

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;
John Gillis, Liturgical Assistant; James Robertson, 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;
The Jansons, Coffee & Conversation;
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator



Second Sunday in Lent
March 5, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

From the beginning, Fort Massey was the church of choice among Halifax's business, professional and social elite, as is clear from the original communion roll. Most prominent among the corporate elite members was John Smith McLean (1828-1889), formerly a pillar of Poplar Grove Church, who served as president of the Bank of Nova Scotia, 1874 to 1889. A New Brunswicker, McLean was the son of a Presbyterian minister who relocated to Halifax in the 1830s. A member of the original session, he also served as superintendent of the Sunday School for seventeen years. Not just a devout churchman, he was also an outstanding philanthropist. Father of the YMCA in the Maritimes, he was recognized both nationally and internationally, in 1870 serving as the association's international president. "In Fort Massey and Park Street churches [successor to Poplar Grove] and the YMCA — He was a king among men, and did a great work for the Church and the community.

THE WORD MADE FRESH

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

PRELUDE

*INTROIT

Come and Find the Quiet Centre (*v 1*)

VU 374

**Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.**

LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LANDS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: What is it like to begin again?

All: It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.

It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.

It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.

It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.

One: May we find God in our seeking.

All: May we learn as we go.

One: May we be brave enough to begin again.

All: Let us worship the God of new beginnings.

OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

*HYMN

This Day God Gives Me

VU 410

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 537

**Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.**

**Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.**

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**

We Are Pilgrims

VU 595

SCRIPTURE

John 3:1-17 *Nicodemus Learns That God So Loved the World*

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

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

SERMON

Seeking Beginning Again (How can I begin again?)

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

Will You Come and Follow Me

VU 567

*BENEDICTION

Fellow seekers, go into the world with bold discipleship, deep spirituality and daring justice. Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary. Seek the good in every person you pass. Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful. Seek God in each of us. As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for. In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us, go now in peace. God bless you and Amen.
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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Come and Find the Quiet Centre:

Words: Shirley Erena Murray © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

Music: attrib. Benjamin Franklin White 1844.

This Day God Gives Me:

Words: James Quinn © 1969 OCP.

Music: trad. Gaelic melody.

Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands:

Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer 1927, alt.

Music: Neil Dougall ca. 1831.

We Are Pilgrims:

Words & Music: Richard Gillard © 1977 The Copyright Company.

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love:

Words & Music: Peter Scholtes © 1966 F.E.L. Publications, assigned to The Lorenz Corporation 1991.

Where Two or Three Are Gathered:

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

Will You Come and Follow Me:

Words: The Iona Community © 1987 GIA Publications Inc.

Music: Scottish traditional melody.

Go Now in Peace:

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

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

Volunteers Needed

Please volunteer for Administration Committee, Nominating Committee or Representative for Region 15. Please talk to Linda MacDonald if you can serve in any of these ways.

Next Men's Breakfast on March 10

All men wishing to join the breakfast are invited to our new location of Kempster's Restaurant, 3644 Kempt Road. Ian will reserve space for 9:30 a.m.

March 12 Annual General Meeting

A reminder that the annual meeting is March 12 after worship, and we will be meeting in the sanctuary. March 12 is also the day of the time change, as we move clocks ahead one hour to daylight savings time. Please bring a brown bag lunch. In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be the following Sunday, March 19.

Our thanks to David Griffiths for agreeing to chair this meeting. Carol Dobson will be hosting the Zoom for any persons wishing to join virtually. The Zoom option will be on Sharon's Zoom and will use the regular Zoom link found at the end of each newsletter. We will be using microphones. Cliff, Alison and Viola have volunteered to be "microphone runners," and will deliver a microphone to those in the congregation wishing to speak. If you can, download the annual report and save it on your device or print it. The Wi-Fi will be available in the event you have not downloaded the annual report. Some print copies have been made.

A Reminder About Girl Guide Cookie Orders

Lilli has 20 cases (240 boxes) of Girl Guide cookies to sell for her trip to Ottawa in 2024 with her Rangers. They are the classic cookies: chocolate & vanilla sandwich cookies in the same box. This year the price has increased to \$6 per box but we can take e-transfer. 😊 Let us know if you want on the list! Cookies will be available at the end of March.

