

# Fort Massey Church

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

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[www.fortmasseychurch.com](http://www.fortmasseychurch.com)

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God;  
Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne, Intentional Interim;  
Vurain Tabvuma, Worship Leader;  
Jim Janson, Daisy Janson, Ushers;  
Clarissa Sit, Liturgical Assistant; James Robertson, Scripture Reader;  
Jenny Trites, Music Director; 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



**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 7, 2023, 10:30 a.m.**

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



## HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

As Halifax's principal Presbyterian church, Fort Massey was never at a loss to attract distinguished guest preachers. Sunday morning, 27 August 1882, they welcomed the Reverend Dr James McCosh, "a philosopher of the Scottish school of common sense" and president of Princeton University. According to the Presbyterian Witness afterwards, "The Rev. Dr McCosh ... arrived here Thursday evening of last week, and remained till Monday evening. Mrs. McCosh accompanied him. On Friday, Saturday and Monday, they had opportunity to see the city and its surroundings. On the Lord's Day Dr McCosh preached to a large congregation in Fort Massey Church. Dr McCosh expressed himself greatly pleased with his visit here .... The only regret of numerous friends here is that the visit was necessarily very brief. As it is, hundreds who had never seen Dr McCosh but who were familiar with his name, had the opportunity of seeing him face to face and hearing his thoughtful words."

The text on which he preached was Matthew 15:21-28.

### 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

#### OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

**\*HYMN**                              My Soul Cries Out    MV 120

#### 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:

Precious Lord

VU 670

#### SCRIPTURE

**Exodus 16:1-15**

*Offered as wisdom for the journey.*  
**May we walk in its light.**

#### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

The Gift of Love

#### SERMON

Out of Egypt

*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

Lead On, O Cloud of Presence

VU 421

#### \*BENEDICTION

**May it be so.**

**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.

My Soul Cries Out:

Words: Rory Cooney, Music: trad. Irish melody, arr. Rory Cooney © 1990 GIA Publications Inc.

For the Gift of Creation:

Words & Music: Steve Garnaas-Holmes © 1991 The Copyright Company.

Precious Lord:

Words & Music Adapt.: Thomas A. Dorsey © 1938, 1966 Hal Leonard Corporation.

Music: George N. Allen 1844.

The Gift of Love:

Words: para. of 1 Corinthians 16, Music: American folk tune, arr. Hal H. Hopson © 1972 Hope Publishing Co.

Spirit, Open My Heart:

Words: Ruth Duck © 1996.

Music: trad. Irish melody, arr. Arthur G. Clyde © 1997 The Pilgrim Press.

Lead On, O Cloud of Presence:

Words: Ruth Duck © 1992 GIA Publications Inc.

Music: Henry Thomas Smart 1836.

Halle, Halle, Halle:

Words: traditional liturgical text.

Music: anon., arr. The Iona Community © 1987 GIA Publications Inc.

*Happy birthday to Saul Janson today and Sharon Ross tomorrow.*

*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](mailto:ftmassey@eastlink.ca)

*Please keep Carol Robinson and family in your thoughts and prayers,  
with the passing of Richard on April 26. A celebration of life  
will take place in Windsor on May 26 at 11:30 a.m.*

## **Name Tags at Fort Massey**

"I have called you by name." (Isaiah 43:1) We all appreciate being able to call each other by name and our new name tags will help us do that. We are so blessed by all the people connected to Fort Massey. At both the Tobin Street entrance and the Queen Street entrance, you can pick up your name tag if you have already made one. For new name tags, lanyards and name cards are available for you to print on your first name. If you would like to add the pronouns you use, please do so. Additionally feel free to decorate your name tag. After worship and fellowship time in the lower hall, you can place your name tag in the basket by each name tag station, so that it will be available for the next time you are at Fort Massey. We are still sorting out the best way to organize name tags week by week, and will keep you posted. Thank you for helping us all to know each other by name!

## **Riverside Video**

This eight-minute video is from Riverside United Church, London Ontario, made while they were in the affirming process, sharing their thoughts and experiences, as their community of faith was exploring becoming affirming. Please share this video with others that you feel will find it helpful. This is the video watched in the sanctuary on April 30. Here is a link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcx6clmMlhY&feature=youtu.be>

Questions people were asked to respond to following the Riverside video:

- What spoke to you from the Riverside video?
- What does it mean for Fort Massey to become an affirming congregation?

Please share any feedback by sending an email to the church email and it will be passed along to the affirming committee (IDEA team): [ftmassey@eastlink.ca](mailto:ftmassey@eastlink.ca)

## **Save the Dates: Pride Sunday on June 4 and Halifax Pride Parade on July 22 at noon**

The first Sunday in June is designated as Pride Sunday by the United Church of Canada. We shall again observe Pride Sunday and hope you will plan to join. If you are so inclined you are invited to wear your rainbow colours, or a favourite colour. Following the worship service, we hope to share a brief video and have time for discussion. We'll have lots of post-it notes, inviting people to share comments and place them on chart paper as we continue to explore what becoming affirming means for Fort Massey and furthering our learning journey together. Invite some friends.

The annual Pride parade is July 22, 2023. We'd love Fort Massey to have representation again this year. If you are interested in joining in, walking in the parade, please let the church office know, and information will be passed along to the Affirming Committee: [ftmassey@eastlink.ca](mailto:ftmassey@eastlink.ca)

## **Affirming Moment - Comments from Fort Massey**

Through our newsletter, in worship and on our bulletin board we'll continue to share some thoughts from our community of faith:

"In this moment in history, specifically choosing to name marginalized identities is a powerful gesture. It shows that we see the hurt and exclusion and would like to move towards a more inclusive community."

"Perhaps there will be a day when we can say "all are welcome" and will be believed. But the world is full of churches who say that "all are welcome" while also preaching oppressive theologies that make the LGBTQ community distinctly unwelcome."

## **Other Upcoming Services and Events:**

- Friday, May 12: Next Men's Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. at Cousins Restaurant
- Sunday, May 14: Christian Family Sunday
- Sunday, May 28: Pentecost Sunday
- Sunday, June 4: Pride Sunday - Communion Service with video and discussion following
- June 9 to 11: Sharon at the Annual meeting of Regional Council at Mount Saint Vincent University
- Sunday, June 11: Alison McDonald leading service
- Sunday, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 31: Fort Massey is closed for the month of July  
All are invited to join at St. Matthew's United Church for Sunday worship
- Sunday, August 6, 13, 20, 27: We welcome St. Matthew's United Church in worship at Fort Massey  
Worshipping in the lower hall for the month of August

- Tamara is on summer break for July and August and the church office will be closed June 30 to September 6.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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)*