

Fort Massey Church

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

5303 Tobin Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1S3
902.423.4294 ftmassey@eastlink.ca
www.fortmasseychurch.com

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God;
Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne, Intentional Interim;
Elaine, Jim and Daisy Janson, Ushers;
Vurain Tabvuma, Liturgical Assistant; Clarissa Sit, Scripture Readers;
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;
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator; Kevin Robarts, Sexton

BELOVED FORGIVING



Sixth after Epiphany
February 12, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

In early days Dalhousie University was unofficially a Presbyterian institution and its presidents until 1911 were Presbyterian ministers. Equally unofficially, Fort Massey was the university church. Governors, senior administration and faculty alike attended, as did many students. Among them briefly (she did not graduate) was a young lady from Prince Edward Island, Lucy Maud Montgomery. Among Fort Massey's attractions then was its third minister, Alfred Gandier: handsome, young, personable — and unmarried. On his way to a brilliant career in both the PCC and the UCC — he was elected moderator of the General Assembly in 1919 — Gandier was a rising star who attracted attention wherever he went. His seven-year pastorate, 1893-1900, was Fort Massey's golden age. He is the only minister of Fort Massey to have had a book written about him. It is clear from her published journals, however, that LMM was no particular admirer of Mr Gandier's.

THE WORD MADE FRESH

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

PRELUDE

*INTROIT

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning (*v 1*)

VU 578

**As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbours everywhere.**

LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LANDS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: God is among us, in every face, in every thing.

All: Let love be our way of walking the path of Christ.

One: God accepts us, loves us and sets us free to share that love.

All: God's love transforms us as we gather in worship and praise.

OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

*HYMN

Open My Eyes That I May See

VU 371

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

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

MV 191

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**

I Am Walking a Path of Peace

MV 221

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:21–37 *Teachings on anger, adultery, divorce, and oaths*

Offered as wisdom for the journey.

May we walk in its light.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC I Feel the Winds of God Today

SERMON Beloved Forgiving

Please remain seated for the short music response of MV 14 which is played right after the message, inviting us all into prayer.

HYMN Where Two or Three Are Gathered MV 14

**Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN** Take My Life and Let It Be VU 506

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

***CHORAL BLESSING** Go Now in Peace VU 964

**Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

POSTLUDE

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As a Fire Is Meant for Burning:

Words: Ruth Duck © 1992 & Music: Marty Haugen © 1987 GIA Publications Inc.

Open My Eyes That I May See:

Words & Music: Clara H. Scott 1895.

What Can I Do?:

Words & Music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy © 2005.

I Am Walking a Path of Peace:

Words & Music: Janet Bauman Tissandier © 2007.

I Feel the Winds of God Today:

Words: Jessie Adams 1907, alt.

Music: English and Irish traditional melody, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1906.

Where Two or Three Are Gathered:

Words & Music: Bruce Harding © 2002 www.evensong.ca.

Take My Life and Let It Be:

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal 1874, alt.

Music: unknown.

Go Now in Peace:

Words & Music: Natalie Sleeth © 1976 Hinshaw Music Inc.

Happy birthday to Kathy Evans today.

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

Notices

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

Is God Calling You, or Nudging You to Recommend Someone?

We are excited to provide some updates: So far, the Nominating Committee of the congregation is aware that four people have allowed their name to stand as candidates to serve on the Search Committee and two more people are in prayerful discernment. The Search Committee will hopefully be decided at the congregational annual meeting March 12.

A person has allowed their name to stand as chair elect to serve as Chair of the Committee of Stewards. That individual will be nominated to Stewards at the congregational annual meeting and if elected, then can be elected at the Committee of Stewards meeting that would happen in April.

Volunteers are needed for Treasurer as well as new members for Ministry & Personnel, Administration and Nominating committees. Please talk to Linda MacDonald, Nominating Committee if you can serve in any of these ways.

The M&P Chair, Nancy Riggs, invites additional people to the M&P Committee, reminding us all that it is the only mandatory committee of the United Church of Canada. We are very fortunate that the administration committee also supports the work of M&P. If you want to learn more about the work of M&P, please speak to John Gillis, Margie James or Nancy Riggs. The staff can provide information about their work.

The Administration Committee helps with the drafting of job descriptions. As outlined above, contact Linda MacDonald, current Nominating Committee Chair.