Donations for Easter Flowers by March 26 Please

For anyone who would like to make memorial donations for Easter flowers, we would appreciate having donations in no later than March 26. These donations can be made by cheque or however you usually make your offerings with a notation about who the donation is in memory of. If it is possible to send the notation of who the flowers are acknowledging/honouring to the church email, ftmassey@eastlink.ca that will make it easier for Tamara to compile. The reason for the advance date is that we need to know how much we have to spend on flowers since we spend whatever is donated. The Easter bulletin will include a list of those who contributed along with who is being remembered.

Update from Session Meeting of February 28, with Thanks to Session and All Groups for Their Work

- Our thanks and appreciation for all the ways people are volunteering in taking care of our community of faith, supporting the life and work of this community of faith every day.
- **Masks at Fort Massey:** Being sensitive and cautious, trying to balance the realities around us and the desire to make most cautionary choices, the session is requesting that masks continue to be worn when in the sanctuary and that the wearing of masks is strongly encouraged in other parts of the building, except when food or drink is being consumed. We continue to respect and support that there are people unable to wear masks.

- **Baptism of Cayden Lacey on March 26:** The session has approved the baptism request for Cayden Lacey, born January 4, 2023. Kayden is the first child of Katelyn and David Lacey. Katelyn and Brooke Robinson are cousins, and we welcome Katelyn, David and Kayden to our faith family.
- **New Members:** If there is anyone interested in becoming a member at Fort Massey, there will be a service of welcoming new members on Palm Sunday, April 2. Please contact Sharon if you are interested, and also if you know of someone you think might be interested so Sharon can contact them.
- **Maundy Thursday Potluck Supper and Communion on April 6 at 5:00 p.m. in the Lower Hall:** Everyone is cordially invited to this Holy Week meal. It will be our first potluck since before COVID. Please plan to join us and invite others to come join us.
- **Good Friday Service on April 7 at 10:30 a.m.:** While a difficult service for us all, come feel connected in our Holy Week journey as we gather at the cross, seekers together.
- **Easter Sunday Worship and Communion on April 9 at 10:30 a.m.:** Come join us for our service. We will continue to use a grape and bread prepackaged in an individual Ziplock, sensitive to everyone's safety. If you prefer, please feel free to bring your own elements. For those joining us on-line, please have your elements ready from wherever you are viewing. People are asked to wear masks in sanctuary and to remove them when taking your Communion elements, putting masks back on Following Communion.
- **Special Dedication Honouring and Remembering Phil Pacey:** During our worship service on April 23 (back-up date April 30) we will honour Phil with the dedication of a plaque. Elizabeth (Betty) and Phil have been long time members and Betty's parents were very involved with Fort Massey when they resided in Halifax. This plaque was arranged for and delivered to Betty well before Trent left, but due to the pandemic, the dedication has not been able to happen. Please come out and join us. Our thanks to elders Kathy, Colleen and James for volunteering to get the plaque from Betty and to Doug Sinclair for his kindness and generosity in volunteering to install the plaque.

Scamming Alerts

Be mindful of scams by email, phone, text, people at your door and even snail mail. Contact the company or person directly. Do not respond those emails. Many times, the email IP address is not the same as the person you know, and different spelling occurs. Never give out personal information to anyone. Do not open attachments or extensions and delete the emails. Scammers continue to get more creative. No church or staff person would reach out in these ways. Stay safe!

Dal Supper Thanks from Robyn Brown-Hewitt, Chaplain

Robyn writes: "Please extend my thanks to the MNM team who fed 78 students last Monday. The veggie trays and a large crock full of extra rice helped us to stretch the food and everyone was served. The carrot cake (which was new to many students) was a big hit."

Hope Cottage Thanks

Thanks to all who supported the Hope Cottage meal, taking place tonight. Your donations of sailor's casseroles are much appreciated and our thanks to Teresa Orser for coordinating this food ministry. The sign-up sheet dates remaining for the Hope Casserole Deliveries for 2023 are April 27, June 22, August 17, October 12 and December 7. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RGrg9bcU1XBmdDKNXyxi-C3BAcCd4AchHEpRDUOA8/edit#gid=0> Fifteen casseroles are being sent each time. Thanks for any help you can provide.

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.

Upcoming Services & Events

- Monday, March 6: Craft and Chat at 11:00 a.m. on Sharon's Zoom (every Monday)
- Sunday, March 19 Message: Seeking Who We Ask (What Are Better Questions?)
- Sunday, March 26 Message: Seeking Bones That Live (How will my hope live?); Sacrament of Baptism
- Sunday, April 2 Palm Sunday Message: Seeking Which Way (Where Are you Headed); Celebration of New Members