

# Fort Massey Church

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

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[www.fortmasseychurch.com](http://www.fortmasseychurch.com)

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God;  
Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne, Intentional Interim;  
David Griffiths, Lay Worship Leader; Alan Hayman, Usher;  
Sally DeWolf, Liturgical Assistant; Nancy Riggs, Scripture Reader;  
Jenny Trites, Music Director; John Walter, Assistant Organist; Jade Fraser, Soloist;  
Garry Williams, Guest Pianist;  
Jade Fraser, Colleen Estabrooks, Coffee & Conversation;  
Sancia Knorr, Church School; Lilli Knorr, Nursery;  
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator; Emily Kiley Lawlor, Sexton

**CULTIVATING  
AND  
HARVESTING  
COMPASSION**



**Indigenous Day of Prayer (June 20) \* National Indigenous Day (June 21)**  
**Father's Day**  
**June 18, 2023, 10:30 a.m.**

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



## HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

June 14 1925 was the first Sunday after the United Church of Canada was born. At Fort Massey minimal attention was paid to the recently-consummated union. It was "College Sunday" — the occasion on which to preach the Baccalaureate Sermon for Halifax Ladies' College (now Armbrae Academy), a venerable Presbyterian institution.

One wonders just how much enthusiasm for church union there actually was at the congregational level.

Presbyterians loyal to The Presbyterian Church in Canada were forced into the United Church, whether they supported union or not. Others - perhaps even most - who opposed church union wanted to remain Presbyterians within the United Church. They were, unlike the "continuing Presbyterians," unwilling to secede from the official PCC and thus be rendered churchless. On top of everything else Fort Massey's minister, Dr Ross, was in Toronto attending meetings of the first General Council. For their first Sunday in the old=new church the congregation was left on its own. As the united Presbyterians were heard to say in 1875, "The union is consummated. Thank God for it."

### THE WORD MADE FRESH

*\* indicates rise in body or spirit (please stand or remain sitting according to your comfort.)  
Service prepared by The Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne, Delivered by David Griffiths*

### PRELUDE

#### \*INTROIT

And on This Path

MV 8

**And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide, (3X)**

**Open wide! (3X)**

**The gates are open wide!**

**So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide, (3X)**

**Open wide! (3X)**

**The gates are open wide!**

### LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LANDS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: From the East, the direction of the rising sun, we receive peace and light and wisdom and knowledge.

**All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

One: From the South comes warmth, guidance, and the beginning and the end of life.

**All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

One: From the West comes the rain, purifying waters, to sustain all living things.

**All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

One: From the North comes the cold and mighty wind, the white snows, giving us strength and endurance.

**All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

One: From the heavens we receive darkness and light, the air of your breath, and messages from your winged creatures.

**All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

One: From the earth we come and to the earth we will return.

**All: We are grateful for your creation, O God.**

One: May we walk good paths, O God, living on this earth as siblings.

**All: Great Creator, create in us hearts of love, respect and caring for all of our relations, for the sacred circle, rejoicing in one another's blessing, sympathizing with one another's sorrows and together with you, renewing, healing and loving the earth.**

### OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

#### \*HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

VU 288

## 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

David Griffiths; Colleen Estabrooks

### OFFERING

Offertory: *The offering will now be received.*

\*Response: standing

MV 191

**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.**

## DEDICATION PRAYER

### A TIME FOR THE YOUNG, AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

### PRAYER

#### THE 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:** As the Deer Pants for the Water VU 766

**SCRIPTURE** **Matthew 9:35-38** *Jesus and the disciples preach and heal  
Offered as wisdom for the journey.  
May we walk in its light.*

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC** We Are a Rainbow

**SERMON** Cultivating and Harvesting Compassion

*Please remain seated for the short music response of MV 21 which is played right after the message,  
inviting us all into prayer.*

**HYMN** Open Our Hearts (*sung twice*) MV 21  
**Open our hearts, open our minds.  
Open our lives to you O loving God.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**\*HYMN** Open My Eyes That I May See VU 371

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

**\*CHORAL BLESSING** May the Grace of Christ VU 419  
**May the grace of Christ our Saviour, and our Maker's boundless love,  
with the Holy Spirit's favour, rest upon us from above.**  
**Thus may we abide in union held together by the Word,  
and possess in rich communion joys which earth cannot afford.**

### POSTLUDE

*Many thanks to all who have helped to make this service possible today.*

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And on This Path:

Words & Music: Linnea Good © 2003 Borealis Music.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness:

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm 1923.

