

Fort Massey Church

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

5303 Tobin Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1S3
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www.fortmasseychurch.com

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God;
Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne, Intentional Interim;
Bill Gillis, Diane Gillis, Ushers
Sally DeWolf, Liturgical Assistant; Jade Fraser/Lewis Affleck, Scripture Reader;
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;
Elaine Janson, Margie James, Coffee and Conversation;
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator; Emily Kiley Lawlor, Sexton



Palm Sunday
April 2, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

The earliest document relating to Fort Massey identified so far is dated 26 May 1870: a plan of the boundary between the new property of the “United Presbyterian Church” (as Fort Massey was intended to be called) and that of its next door neighbour. Why “United Presbyterian”? The original hope and intention were to merge and replace the downtown congregations of Poplar Grove and Chalmers. When this miscarried, the new Presbyterian church was left to sink or swim on its own, reliant upon the work of individual members from both congregations who wished to proceed, notwithstanding the failure of the union scheme. Transplanting and merging well-established churches with different origins and traditions is never easy or straightforward. There were also understandable fears, perhaps justified, that the two congregations, once united, would not jell. Years later, Chalmers and Poplar Grove would each fold, while Fort Massey — the incidental by-product of a long-since broken engagement — flourished in spite of them.

THE WORD MADE FRESH

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

PRELUDE

***PROCESSION OF PALMS** Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

VU 123

LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LANDS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come. No matter your state, come as you are.

All: We sing Hosanna as we join the parade.

One: God sees our hurt and wraps love around it, cocooning us in hope, tethering us to one another.

All: God carries us from the pain of the world into the hope of each new day.

One: That is where God is headed. That is where we follow.

All: We wave our palms and gather to worship.

OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

***HYMN** All Glory, Laud and Honour

VU 122

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:

And on This Path

MV 8

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:1-11

Offered as wisdom for the journey.

May we walk in its light.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Roll Down, Justice!

Congregational Section:

Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of justice never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love.

SERMON

Seeking Which Way (Where are you headed?)

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** When They Heard That Jesus Was Coming MV 128

***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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Hosanna, Loud Hosanna:

Words: Jennette Threlfall 1873.

Music: 18th century German tune, adapt. Xavier Ludwig Hartig 1868.

All Glory, Laud and Honour:

Words: Theodulph of Orleans ca. 820, alt., trans. John Mason Neale 1851.

Music: Melchior Teschner 1615.

Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands:

Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer 1927, alt.

Music: Neil Dougall ca. 1831.

And on This Path:

Words & Music: Linnea Good © 2003 Borealis Music.

Roll Down, Justice!:

Words & Music: Mark A. Miller © 2016 Choristers Guild.

Where Two or Three Are Gathered:

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

When They Heard That Jesus Was Coming:

Words & Music: Rory Cooney © 1999 GIA Publications Inc.

Go Now in Peace:

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

Sympathies are extended to Joanne Hayman and family on the death of her father William (Bill) Cox, at age 105, who died March 23. Please keep Joanne and Alan and all of their family in your prayers. <https://www.huskilson.net/obituary/william-cox>

*Happy birthday to Owen Gillis on April 3
and to Aaron Joel MacDonald on April 8.*

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

Notices

A special welcome to all visitors joining us for in-person worship. Please sign the guest book located at the end of the middle aisle. Please introduce yourself to the minister and members of the congregation. If your time permits, please join us for refreshments, for coffee and conversation in the lower hall immediately after worship.

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

Girl Guide Cookies

If you missed getting cookies from Lilli Knorr last week, please be sure to get some this week. Tickets are \$6/box, chocolate and vanilla. Their unit is a pilot for using e-transfer if you don't have cash on hand; please see Lilli.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, Reminder

Sensitive to 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. What folks are recommending is people bring their main meal. Dessert and beverages will be similar to what we are accustomed to for coffee and conversation. Please come and join us at 5:00 p.m. in the lower hall on Thursday, April 6. Communion elements will be provided.

Living Faith Story and Faith Profile Update

People from Fort Massey participated in a recent living faith story workshop; to join the further discussion, please gather online on Wednesday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. on Sharon's Zoom.

Anyone interested in the development of survey questions is asked to join our transition team, which meets next on Monday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. on Sharon's Zoom. The congregation will be asked to take part in a survey coming soon!

Needed Apartment for Young Couple from Ontario

A clergy couple in Ontario, who are presently in Germany, are coming to Halifax for work and schooling opportunities. Their planned date of arrival is April 13. They are ideally looking for an apartment on the peninsula. They are a quiet, professional, non-smoking couple with no pets and no children. If you know any availability, or of any short-term stays while they look, please contact Micah and Jordan by email at jtilma@duck.com or by phone using whatsapp at 250-945-9893.

The Moderator of the United Church of Canada Is Coming to Dartmouth

You are invited to hear the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne – our Moderator – speak at Woodlawn United Church (54 Woodlawn Rd., Dartmouth) on Saturday, April 15. The focus will be Renewing Hope in our churches.

The afternoon will begin at 3:00 p.m. with a brief, chapel-style service. Then from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., the Moderator will speak followed by a facilitated Question and Answer time following her address. Post-it notes will be provided to write down any questions. Questions may also be sent to ucfd@gracedartmouth.ca. There will be a reception downstairs from 4:30 to about 5:00 p.m. with light refreshments. This event is sponsored by United Churches for Dartmouth; all are welcome.

Caring for Me: Caring for You: Caring for the Church: Caring for the Wider Community

Workshop on Saturday, April 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Bridgewater United Church

Register with either Cindy Embree scembree@auracom.com (902-656-2793) or Marg Forbes raforbes@ns.sympatico.ca (902-543-2495). \$15 covers lunch, drama, meditation and music.

Genuine Online Relationships

Thursdays in May from May 4 to May 25 from 1:00 to 2.30 p.m. online

In a post-lockdown church, online community has become a common reality. Most churches are offering ministry online, whether it be a weekly email, a Facebook group, online studies, or live-streaming worship. In this course, students will consider how to widen ministry beyond the church walls and into their online community, and should come ready to investigate their current context and with a knowledge of the online platforms they currently use. This event is sponsored by Pine Hill Divinity Hall. Registration: \$50.00 plus Eventbrite fee. <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/genuine-online-relationships-tickets-591765204657>

Out Of the Cold

Thank you for your continued donations. As the season changes, clothing, footwear and rain gear will be appreciated.

“These Days” Devotional Books

The last edition available in the lobby, as the United Church Distribution Centre will no longer have them available for ordering. If you are interested in placing a personal order, instructions are listed on the inside of the back page.

Let Us Know

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

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.

Other Upcoming Services & Events

- Monday, April 3: Craft and Chat at 11:00 a.m. on Sharon's Zoom (every Monday)
- 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?)

For those who have not received the Easter letter by email, paper copies are available in the lobby.

- Friday, April 14: Next men's breakfast at a local restaurant at 9:30 a.m., location TBA. All men welcome. Please watch for an email from Ian.

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)