

Fort Massey Church

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

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www.fortmasseychurch.com

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God;
Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne, Intentional Interim;
Alison McDonald, Usher;
John Gillis, Liturgical Assistant; Diane Gillis, 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, Saul Janson, Jude Janson, Tech Team;
Kathy Evans and Alison McDonald, Coffee & Conversation;
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator; Kevin Robarts, Sexton



Epiphany
January 8, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

Fort Massey came into existence a few years before Canadian Presbyterian union (1875), which was an uncomplicated affair. Fast forward fifty years, when the movement which gave rise to the United Church of Canada was anything but peaceful and quiet and induced a schism in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Metropolitan Halifax was a church union town; though all congregations included resisters, not one of the nine Presbyterian churches voted to remain outside the United Church.

THE WORD MADE FRESH

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

PRELUDE

*INTROIT

I Am the Light of the World (*v 1 & refrain*)

VU 87

**When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun.**

**'I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LANDS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Calling all seekers, all dreamers, all believers...
Calling all glass-half-full optimists and lighthouse keepers...
Calling all star-chasers and bedtime prayer speakers...
Bring your questions, your hope, your faith and your fear into this space.
All: God is here.

OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

*HYMN

A Light Is Gleaming

VU 82

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.*

In the Bleak Midwinter (v 4) standing

VU 55

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise one, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.**

DEDICATION PRAYER

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG, AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

20 + C + M + B + 23

PRAYER

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The United Church celebrates an open table. All are invited to share in receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Children who wish, are invited to proceed directly to Sunday School with Sancia during the singing of our Communion hymn or children can remain in the sanctuary and take part in the receiving of Communion, according to family wishes, and join Sunday School with Sancia following Communion.

***COMMUNION HYMN**

Let Us Break Bread Together (v 1 & 2)

VU 480

**Let us break bread together on our knees,
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.**

**Let us drink wine together on our knees,
let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall down on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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.

STORY OF THE SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *(unison)*

God of open horizons and open roads, like the Magi so many years ago, we are here, seeking you. Step by step, we have wandered into this space with the hope of feeling you in our midst. Step by step, you have claimed us, loved us, and fed us. So as this new year begins, we pray that just as you have spoken to the generations before us, you would speak to us again. We pray in the name of our light in the world, Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60:1-6
 Matthew 2:1-12

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

MINISTRY OF MUSIC Your Light Has Come

SERMON Generation to Generation: We Keep Seeking

Please remain seated for the short music response of VU 400 which is played right after the message, inviting us all into prayer.

HYMN Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying VU 400

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN** Will You Come and See the Light *(tune VU 567)* VU 96

***PARTING WORDS** **May it be so.**

***CHORAL BLESSING** Hope Shines as the Solitary Star MV 220

POSTLUDE

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A Light Is Gleaming:

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In the Bleak Midwinter:

Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti ca. 1872. Music: Gustav Theodor Holst 1906.

Let Us Break Bread Together:

Words & Music: 19th century African-American spiritual.

Your Light Has Come:

Words & Music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan © 2009 Worldmaking.net. Published by Discipleship Ministries, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Used by permission.

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying:

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Music: trad. Scottish, arr. Iona Community © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.

Hope Shines as the Solitary Star:

Words: Catherine Faith MacLean © 2007.

Music: Janet Bauman Tissandier © 2007.

Notices

Congregational Thanks

A special thanks to Stephanie and Peter C. who provided the beautiful boughs decorating our sanctuary and in displays at the entrances on Queen Street and Tobin Street. For their provision, placement, care and recycling and repurposing we are so grateful. Thanks also to those who put up and have taken down decorations in the sanctuary. You have all made the festive season extra special.

Our thanks to all for the special outreach to Out of the Cold, supporting those living it rough. Fort Massey's generosity is much appreciated for this cause and the many others. Thanks to all who have been part in offering the Hope Cottage meal for today, courtesy of Fort Massey congregation. It all makes a difference.

Annual Reports 2022

Hats off to committees that have already submitted their year-end reports. For some committees, the report submitted for the November 8, 2022 Official Board meeting will be a great starting point, perhaps needing only minor tweaking! Please submit all items for the annual report to Tamara by Thursday, January 26. Early submissions greatly appreciated.

Stewards Meeting Reminder

There is a meeting of the Committee of Stewards on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 7:30 pm on Rev'd Sharon Ballantyne's ZOOM with a telephone option.

Craft and Chat on January 9 at 11:00 a.m. to Noon on Sharon's Zoom

Each Monday, depending on interest, join us for a virtual craft and chat time on Sharon's Zoom. Bring a craft or a snack or make your lunch while you join us on Zoom.

Next Men's Breakfast: Friday, January 13 at 9:30 a.m. at the Steak & Stein on Young Street.

Request to All Committees and Groups

Please submit any budget requests for the 2023 year by January 16, 2023. They can be sent to the Finance Committee - Chris, Anne T., or Kathy – thank you.

Are You Interested in Healing Pathway Opportunity for Training Phase One?

The course is being offered at Bedford United Church on January 28 and 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with instructors Joy Judd and Rev Joanna MacQuarrie. The fees are \$210, reduced to \$110, thanks to a subsidy from Region 15. If interested, please access this link: <https://bedfordunited.com/healingpathway/> You can also contact Rev. Katie Aven, 902-835-8497 or katie.aven@bedfordunited.com. Registration deadline is January 15.

Save the Date: Chinese New Year Celebration Sunday January 22, 2023 at 12:00 noon at Fort Massey

The Chinese Culture and Arts Club invites you to come to a Chinese New Year performance for the Fort Massey congregation on the Chinese New Year Day on January 22. Please plan to stay after worship so you can see the wonderful dances, the amazing costumes and hear the stories behind the dances. Latest update suggests we may be able to enjoy pizza too! Watch for more details.

Connection, Coffee and Conversation

Thank you to those who have been signing up for Coffee and Conversation following Sunday morning worship in the lower hall. If you have indicated a willingness to help with food preparation and provision of treats, hosting, or clean-up on the interest survey, please sign up on the sheet in the Tobin Street lobby. If you would like some help to work with others or need direction, team work together, please contact Colleen or Kathy.

Financial Offerings

Can be made through weekly envelopes, the convenience of PAR or e-transfers to fmchurch@eastlink.ca

Happy birthday to Carol Dobson on January 10

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

Other Upcoming Services and Events:

- Monday, January 9: Craft & Chat from 11:00 a.m. to noon on Sharon's Zoom
It will be every Monday (January 16th, 23rd & 30th)
- Monday, January 9: Transition Team meeting at 8:00 p.m. on Sharon's Zoom
- Sunday, January 15: 2nd Sunday after Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord and Calling of First Disciples message: We Are All Called
- Tuesday, January 17: Worship Team Meeting on Sharon's Zoom
- Wednesday, December 18 to Wednesday, January 25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Sunday, January 22: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany
- Wednesday, January 25: Robbie Burns Day
- Friday, January 27: Family Literacy Day
- Sunday, January 29: 4th Sunday after Epiphany
- Tuesday, January 31: Session Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Sharon's Zoom