

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;
Colleen Estabrooks, Peggy Murrell, Ushers;
Nancy Riggs, Liturgical Assistant; David Griffiths, Scripture Reader;
Jenny Trites, Music Director; John Walter, Assistant Organist; Jade Fraser, Soloist;
Sancia Knorr, Church School; Lilli Knorr, Nursery;
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator; Emily Kiley Lawlor, Sexton



Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 21, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



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:

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

VU 664

SCRIPTURE

John 17:1-11

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

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Now the Green Blade Riseth

SERMON

Expansion: 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

In Christ There Is No East or West (*tune VU 344*)

VU 606

***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.

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name:

Words: Edward Perronet 1780 et al. Music: William Shrubsole 1779.

For the Gift of Creation:

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus:

Words: Joseph Scriven ca. 1855. Music: Charles Converse 1868.

Now the Green Blade Riseth:

Words: John M. C. Crum 1928. Music: trad. French carol.

Arranged: Simon Andrews © St. James Music Press.

Spirit, Open My Heart:

Words: Ruth Duck © 1996.

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

In Christ There Is No East or West:

Words: John Oxenham 1908, alt. Music: Alexander Robert Reinagle ca. 1830.

Halle, Halle, Halle:

Words: traditional liturgical text.

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

Happy belated birthday to Graham Robertson on May 20.

Happy birthday to Mary Carmichael on May 23.

*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

Richard Robinson's Celebration of Life in Windsor on May 26

A reminder to all that the celebration of life for Richard Robinson will take place in Windsor on Friday, May 26 at 11:30 a.m. at DeMont Family Funeral Home, 419 Albert Street. Family flowers only by request, however, donations in memory of Richard may be made to Fort Massey United Church. Online condolences may be sent by visiting: www.demontfamilyfuneralhome.ca

Chancel Guild Meets in Kitchen on May 29 at 10:00 a.m.

All members of the chancel committee are invited to meet in the kitchen of Fort Massey to polish brass and silverware at the church.

Next Men's Breakfast on June 2

In order for people who may wish to attend the celebration of Richard's life on the 26th, the regular men's breakfast gathering is moving to Friday, June 2 at 9:30 a.m. at Cousins Restaurant located at 3545 Robie Street, Halifax.

Upcoming Services and Events:

- Sunday, May 28: Pentecost Sunday
- Friday, June 2: Men's Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. at Cousins Restaurant
- 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.

Tech Support Needed

The Janson family, who so generously assure our services are videoed and uploaded to YouTube, and that the PowerPoint slides are advanced each Sunday morning, are camping each weekend from this Victoria Day long weekend through to Thanksgiving. If you would be willing to advance PowerPoint slides on any of these dates, please contact Sharon: May 28, June 4, June 11, June 18, June 25, August 6, August 13, August 20, August 27, September 3, September 10, September 17, September 24, October 1, October 8. Likewise if you would be able to assist with videoing the service on any of these dates, please let Sharon know. Our thanks to Clarissa Sit for covering June 11 with operating the video camera.

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 remits@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 would give it a home. Please contact Jenny, John or Kathy.

Affirming Moment—Comments from Fort Massey

“Our capacity to grow and learn from our mistakes (like the mistreatment of LGBTQ2S+ people) is an important tool in recognizing gaps in our care and inclusivity of other people who are marginalized. It will be a tide that raises all boats.”

“A very positive step towards the longevity of Fort Massey.”

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/>

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, cheque or envelopes, all are so appreciated. Donations may also be made through the following online charity donation websites: CanadaHelps - <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/fort-massey-united-church/> or Charitable Impact: <https://my.charitableimpact.com/charities/fort-massey-united-church>. In the sanctuary, donations can be made as you leave 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)