Music: William M. Runyan 1923 © 1923 renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Company.

What Can I Do?:

Words and Music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy © 2005. Arr. Alan C. Whitmore © 2005.

As the Deer Pants for the Water:

Words & Music: Martin Nystrom © 1983 Restoration Music.

We Are a Rainbow:

Words & Music: David Kai © 2017.

Open Our Hearts:

Words & Music: Jim and Jean Strathdee © 2006 Desert Flower Music.

Open My Eyes That I May See:

Words & Music: Clara H. Scott 1895.

May the Grace of Christ:

Words: John Newton 1779.

Music: Corner's Gesangbuch 1631, arr. William Smith Rockstro ca. 1895.

# *Notices*

*Happy birthday to Leslie McLean on June 24.*

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

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)

## **Bake And Book Sale on June 24 from 10:30 to 12:30pm**

Share the event with friends, family, coworkers, and activity groups!

## **Tech Support Needed**

If you would be willing to advance PowerPoint slides on any of these dates, please contact Sharon: June 25, August 6, August 13, August 20, August 27, September 3 October 8. Thanks to Brayden Knorr who has offered to advance PowerPoint on September 10, September 17, September 24, October 1. Likewise if you would be able to assist with videoing the service on any of these dates: June 18 through October 9, please let Sharon know.

## **The Peninsula Youth Group End-of-Year Party for Grades 6 to 12**

The Peninsula Youth Group will be holding an end-of-year celebration on June 25, 5-7 at St. John's United Church. Please pass this invitation along to anyone who will be in grades 7-12 next fall; church leaders and parents are also invited. We will be having food, games, and a chance to see the new pollinator garden that the youth fundraised for and planted. Please RSVP with any dietary requirements to [kcawsey@eastlink.ca](mailto:kcawsey@eastlink.ca) - looking forward to seeing everyone!

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

Affirming should mean inclusive of all not just based on sexual orientation but all abilities, etc.

Affirming means all facets of life, not just 2SLGBTQIA+, atheists & agnostics included.

Talk-the-talk and walk-the-walk in words and actions.

To make everyone feel safe and secure.

## **Wildfire – Message from Rev. Faith March-MacCuish, Executive Minister**

The wildfires in Nova Scotia and in other parts of Atlantic Canada have caused devastating damage. In Nova Scotia, more than 20,000 hectares have burned, displacing over 25,000 people, and causing significant emotional and physical distress, property damage and natural habitat and wildlife loss.

Communities in Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters, Regional Council 15 and beyond need support as they navigate the challenges of evacuation, relocation, and rebuilding.

The United Church of Canada Foundation is accepting donations to help support the areas rebuild as the longer-term needs become clear. Your donation to the Ann Baker Estate Trust for Emergency Relief in Canada will continue to aid and comfort those whose lives have been turned upside down by these devastating fires. The donation page is here: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/90109>

We will update you on the situation as on-the-ground partnership information becomes available. These wildfires have been very scary for many people either directly or indirectly. If you are affected now or in the future, it is very important to care for yourself and your family members. In the midst of such uncertainty, it is good to know that there are places to seek help. Please know you can reach out and avail of trauma-informed mental health services, as well as reaching out to your local church community and minister. The following websites and phone numbers may be of help you, your family, friends and neighbours:

- Coping with Emergency Disasters:

[https://www.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/hrsb/Departments/BoardServices/Communications/for\\_caregivers\\_-\\_how\\_to\\_talk\\_to\\_children\\_and\\_youth\\_about\\_a\\_wildfire.pdf](https://www.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/hrsb/Departments/BoardServices/Communications/for_caregivers_-_how_to_talk_to_children_and_youth_about_a_wildfire.pdf)

- Mental Health Crisis Support in Halifax:

<https://www.halifax.ca/fire-police/police/programs-services/mental-health-crisis-support-halifax>

- Canada Suicide Prevention Helpline: 1-833-456-4566
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health: 1-800-463-2338
- Crisis Services Canada: 1-833-456-4566 or text 45645
- Hope for Wellness Helpline (English, French, Cree, Ojibway and Inuktitut): 1-855-242-3310
- Embrace Life Council Hotline: 1-800-265-3333
- Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868
- United Church of Canada Employee and Family Assistance Program: 1-877-890-9052

Thank you for your generosity and please continue holding everyone affected by the wildfires in constant prayer.

### **Other Upcoming Services and Events:**

- 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.
- Sunday School resumes on September 10

### **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, 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)*