Thank you for supporting all in our faith family. Our worship team usually exits through the side Tobin Street exit and will meet you in the lower hall if you can stay. Our ushers meet those leaving by the Queen Street lobby and will lock up following our worship time.

Please be sure to take the minister's contact card, for yourself or to share. Our church email is:

ftmassey@eastlink.ca

Annual General Meeting Today

A reminder that the annual meeting follows after worship today, and we will be meeting in the sanctuary.

A Reminder About Girl Guide Cookie Orders

Lilli has Girl Guide cookies to sell for her trip to Ottawa in 2024 with her Rangers. They are the classic cookies: chocolate & vanilla sandwich cookies in the same box. This year the price has increased to \$6 per box but we can take e-transfer. 😊 Let us know if you want on the list! Cookies will be available at the end of March.

March 14 PIE Day Virtual Gathering on Sharon's Zoom

Pizza pie, shepherd's pies, meat pies, vegetable pies, dessert pies... any kind of pie, if you feel so inclined, or whatever you want for dinner, snack or come for a chat. We'll meet from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m., whether we catch up pre-dinner, part way through, at dessert time or a pre-dinner visit, you are all welcome. Here's our moderator Carmen Lansdowne's PIE video message if you missed it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2f0n4x7zmM>

This is the fifth annual PIE day on our national affirming day to be public, intentional and explicit. Affirm United invites us to set a year of intention personally, as a community of faith and across broader church.

You'll hear lots more about affirming at the Fort in the coming months and our Affirming Steering Committee is eager to begin following the Annual Meeting. There were four people from Fort Massey who participated in a national Affirming webinar. Our thanks to all who participated.

March 14 and 15 Virtual Workshop: How to Put Together a Living Faith Story

We are so excited at Fort Massey that this is happening right after our Annual Meeting. If you want to learn more about how the faith living story is done, come join, so Fort Massey's living story will really be brought to life by our congregation. The faith living story is what gets posted on ChurchHub. It replaces what used to be a JNAC report when a community of faith is searching for a new minister. It is what potential minister's see on-line. A faith living story is not just for at search time and a community of faith can update these at any time, but it is an important beginning step towards the search and selection process done with the Regional Council 15.

This Zoom workshop will be held over two evenings, on Tuesday, March 14 and Wednesday, March 15 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. To register for this online workshop, please visit <https://ucceast.ca/77170-faith-stories-workshop>. This March learning event is being hosted by the Faith Stories and Community Covenants Committee.

Celebration of Life for Jean Brown on Thursday, March 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Please join us at Fort Massey to honour and celebrate Jean's life.

Refreshments will follow in the lower hall.

Thank you for continuing to keep Jean's family in your thoughts and prayers.

We hope to be able to video the service so those unable to join can watch it later online.

Donations for Easter Flowers by March 26 Please

For anyone who would like to make memorial donations for Easter flowers, we would appreciate having donations in no later than March 26. These donations can be made by cheque or however you usually make your offerings with a notation about who the donation is in memory of. If it is possible to send the notation of who the flowers are acknowledging/honouring to the church email, ftmassey@eastlink.ca that will make it easier for Tamara to compile. The reason for the advance date is that we need to know how much we have to spend on flowers since we spend whatever is donated. The Easter bulletin will include a list of those who contributed along with who is being remembered.

New Members Sunday on April 2

If there is anyone interested in becoming a member at Fort Massey, there will be a service of welcoming new members on Palm Sunday, April 2. Please contact Sharon if you are interested, and also if you know of someone you think might be interested so Sharon can contact them.

Financial Support of Fort Massey

We thank you for your financial support. Whether using e-transfer to fmchurch@eastlink.ca, PAR, Canada helps, cheque or envelopes, all are so appreciated. In the sanctuary, donations can be made as you leave the sanctuary after worship. Offering plates are located by the font if exiting to Tobin Street or in the aisle as you exit into the lobby.

Upcoming Services & Events

- Monday, March 13: Craft and Chat at 11:00 a.m. on Sharon's Zoom (every Monday)
- Sunday, March 19 Message: Seeking Who We Ask (What are better questions?)
- Sunday, March 26 Message: Seeking Bones That Live (How will my hope live?); Sacrament of Baptism
- Sunday, April 2 Palm Sunday Message: Seeking Which Way (Where are you headed?); Celebration of New Members
- Thursday, April 6 Maundy Thursday Pot Luck Supper and worship with Communion: 5:00 p.m. in the lower hall
- Friday, April 7 Good Friday service: 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, April 9 Easter Sunday Communion Message: Seeking the Unexpected (Who are you? What are you looking for?)