

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;
Cliff Ballantyne, Liturgical Assistant; James Robertson, 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



Send Me

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 3, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

We have learned recently of Fort Massey's long connection with the Atlantic School of Theology. Our association with theological education in Halifax, however, goes back very much longer than 1970 — indeed, to the founding of Free Church College on Gerrish Street in 1849. Presbyterian union in 1875 spurred the development of its successor, Presbyterian College, which opened at Pine Hill in 1878. Rev. John Currie, professor of Hebrew at the college, is then said to have been responsible for “organizing” Fort Massey as a congregation. And Rev. Dr James W. Falconer, our minister from 1902 to 1907, ended his pastorate in order to become professor of New Testament at the college. Although our minister, Dr Burns, was chair of the board for many years, college convocations always took place at St. Matthew's. Fast forward to today and we take immense pride in our own David Griffiths, now engaged in writing a history of AST.

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

Open My Eyes

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

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 a Fire Is Meant for Burning

VU 578

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:1–15 *Moses encounters the burning bush*

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

SERMON

Send Me

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

Be Thou My Vision

VU 642

***PARTING WORDS**

May it be so.

***CHORAL BLESSING**

When You Walk from Here

VU 298

**When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy,
and with God's humble care.**

POSTLUDE

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And on This Path:

Words & Music: Linnea Good © 2003 Borealis Music.

Open My Eyes:

Words & Music: Clara H. Scott 1895.

What Can I Do?:

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

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning:

Words: Ruth Duck © 1983, Music: Marty Haugen © 1987 GIA Publications Inc.

Open Our Hearts:

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

Be Thou My Vision:

Words: Irish ca. 8th century, trans. Mary Elizabeth Byrne 1905, vers. Eleanor H. Hull 1912, alt.

Music: Irish trad. melody.

When You Walk from Here:

Words & Music: Linnea Good © 1991 Borealis Music.

Notices

Happy birthday to John James MacDonald on September 8.

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

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)