Sponsored Syrian Family Update

As was shared last week, with thanks to Carol Dobson, who let us know through communication with one of the additional churches that was part of the group sponsoring the Al Sagherji family, that the family became Canadian Citizens on Thursday, February 2, 2023 and we offer our congratulations. Maysan (mom) and Saeed (dad) Al Sagherji and their three children Judy, Sedra and Beshar, now reside in Mississauga.

Saeed Writes: "Maysan and I always think about Halifax and about you guys. Alhamdulillah Maysan is taking an Education Assistant course, Judy works at a daycare, Sedra at grade 11 and she is happy to do her co-op at a pharmacy and Beshar is grade six. I have an accounting job now. Everything is too expensive here and we try to manage our budget. We hope to visit you this summer. Stay safe guys and say hi for everyone. I hope this year brings you all the best. Maysan & Saeed"

There will be some greeting cards out today in the lower hall, for the congregation to sign, for this family and a few other people in the congregation. Please make your way to the lower hall after worship, if you can, to sign each of the cards so the congregation can extend its greetings.

Craft and Chat on February 13 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.

Affirming: What's It All About?

We are exploring entering into the formal process, with a hopeful outcome that at the end of a learning time, updating of policies and practices and an intentional affirming committee to help keep the focus, that a vote will be successful for Fort Massey to be approved as an Affirming congregation of the United Church of Canada. Stay tuned for learning moments, activities and discussions, visioning and opportunities to explore. Expanding focus for full inclusion broadens intentionality, supporting living into welcome and inclusive practices for all.

Please contact Sharon if you are interested to join an Affirming Committee at the Fort. Here is an event everyone might be interested in....

As a commitment to providing connection and learning, Regional Council 15 has asked committees to take a turn hosting webinars. In November we had a learning webinar on Governance and Ministry. Our February learning event is being hosted by the Affirm Committee:

Neurodiversity Zoom Webinar on February 13 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

This webinar, hosted by the Regional Council 15 Affirm Committee, is one in a series of education events in which the gifts and presence of a diverse humanity are affirmed and honoured. This webinar introduces the idea of TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) as one way of being neurodiverse and how an awareness of TBI can lead to the beginnings of intercultural inclusiveness in our communities of faith. Intersectionality will also be discussed. To register:

<https://united-church.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqd--vpz4jGd2ulbl4xi6-R3-qW-1jfwdY>

After registering, a confirmation email will be sent, containing information and links to join the event.

Pancake Supper, a St. Andrew's Fundraiser on February 21 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The Social Justice Committee is hosting a fundraiser pancake supper in support of Phoenix House. It is a good will offering and donations are much appreciated.

Interested In Eating Local Food? Join St. Matthew's United Lunch and Learn on February 26

Local Food - We're pretty lucky in HRM to have fairly good access to locally-grown food all year long and so EarthSpiritAction has invited Lil MacPherson (Wooden Monkey) to present a Lunch and Learn on Sunday February 26 after church (11:45 a.m. or so) in the gym all about 'eating local'. Where to find, how to use, ways to incorporate eating more local into your meal plans and budget. A light lunch will be served. For numbers, please reserve at stmatts-earth-spirit-action@googlegroups.com. Looking forward to it!

Other Upcoming Services and Events:

- Tuesday, February 14: Happy Valentine's Day
- Sunday, February 19: Transfiguration Sunday
Message: "Beloved Metamorphosis (Beloved series concludes)
- Monday, February 20: Heritage Day, church office closed
- Tuesday, February 21: Shrove Tuesday, See event at St. Andrew's
Sharon and Cliff hosting virtual pancakes, our table to yours, a virtual gathering if anyone wants from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 21: Committee of Stewards Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Sharon's Zoom
(rescheduled from the 14th because of Valentine's Day)
- Wednesday, February 22: Ash Wednesday (no service at Fort Massey)
For your pondering -- Seeking: What do I choose? Focus text: Isaiah 58:1-12
How will you live your faith? How will you live the questions of your faith?
- Sunday, February 26: First Sunday in Lent - Seeking: Who are we listening to?
Message: Who will you listen to?
- Monday, February 27: Fort Massey is providing Dalhousie Monday Night Multi-faith meal at Dal
(watch for a note with details from Ian coming soon)
- Save the Date: Please plan to attend the congregational annual meeting Sunday March 12, after worship.
People are invited to bring their own lunch. Pack a sandwich and join the meeting.

Financial Support of Fort Massey

We thank you for your financial support. Whether using e-transfer to fmchurch@eastlink.ca, PAR, Canada helps, cheque or envelopes, all are so appreciated. 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 lobby.

Please remember to pick up your church donation receipts for 2022