

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;
Elaine Janson, Liturgical Assistant; Jude Janson, Scripture Reader;
Viola Greer, 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;
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator; Emily Kiley Lawlor, Sexton



*Seeking Bones That Live
(How will my hope live?)*

Baptism
March 26, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

In an earlier instalment we met Fort Massey's first minister, Rev. James Smith — but he was not the new congregation's first choice. That was a prominent young downtown minister, Rev. Edward Annand, since 1870 minister of Chalmers Church and one of the chief promoters of the Fort Massey project. He would have made an ideal pastor. But the call foundered on the failure of Chalmers and Poplar Grove to combine to form the new uptown church. In May 1872, on the eve of emigrating to the Boston States, Annand published "for private circulation" a seven-page pamphlet: 'Personal Statement Relating to The First Call to Fort Massey Congregation.' It begins, "To friends interested, and desirous of knowing the truth, I address this paper, believing that my conduct in connection with Fort Massey affairs has been misunderstood, misrepresented and slanderously reported. I consider that a simple statement of facts has become necessary." It ends, "May God heal the breaches of Zion." Rev. Annand left Halifax never to return, accepting a call to East Boston, where he died very prematurely in January 1878.

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: Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

All: Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?

One: Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

All: Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?

One: If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God's house. Hope lives here.

All: So, come. Rest your weary bones.

One: Let us worship God, the Holy, the Divine.

OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

*HYMN

Seek Ye First

VU 356

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.

Celebration of Baptism

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

*HYMN: Spirit God, Be Our Breath (*v 1 & 2*)

MV 150

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

On behalf of the congregation of Fort Massey United Church, I present Kayden Dean Todd Lacey, son of Katelyn Lacey and David Lacey, for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND PROMISES

Baptism is about the promise of an entire community to nurture a child in his or her spiritual faith journey, to share in the commitment of love and well-being, supporting growth physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually—family, friends, mentors, all the people who will impact Kayden’s life.

Katelyn and David, as parents of Kayden, you have indicated that it is your desire that your child be baptized. Will you accept the responsibility of acting and speaking on his behalf?

Will you share your faith with him in faith, hope, and love; sharing with him, the stories and practices of your Christian faith and at the same time encouraging him to respect and learn about spiritual and faith practices expressed by others?

If so, please respond *“I will, with God’s help.”*

Will you join in this community of faith to celebrate God’s presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

If so, respond *“I will, God being my helper.”*

Do you believe in God, Source of love; in Jesus Christ, love incarnate; and in the Holy Spirit, love’s power?

If so, respond *“I do, by the grace of God.”*

Do you seek to resist evil, and to live in love and justice?

If so, respond *“I do, God being my helper.”*

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

If so, respond *“I will, God being my helper.”*

GODPARENTS’ COMMITMENT

Recognizing that many persons nurture and influence the life of a child, will you support Kayden and his parents as they grow in faith?

If so, respond *“I will, God being my helper.”*

*CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT

We who are gathered here today, represent family, friends, those special people who will mentor Kayden and his parents throughout his life. We represent this community of faith and all those who will provide spiritual nurturing to Kayden and his parents.

By the grace of God, do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, offer your commitment to support and nurture Kayden within a community which worships God, resists evil, and seeks justice?

If so, respond *“We will, God being our helper.”*

POURING OF WATER *By Brooke Robinson & Chris Oickle, and their children Jackson & Trent*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE ACT OF BAPTISM

LAYING ON OF HANDS

BLESSING

DECLARATION AND CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

PRESENTATION OF GIFT AND CERTIFICATE

BLESSING OFFERED BY THE CHOIR May God Who Creates You VU 454

*HYMN Spirit God, Be Our Breath (v 3 & 4) MV 150

SCRIPTURE **John 11:1-45** *Raising of Lazarus*
Ezekiel 37:1-14 *Ezekiel and the valley of dry bones*
Offered as wisdom for the journey.
May we walk in its light.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC Find Our Way Home

SERMON Seeking Bones That Live (How will my hope live?)

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** We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection VU 586

***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.

Seek Ye First:

Words & Music: Karen Lafferty © 1972 The Copyright Company.

Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands:

Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer 1927, alt. Music: Neil Dougall ca. 1831.

Spirit God, Be Our Breath:

Words & Music: Bruce Harding © 1997 www.evensong.ca.

May God Who Creates You:

Words & Music: Louise Skibsted © 1994.

Find Our Way Home:

Words: Jan McGuire, Music: Patti Drennan © 2019 Hal Leonard LLC.

Where Two or Three Are Gathered:

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

We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection:

Words: June Boyce-Tillman © 1993 Stainer & Bell Ltd. Music: trad. Irish melody.

Go Now in Peace:

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

*Happy birthday to Katherine Haak on March 27
and to Jenny Trites and Seungyeon Joung on March 29*

*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

There is a Chancel Guild meeting at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow (Monday, March 27) in the church kitchen.

Maundy Thursday Supper and Worship on April 6 at 5:00 p.m.

Sensitive to the comfort of all, people are being invited to bring their own personal brown bag supper for the main course. Hand-held dessert items will be provided. We are looking for 2 or 3 people who would be willing to provide handheld desserts (i.e. cookies, squares, fruit). Please contact Kathy Evans if you can help. What folks are recommending is people bring their main meal and the dessert and beverages will be similar to what we are accustomed to for coffee and conversation. Communion elements will be provided.

Update from Regional Council 15 for Fort Massey

We have been contacted by David Hewitt, Pastoral Relations Minister for Region 15, that sufficient work in the intentional interim ministry time has been done. Anne Hoganson is the liaison to work with those putting together the living faith story and the faith profile. A congregational meeting will be called soon to approve the documents. It will then go to Regional Council 15 for approval, and once approved the search process can begin.

Out Of the Cold

Thank you for your continued donations. This week's drop off from Fort Massey, of footwear, cutlery and drinking glasses was greatly appreciated. As the seasons change, clothing and footwear, rain gear, will be greatly appreciated.

Other Upcoming Services & Events

- Monday, March 27: Craft and Chat at 11:00 a.m. on Sharon's Zoom (every Monday)
- Sunday, April 2 Palm Sunday Message: Seeking Which Way (Where are you headed?); Celebration of New Members
- 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?)

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 and used with permission, Coventry Cathedral, England)