

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;
Alan Hayman, Joanne Hayman, Ushers;
Carol Dobson, Liturgical Assistant; Nancy Riggs, Scripture Reader;
Jenny Trites, Music Director; Robert Best, Assistant Pianist;
Garry Williams, Guest 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



Holy Humour Sunday
April 16, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

Why did Pere Chiniquy return to Fort Massey in March 1876? Because the minister, Rev. Dr Robert Ferrier Burns, was among his intimate friends. Burns had been instrumental in obtaining Chiniquy's 1863 ordination in the then Canada Presbyterian Church (one of The Presbyterian Church in Canada's uniting churches), when other ministers were sceptical. According to Richard Lougheed's 2008 biography, *The Controversial Conversion of Charles Chiniquy*, "the ex-priest became a standard figure at Canadian Presbyterian synods" during the 1870s, "recounting stories of converts and pleading for moral and financial support for French work." After a tumultuous beginning, including the Halifax riot in 1876, "He was never again to be disciplined ... or to change denominations. In terms of internal church matters, Chiniquy entered an astonishing, long period of calm and stability."

THE WORD MADE FRESH

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

PRELUDE

*INTROIT This Is the Day MV 122

LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LANDS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Can we praise God here and now?

All: We can praise God! Oh, and how!

One: Can we praise God when it's light?

All: We can praise God day and night!

One: We can praise God any time.

All: We can praise God with this rhyme!

One: Let us praise God many ways.

All: God, we praise you all our days!

OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

*HYMN Come in, Come In and Sit Down VU 395

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:

I've Got Peace Like a River

VU 577

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31

Offered as wisdom for the journey.

May we walk in its light.

SERMON

Humour: For the Love of It

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

Deep in Our Hearts

MV 154

***BENEDICTION**

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

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

This Is the Day:

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

Come In, Cone In and Sit Down:

Words & Music: James K. Manley © 1984.

Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands:

Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer 1927, alt.

Music: Neil Dougall ca. 1831.

I've Got Peace Like a River:

Words & Music: African-American Spiritual.

Where Two or Three Are Gathered:

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

Deep in Our Hearts:

Words: John Oldham © 1995.

Music: Ron Klusmeier © 1996 www.musiklus.com.

Go Now in Peace:

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

*Best wishes to Mary Carmichael and John Beveridge who are
celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary on April 18th.*

*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

Living Faith Story

- Goes on ChurchHub that a perspective candidate sees in their search for community of faith of interest.

A group met this week to further discuss development of the living faith story for Fort Massey. The living faith story is a paragraph or two that captures a snapshot of who Fort Massey is. Ideas for creating videos to let others learn about Fort Massey are also being explored. If your committee, group, activity or outreach is happening, please send a long some photos, as creating a video slide show may be another component. This is an exciting time to be engaging and reflecting on who Fort Massey is. Please contact Alison McDonald or James Robertson, members of the search committee and part of the group that has been exploring the living faith story, with feedback. Additionally, ideas, photos, feedback can be submitted to the church office ftmassey@eastlink.ca. Your voice is needed. Only with the input of the congregation can we do this. Keep working together.

Living Faith Story Draft

Come join us on our pilgrimage as we continue to live out God's calling.

Fort Massey Church – where scriptures come to life, through - incredible stained glass windows, a Casavant organ providing world class music, pop up outreach activities in response to community and global needs... *(insert other)* ...all housed in a heritage building which has stood the test of time for over 150 years.

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 change is embraced, tradition is honoured, 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.

Special Dedication of the Phil Pacey Plaque on April 23

Elizabeth (Betty) Pacey plans to join us in worship April 23 as we dedicate the memorial plaque in memory of her late husband Phil Pacey. Come honour and celebrate.

Congregational Meeting Reminder on April 23

A reminder that a congregational meeting is scheduled for April 23 to approve the living faith story and faith profile. We'll know more after the search team meeting April 18. Stay tuned!

Counting Support After Worship Needed

Kathy Evans will be away for much of May and June and would really like to have collection counters arranged for as much as possible before she goes. Counting only takes about 10 minutes after the Sunday service; anyone who is willing to help, please sign up on the sheet on the board past the music room. If you'd like a refresher, please speak to Kathy in the next week. Thanks for your help and co-operation.

New Choir Members Welcome

Put a song on your lips and a spring in your step! With the lengthening daylight, and no worries of snowy drives, come join the Fort Massey choir. Regular choir practices are Thursdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. The choir usually meets at 9:40 a.m. on Sunday mornings to warm-up and practice before worship. New members are always welcome!

Out Of the Cold

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

Ongoing Scam Alerts

Be aware of emails of any kind seeking your help or support. Often the email suggested to be of someone you know, is not their true email. Churches will not solicit responses in this way, in any form. Do not be caught off guard by someone appearing to represent organizations important to you. Phone calls, emails, texts, even people at your door, may be scammers, misrepresenting organizations and needs.

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.

Upcoming Services & Events

- Sunday, April 16 to Sunday, April 23: Earth Week - Climate Change and Care of Creation. It is up to us!
- Monday, April 17: Craft and Chat will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Sharon's Zoom.
We will meet on April 24 and finish up on May 1.
- Monday, April 17: Survey Questions Development and Transition Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
All congregation invited to share input about the survey on Sharon's Zoom.
- 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.
Earth Day observed.
- Sunday, April 23: Congregational Meeting - Approval of Living Faith Story and Faith Profile.
- Monday, April 24: Have you provided feedback on the draft vision statement?
Kindly do so by today and watch for updates.

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)