

Fort Massey Church

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

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www.fortmasseychurch.com

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God;
Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne, Intentional Interim;
Alison McDonald, Liturgical Assistant; David Griffiths, Scripture Reader;
Alison McDonald, Usher;
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;
Kathy Evans, Susan Walter, Coffee & Conversation;
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator; Emily Kiley Lawlor, Sexton



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

Perhaps the most remarkable document of Fort Massey's early history is a 22-page pamphlet appearing in Halifax in 1876: *Our Modern Babylon: A Discourse Delivered in Fort Massey Church, Halifax NS on the evening of the 12th March, the Sabbath succeeding the "Chiniquy Riot,"* by the Rev. R. F. Burns, DD [pastor]. Published by special request. With an Appendix. The text on which Dr Burns preached his sermon was Daniel 3:18 ("Be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up"). It need hardly be said that the pamphlet was an anti-Roman Catholic polemic. The first of the two-part appendix bore the diverting title "The Wafer-God," a rather unsubtle allusion to the Catholic doctrine of Eucharistic transubstantiation.

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: Scripture is full of questions...

All: Where are you?

One: Am I my brother's keeper?

All: Whom shall I send?

One: Who do you say that I am?

All: Who sinned?

One: How many times shall I forgive?

All: If God is for us, who can be against us?

One: Scripture is full of questions, so just like those in our scriptures,
may we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.

All: Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.

OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

VU 642

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**

Lord, Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary

MV 18

SCRIPTURE

John 9:1-41 *Jesus heals the blind man*

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

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Flee as a Bird

SERMON

Seeking Who We Ask (What are better questions?)

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

I Have Called You by Your Name

MV 161

*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

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Come and Find the Quiet Centre:

Words: Shirley Erena Murray © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

Music: attrib. Benjamin Franklin White 1844.

Be Thou My Vision:

Words: Irish ca. 8th century, trans. Mary Elizabeth Byrne 1905, vers. Eleanor H. Hull 1912, alt.

Music: Irish trad. melody.

Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands:

Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer 1927, alt.

Music: Neil Dougall ca. 1831.

Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary:

Words & Music: John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs © 1982 The Kruger Organisation Inc.

Flee as a Bird:

Words & Music: Mary S. B. Dana, arr. Joseph M. Martin © 2014 Hal Leonard - Milwin Music Corporation.

Where Two or Three Are Gathered:

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

I Have Called You by Your Name:

Words & Music: Daniel Charles Damon © 1995 Hope Publishing Company.

Go Now in Peace:

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

We are all saddened by the death of Tim Dean, who will be so greatly missed. Tim's kindness, gentleness and love was so generously shared in his involvement of so many ministries at Fort Massey and in his friendship and fellowship with everyone. As shared in Sunday's worship with Linda's permission, Tim died in hospital on Tuesday, March 7, with family at his side. Please hold Linda and family in your prayers. A service will be held at a later date.

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 Meeting Thank You

Our thanks to all who participated in the annual meeting on Sunday, March 12. Thank you for all who have taken on new and continuing roles in our governance and in committees. It takes a village! Thank you for the many ministries we are part of.

Sexton Thanks and Sexton Welcome

Kevin extends thanks for the greeting card from the congregation and for the financial gift received from the Fort Massey family of faith. We look forward to welcoming Kevin back with us when he can and to a future gathering to thank him for his services.

In case you missed Alison's announcement Sunday. Fort Massey is pleased to welcome Emily Kiley Lawlor as our new sexton.

Out Of the Cold

Thank you for your continued donations. At a drop off this week, inquiry was made as to their needs - dishes, mugs, glasses are in need at this time.

Earth Hour Reminder on Saturday March 25 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

"We are the first generation to have the solutions we need to reverse nature loss and limit climate change and the last one who can act before it's too late." Since the beginning in 2007, Earth Hour has been known for the "lights off" moment – a symbolic event to show our collective support for the planet. But this year, we're stepping things up, breathing new life into our movement and mission to create the Biggest Hour for Earth. For more information please visit: <https://www.earthhour.org>

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. Please let us know if someone is ill, in hospital or going through a challenging time.

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 20: Craft and Chat at 11:00 a.m. on Sharon's Zoom (every Monday)
- Friday, March 24: The next Men's Breakfast at Smitty's Restaurant, 362 Lacewood Drive
If you have not been before, come join the men of our community for breakfast and conversation.
- 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?)