

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;
Nancy Riggs, Usher
Vurain Tabvuma, Liturgical Assistant; Clarissa Sit, Scripture Reader;
Jenny Trites, Music Director; Robert Best, Assistant Pianist;
John Walter, Assistant Organist; Jade Fraser, Soloist;
Cliff Ballantyne, Trumpeter;
Sancia Knorr, Church School; Lilli Knorr, Nursery;
Ian MacDonald, Janson Family, Tech Team;
Alison McDonald, Nancy Riggs, Coffee and Conversation;
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator; Emily Kiley Lawlor, Sexton



Easter Sunday
April 9, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The United Church celebrates an open table.
All are invited to share in receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Children who wish, are invited to proceed directly to Sunday School with Sancia during the singing of our Communion hymn or children can remain in the sanctuary and take part in the receiving of Communion, according to family wishes, and join Sunday School with Sancia following Communion.

***COMMUNION HYMN**

Let Us Break Bread Together (*v 1 & 2*)

VU 480

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(said altogether)*

Resurrecting God, Mary went to the garden looking for you.
Two thousand years later, we follow in her footsteps.
We seek after you, hungry for a garden moment where we might hear you say our name or feel you in our midst.
So before the hallelujahs begin, we empty our pockets of our prayers and remember where we've been.

With gratitude, we recall Maundy Thursday.
We are grateful for the tables we gather around, for the friends that feel like family,
and for this church—which acts as our band of disciples.
We hold onto the reminder of you washing the disciples' feet that night,
and trust that that same love extends to us.

With sorrow, we recall Good Friday.
We grieve the depths of cruelty woven into that day— a cruelty so many in this hurting world know.
So, for those who are still caught in grief and loss, for those whose days have turned to night,
relieve them of their suffering.
Find them in the crowd. Wipe their tears. Hold their grief for them and point them toward peace.

With hope we enter into this Easter morning.
We find ourselves face-to-face with your good news. Thank you for giving us reason to hope.
Thank you for the sunrise after a long night, for the healing of bones and hearts,
for laughter that is contagious, and for the joy felt in community.
Tether every gratitude and joy in our life back to you.

And now, as we come to the Table, just as Mary came to the tomb,
we ask that in every stage of our seeking, you would be near to us.
Pour out a double portion of your Spirit on this bread and cup that we might see you as clearly as Mary did.
And may this meal nourish us to build your kin-dom here. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & CELEBRATION OF THE MEAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(said altogether)*

We seek after you everywhere God.
We look for you in the mirror, in strangers, in sunrises, on mountain tops,
in the laughter of children, and in meals shared together.
We look for you on the city streets, in hospital rooms, in jail cells, in poetry, and hymn melodies.
We can find you everywhere!
Sometimes the seeking is hard, but then at other times, we come to this Table and all are fed.
All are welcomed, there is room for everyone.
No one is turned away.
No one is made to feel unworthy.
In these moments, we see you clearly.
So thank you for meeting us in our seeking. Please don't stop seeking us.
Gratefully we pray, amen.

*HYMN: Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah! MV 121

SCRIPTURE John 20:1-18
Offered as wisdom for the journey.
May we walk in its light.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC Early in the Mornin' on Easter Day

SERMON Seeking the Unexpected (Who are you? What are you looking for?)

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**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

VU 232

***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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This Is the Day:

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

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today:

Words & Music: Lyra Davidica 1708, et al.

Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands:

Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer 1927, alt.

Music: Neil Dougall ca. 1831.

Let Us Break Bread Together:

Words & Music: 19th century African-American Spiritual.

Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!:

Words & Music: Linnea Good © 1998 Borealis Music.

Early in the Mornin' on Easter Day:

Words: John Parker, Music: Lloyd Larson © 2004 Alfred Publishing.

Where Two or Three Are Gathered:

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

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You:

Words: Henry van Dyke 1907, alt.

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven 1824, adapt. Edward Hodges 1864.

Go Now in Peace:

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

*Happy belated birthday Lorraine MacAskill on April 4 and
Linda Dean and David Griffiths on April 8.*

Happy birthday to Nahlah Rose MacDonald on April 10.

*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

Moderator Carmen Lansdowne's Easter Message 2023: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mPE4bLKYPNs>

We Need You to Create our Fort Massey Vision Statement 2023

The Affirming Committee, think of us as the IDEA team (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity Accessibility team) of Fort Massey needs your help to provide input for the development of our Fort Massey Vision Statement. Feedback is needed by April 24. What resonates? What's missing? What needs tweaking? Look at affirming churches on-line and read their vision. Chat with friends and family. Connect with your inner word-smithing talents. Provide suggestions at our rainbow mailbox in the lobby, or by email. Create our vision statement to say who we are. We need your IDEA.

Vision Statement 2023 Draft

At Fort Massey, we live into being a vibrant and evolving community where tradition is honoured, change is embraced, and injustice is challenged, where everyone is welcomed, needed, valued and belongs. Following Jesus' example of expansive love, we aim to provide a safe, nurturing environment where everyone is free to be themselves. We celebrate and encourage people of every age, health situation, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, family configuration, background, ability, interest, culture, economic circumstance and faith journey into the full participation and leadership of ministries in the life and work of Fort Massey United Church.

No Craft and Chat This Week

Please note, there is no Craft and Chat on Easter Monday. We will meet April 17, April 24 and finish up May 1 before we pause for the warm weather. We meet Mondays at 11:00 a.m. on Sharon's Zoom - all welcome.

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 meeting, 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!

Sign-Up on Bulletin Board

Please sign up to host coffee and conversation. We need people for Sundays following Easter.

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.

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 is 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 10: Please note, there is no Craft and Chat.
We will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Sharon's Zoom on April 17, April 24 and finish up May 1.
- 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.
- Sunday, April 16: Earth Sunday (in advance of Earth Day on April 20)
- Tuesday, April 18: Stewards Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Sharon's Zoom
- Sunday, April 23: Special Plaque Dedication in loving memory of Phil Pacey during worship

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)



Easter Flowers

Given by

Jean Cudmore

Sally DeWolf

Carol Dobson

Margie James

Dorothy Kern

Donna Lesser

Ruth MacKenzie

Lindsay and Alison McDonald

Leslie Pezzack

Carol Sinclair and family

Anne Thompson

Viola Greer

In Celebration of the Lives of

Husband Ray Hunt

Husband John

Harold & Phyllis Dobson

Husband Richard James

Irene Parks, Past UCW President

Jean Brown, UCW Worker

Tim Dean, Board member

Reg & Mary Richards

Parents Ian & Ann MacKenzie

Good friends Irene Parks and Jean Brown

Mary & Angus McDonald

Zilpha Linkletter, Elliott Prouty, Barb Abbott and Wendy Twa

Alasdair Sinclair

Margaret & Grant Thompson

Margaret & Earl McClair



*Thank you to all those who remembered their loved ones
with the flowers that have decorated our sanctuary today.*

