

# Fort Massey Church

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

5303 Tobin Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1S3  
902.423.4294 [ftmassey@eastlink.ca](mailto:ftmassey@eastlink.ca)  
[www.fortmasseychurch.com](http://www.fortmasseychurch.com)

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God;  
Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne, Intentional Interim;  
Alison McDonald, Usher;  
Diane Gillis, Liturgical Assistant; Diane Gillis, 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;  
Alan Hayman, Joanne Hayman, Coffee and Conversation;  
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator; Emily Kiley Lawlor, Sexton



**Christian Family Sunday**  
**May 14, 2023, 10:30 a.m.**

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



## HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

Liberal senator George Brown, proprietor of the Toronto Globe newspaper and a “Father of Confederation,” was assassinated in May 1880 by a disgruntled former employee who had been dismissed. According to the Morning Chronicle of 17 May, “In the upper provinces ... the pulpit has rivalled the press in the fullness of its eulogy on the late Hon. George Brown. In the Maritime provinces Mr Brown’s death has been referred to in many pulpits, but it remained for Rev. Dr Burns, of this city to make the great journalist the subject of a sermon. Dr Burns’s intimate knowledge of the Brown family, and of the work done by the departed senator, peculiarly fitted him for the task he undertook.” Entitled “The Fallen Cedar” (Zechariah 11:2 - “Howl, fir trees, for the cedar has fallen”), the sermon was delivered at evening service on Sunday 16 May.

### 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: The Spirit, the Advocate, Our Comforter welcomes us into this sacred space.

**All: We come into the presence of the divine.**

One: We gather as God’s people, family in faith.

**All: We come as we are, knowing we are loved.**

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

##### \*HYMN

Welcome, Happy Morning

VU 161

#### 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:

Let Us Build a House

MV 1

#### SCRIPTURE

**John 14:15-21**

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

#### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

If You Love Me

#### SERMON

Family; 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

Come to My Heart

VU 661

**\*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.

Welcome, Happy Morning:

Words: Venantius Fortunatus ca. 582, J. Ellerton 1868, rev. Hymns for Today's Church © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

Music: Frances Ridley Havergal 1871.

For the Gift of Creation:

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

Let Us Build a House:

Words & Music: Marty Haugen © 1994 GIA Publications Inc.

If You Love Me:

Words & Music: Joel Raney © 2019 Hope Publishing Company.

Spirit, Open My Heart:

Words: Ruth Duck © 1996.

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

Come to My Heart:

Words & Music: Joel Pinson © 1981 OCP.

Halle, Halle, Halle:

Words: traditional liturgical text.

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

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given  
by Andrew Ritcey in loving memory of his  
mother Margaret Townshend Sherwood Ritcey  
and sister Mary Elizabeth Ritcey MacLeod*

*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)

## **Blue Nose Marathon Weekend, May 19 to 21**

A reminder to be mindful of your travel time and navigation of routes, as this will be a busy weekend in Halifax. Cheer on all participants!

## **Save the Dates: Pride Sunday, June 4, and Halifax Pride Parade, 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 and 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. Please send an email to [ftmassey@eastlink.ca](mailto:ftmassey@eastlink.ca).

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

"Groups historically and presently marginalized by Christianity -- including the UCC -- don't have a lot of trust in Christian institutions and it's our job - that is, the church's job - to make things right and start the healing process."

"People may feel uncomfortable, uncertain or otherwise unwilling to disclose their pronouns. I am thinking particularly of those who are closeted, traumatized, those who are early in their journey, or who have a complicated relationship with an LGBTQ2S+ loved one. We can trust LGBTQ2S+ people to know their own boundaries and comfort zones."

## **Sunday School Update for Summer Holidays**

Sancia and Lilli will host their final June Sunday School on Sunday June 11. Weather permitting, the children will walk down to the park and enjoy some special summer treats. Please contact Sancia if you have any questions. The fall session of Sunday School will resume Sunday September 10. We will also do a blessing of backpacks on Sunday September 10. Summer fun at the Fort will be upcoming, as we celebrate children with us in worship June 18 and 25 in the sanctuary, August 6, 13, 20 and 27 in the lower hall and Labour Day, September 4, back in the sanctuary.

## **Remit for All Pastoral Charges: Establishing an Autonomous Indigenous Organization**

This is a category 3 remit, requiring the vote of every community of faith by its governing body. Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself and if you are part of the official board, you will be asked to vote on this matter. If you are not part of the governing body, connect with someone on the governing body to share your voice, especially if you have questions. remit video offers you additional information by the deadline of March 31, 2024.

Additional background information about the remit is also available on the General Council 44 website. Further questions can be emailed to [remit@united-church.ca](mailto:remit@united-church.ca).

The official board will decide if it will vote this fall or when to hold this important vote.

## **Piano at Fort Massey to Give Away**

We are looking for a new home for the piano currently living in the "chair cupboard", The piano is a fairly large upright and appears to be in good condition. The ivories are clean and intact. It does need to be tuned. It will be given to anyone who will give it a home. Please contact Jenny, John or Kathy.

## **Upcoming Services and Events:**

- Wednesday, May 17: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- 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  
Final Sunday School before summer break, special outing to park (weather permitting);  
Sunday School resumes September 10

- 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
- Saturday, July 22: Join Fort Massey in the Pride Parade Halifax at noon
- 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/>

### **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)*