

Fort Massey Church

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

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Ministers: All of us by the grace of God;
Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne, Intentional Interim; David Griffiths, Speaker;
Carol Dobson, Liturgical Assistant; Colleen Estabrooks, Scripture Reader;
Jenny Trites, Music Director; John Walter, Assistant Organist;
Sancia Knorr, Church School; Lilli Knorr, Nursery;
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator; Emily Kiley Lawlor, Sexton



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 27, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

A Fort Massey Church visitors' brochure, probably dating from 1984, includes the following statement: "In 1925 June 10th this congregation on its own decision became a part of the United Church of Canada." This is incorrect. What happened on that red-letter day was that the United Church of Canada came into existence. Like The Presbyterian Church in Canada as a whole, all PCC congregations, unless they had already voted to remain outside the United Church, automatically became a part of it. The only decision a congregation could make was whether to hold a vote whether to stay out. Nor was there any obligation to do so unless one were requested.

THE WORD MADE FRESH

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

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

OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

***HYMN**

Will You Come and Follow Me

VU 567

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

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:

We Are Pilgrims

VU 595

SCRIPTURE

**Jeremiah 6:16
Matthew 6:31-34**

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

SERMON

To Be a Pilgrim – David Griffiths

HYMN

Who Would True Valour See

**Who would true valour see, let him come hither;
one here will constant be, come wind, come weather;
there's no discouragement shall make him once relent
his first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.**

**Whoso beset him round with dismal stories,
do but themselves confound, his strength the more is.
No lion can him fright: he'll with a giant fight,
but he will have the right to be a pilgrim.**

**Hobgoblin nor foul fiend can daunt his spirit;
he knows he at the end shall life inherit.
Then, fancies, fly away; he'll not fear what men say;
he'll labour night and day to be a pilgrim.**

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	Bless Now, O God, the Journey	VU 633
*PARTING WORDS	May it be so.	
*CHORAL BLESSING	You Shall Go Out with Joy You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands! And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap) the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap) the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap, clap) while you go out with joy.	VU 884

POSTLUDE

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And on This Path:

Words & Music: Linnea Good © 2003 Borealis Music.

Will You Come and Follow Me:

Words: The Iona Community © 1987 GIA Publications Inc.

Music: Scottish traditional melody.

What Can I Do?:

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

We Are Pilgrims:

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

Who Would True Valour See:

Words: John Bunyan (1628-1688).

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

Open Our Hearts:

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

Bless Now, O God, the Journey:

Words: Sylvia Dunstan © 1991 GIA Publications Inc.

Music: Basil Harwood 1898.

You Shall Go Out with Joy:

Words: Steffi G. Rubin and Music: Stuart Dauermann © 1975 Lillenas Publishing Company.

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)