

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;
James Robertson, Usher;
Cliff Ballantyne, Liturgical Assistant; Anne Thompson, 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;
Peggy Murrell, Coffee and Conversation;
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator; Emily Kiley Lawlor, Sexton



Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 30, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

The Morning Chronicle of 8 November 1881 covered in some detail the opening of our minister's new lecture course: "Rev. Dr Burns, last year, gave an interesting course of lectures in the basement of Fort Massey Church, treating of things he had heard and seen in Scotland. The chief object was to afford entertainment to his congregation and Young People's Association during the winter evenings, and the proceeds were given towards the church work. Hence, they partook of the nature of talks with his congregation, rather than formal lectures; ... but as the lectures were open to the public, scores of people from other denominations attended and the lectures became quite an institution. This year Dr Burns ... has commenced a course of Monday evening lectures, this time taking his text from what he saw and heard in England, with the title, "Westminster Abbey and London Sights." The fifth and final lecture in the series, the most largely attended, was delivered on 5 December.

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: Jesus says: "I am the Good Shepherd".

All: We gather to know him better, to share God's love.

One: Christ is the gate and the door, knowing our voice.

All: We seek to listen and follow.

OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

*HYMN Draw the Circle Wide MV 145

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 538

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

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:

Will You Come and Follow Me

VU 567

SCRIPTURE

John 10:1-10

Offered as wisdom for the journey.

May we walk in its light.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Loving Shepherd

SERMON

Sharing: For the Love of It

Please remain seated for the short music response of MV 79 which is played right after the message, inviting us all into prayer.

HYMN

Spirit, Open My Heart

MV 79

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN The Lord's My Shepherd VU 747

*BENEDICTION **May it be so.**

*CHORAL BLESSING Halle, Halle, Halle VU 958
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

POSTLUDE

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This Is the Day:
Words & Music: Bruce Harding © 2003 www.evensong.ca.

Draw the Circle Wide:
Words and Music: Gordon Light © 1994 Common Cup Company.

For the Gift of Creation:
Words & Music: Steve Garnaas-Holmes © 1991 The Copyright Company.

Will You Come and Follow Me:
Words: The Iona Community © 1987 GIA Publications Inc.
Music: Scottish traditional melody.

Loving Shepherd:
Words & Music: J.S. Bach, arr. Mark Schweizer © St. James Music Press.

Spirit, Open My Heart:
Words: Ruth Duck © 1996.
Music: trad. Irish melody, arr. Arthur G. Clyde © 1997 The Pilgrim Press.

The Lord's My Shepherd:
Words: Scottish Psalter 1650.
Music: Jessie Seymour Irvine 1872.

Halle, Halle, Halle:
Words: traditional liturgical text.
Music: anon., arr. The Iona Community © 1987 GIA Publications Inc.

Happy birthday to Jacob Janson today.

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

Join Our Muffins and More Learning Immediately after Worship

We'll be providing rainbow lanyards and you are invited to print your first name on your name tag.

If you wish, you are invited to add the pronouns you use.

Some stickers will be available if you wish to decorate your name tag.

We'll show a brief eight-minute video right after worship
before moving to the lower hall for coffee and conversation time.

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

Congregational Meeting Update April 23

Thank you to all who came out and participated in the congregational meeting, chaired by Peter Coulthard and Linda MacDonald was our recording secretary. Our thanks to Alison who so wonderfully led us through process and highlighted information for us, walking us through items. The following items were approved by motion and unanimously supported by the community of faith: the living faith story, the vision statement and the faith profile.

An additional item was also passed unanimously through a motion, that grants permission of that any minor edits and revisions that may be needed, such as that the regional council will request, be made without need of a future congregational meeting.

Hopefully this will be approved by Regional Council leading to the permission for all to be posted on the Churchhub and allowing the search process to begin its search for the next permanent minister.

The congregation will be asked to take part in contributing information for video presentation, helping others learn about Fort Massey. Additionally, a survey will be forthcoming, and your support is much appreciated.

We continue to receive feedback for the marriage policy and application form.

Session Update Following Meeting of April 25 - A Few Highlights

- We are requesting that, in response to the prevalence of COVID-19 in our communities, masks continue to be worn when in the sanctuary for Sunday worship. For gatherings in the sanctuary for other events and activities, people are encouraged to wear masks. The wearing of masks is strongly encouraged in other parts of the building, except when food and drink is being consumed. We continue to respect and support that there are people unable to wear masks.
- Two weddings were approved, one for the end of August and one for the end of June 2024.
- Great additional feedback was received relating to marriage policy and application form and the session unanimously supported a motion for marriage by couples requesting marriage, inclusive of all.
- A self-assessment of our community of faith needs to be completed by our community of faith by June 30. Your feedback will be greatly appreciated. If there is anyone who might be interested in taking leadership in helping to complete this form, please let the office know.
- Please continue to keep the Search Committee in prayer as they meet next week.

Craft & Chat May 1st, Final Session before Spring/Summer Break

Join us Monday from 11 to noon on Sharon's zoom.

May 5th Is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

On this day we wear red and gather to remember, honour, and give voice to women whose stories have not been heard. Please visit KAIROS' MMIWG Information Hub for information and resources related to the National Inquiry Into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls at <https://www.kairoscanada.org/missing-murdered-indigenous-women-girls>.

Vurain Leading Worship on May 7th

Please plan to join worship next Sunday as Vurain is kindly taking the service in Sharon's absence.

Broadview

If you are already a subscriber to the United Church publication *Broadview*, you should already know as a result of an email from our coordinator Ruth MacKenzie that the annual renewal is coming up and the annual cost remains at \$25.00. If you wish to share the group costs of same, you can put funds in the weekly count (verifying for Broadview), or e-transfer the funds to us at fmchurch@eastlink.ca. We will remit the funds to Broadview. If you do not already have a subscription to *Broadview*, and would like same, please advise Ruth soonest at raem@ns.sympatico.ca. Nationally, a very generous Broadview supporter has offered to contribute two dollars for every dollar donated to *Broadview* before May 31 — up to \$40,000. For more information: <https://broadview.org/donate/>

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 Supporting People Living Rough

As the days get longer and nights warmer, the needs of those living rough are diminishing with regards to winter camping gear and clothing. We encourage you to stockpile winter necessities for our tent dwellers, (they have limited storage room at OTC). If you are assessing your own camping gear, think of donating to OTC. With travel, personal-sized soaps and shampoos are needed too. Thank you all for your generosity in this venture.

Let Us Know

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

Thank You for Your Financial Support

We thank you for your financial support of Fort Massey. Whether using e-transfer to fmchurch@eastlink.ca, PAR, CanadaHelps, cheque or envelopes, all are so appreciated. Donations can also be made through CHIMP – CharitableImpact.com. 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 Queen Street lobby. Together we are vital and strong! We minister together.

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)