

Fort Massey Church

Spiritual Seekers **United** in Community

HALIFAX ~ NOVA SCOTIA

5303 Tobin Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1S3

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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; Diane Gillis, Scripture Reader;
Jenny Trites, Music Director; John Walter, Assistant Organist;
Section Leads: Laura Johnston, Lisa Thornhill
Sancia Knorr, Church School; Lilli Knorr, Nursery;
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator; Emily Kiley Lawlor, Sexton



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Creation Time 1
Blessing of the Backpacks, National Grandparents' Day
September 10, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

The Presbytery of Halifax convened at Fort Massey, apparently for the very first time, on 16 March 1886.

One of the matters discussed resonated with circumstances comparable to Fort Massey's troubled birth:

"There was a good deal of time occupied in the consideration of a difficulty that had arisen in the Musquodoboit valley in reference to the proposed site of a new church. A committee which had been appointed at a previous meeting of the Presbytery reported that they had visited the congregations of the valley, but had been unable to effect an amicable settlement of the trouble... [T]he committee recommended that in future all congregations be required to obtain the sanction of the Presbytery before locating new church buildings." Shades of Chalmers and Poplar Grove when Fort Massey was in the planning stage. Had such a requirement existed before 1871, the complications accompanying Fort Massey's birth might have been avoided. Or the outcome might have been different.

THE WORD MADE FRESH

** indicates rise in body or spirit*

(please stand or remain sitting according to your comfort.)

PRELUDE

*INTROIT

Over My Head *(refrain)*

MV 88

**Over my head I hear music in the air. (3X)
There must be a God somewhere.**

LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LANDS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come experience God's mighty presence!

All: Help us notice!

One: Now is a time of celebration, God is with us!

All: We celebrate love in loving one another.

OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

*HYMN

Come and Find the Quiet Centre

VU 374

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 544

**In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

DEDICATION PRAYER

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

A Place in the Choir (All God's Critters)

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:**

Jesus Loves Me

VU 365

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:15-20

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

SERMON

There Am I

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	One More Step Along the World I Go	VU 639
*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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Over My Head:

Words & Music: African-American spiritual, arr. Stephen Lee © 2011 OCP.

Come and Find the Quiet Centre:

Words: Shirley Erena Murray © 1982 Hope Publishing.

Music: attrib. Benjamin Franklin White 1844.

In Gratitude and Humble Trust:

Words: Frank von Christierson © 1961 The Hymn Society.

Music: English trad. melody.

A Place in the Choir (All God's Critters):

Words & Music: Bill Staines, arr. Erica Phare-Bergh © 2018 Cypress Choral Music.

Jesus Loves Me:

Words: (v 1) Anna Bartlett Warner 1859, (v 2,3) David Rutherford McGuire © 1970 OCP.

Music: William Batchelder Bradbury 1862.

Where Two or Three Are Gathered:

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

One More Step Along the World I Go:

Words & Music: Sydney Carter © 1971 Hope Publishing Company.

When You Walk from Here:

Words & Music: Linnea Good © 1991 Borealis Music.

Notices

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

Why do we encourage name tags be worn?

In a spirit of **radical welcome**, we encourage **everybody** to wear a name tag today.

Name tags help us recognize and remember each other.

They are a small gesture appreciated by those learning many names at once; those who are deaf or hard of hearing; or those who struggle to match names with faces.

If you are **comfortable** doing so, consider adding your **pronouns**.

Sharing **pronouns** is a signal that we welcome those of **all genders** and we appreciate knowing how to speak of each other **respectfully**.

Congregational Meeting Today

Please plan to stay for an important congregational meeting; the Search Committee and Session cordially invite everyone to participate in the meeting at 12:30pm, either in-person or on Zoom. We will hear from the Search Committee who will share their process to date, and they will make their recommendation of a candidate, inviting the congregation to ask questions and to take part in the vote for the recommended candidate.

Between worship and the meeting commencing, everyone is invited to enjoy a pizza lunch organized by the Search Committee, with coffee, tea and juice provided. Donations to help cover pizza costs are greatly appreciated.

Please prioritize if you are able, participation in this important meeting and vote. Your vote is very important. Members and adherents will be permitted to vote. Please continue to be prayerful and open to the Spirit at work as we offer thanks and gratitude to the Search Committee for their hard work.

Choir Welcome

Two new sectional leads, Laura Johnston (new to Fort Massey) and Lisa Thornhill (who previously has sung with Fort Massey), join the choir ensemble. Perhaps you have sung with a choir in the past and might like to come renew your love of singing. Perhaps you have never thought about singing in a choir, we'd love to have you come join us. Bring your joy to sing!

For All Committees

All committees are reminded that there is an Official Board meeting on Tuesday, September 19, on Sharon's Zoom at 7:30pm. Please make sure you have touched base with all committee members. Reports should be distributed no later than Sunday, September 17, in advance of the Official Board meeting.

Moderator's National Book Club

Join The Mod's Book Squad! Be a superhero! Join the Moderator and her guests in a thoughtful discussion about hearty topics, through the lens of flourishing. Starting September 21, 2023 and ending in June 2025, these (mostly) monthly book club sessions will feature fiction, non-fiction and poetry written by (mostly) Canadian authors, which you can find at your local library or purchase at the United Church Bookstore. For more information, visit:

<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/organization-and-governance/moderator/right-rev-dr-carmen-lansdowne-44th-moderator/flourishing-project/mods-book-squad>

Breads and Spreads Needed for October 1

Do you know how to bake bread, maybe have a favourite bakery? World Communion is October 1. If you would be able to donate a loaf of bread of any kind, any spreads such as jams or preserves, for sharing after worship October 1, please see Sharon.

World Communion Sunday Guest Speaker

Lisa Harrison, Executive Director from Brunswick Mission will offer a Minute for Mission to share and update us about Brunswick Street Mission. Lisa will answer questions following worship. Please plan to stay after worship, and join us in the lower hall, for an opportunity to talk with Lisa and enjoy bread together.

17th Annual Mission Breakfast on Thursday, October 19 at Pier 21:

The annual BSM (Brunswick Street Mission) fundraiser will be held at Pier 21 on Thursday, October 19 at 7:30am. The Keynote Speaker will be April Howe. Tickets are \$125 and a tax receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price. To purchase tickets, visit: <https://www.brunswickstreetmission.org/support-us/mission-breakfast>. Please contact David Griffiths if you are attending and he will request a Fort Massey table.

Phoenix House Fall Festival 2023 on September 16 from 9am to 1pm

The Phoenix Fall Festival is an event for the whole community at the BMO Soccer Centre (210 Thomas Raddall Drive) and will include a washer toss tournament, family fun zone, community corner and food fair. For more information, visit: <https://phoenixyouth.ca/events/phoenix-fall-festival>

2023 Mid-Autumn Festival Gala on October 1 at 6m

The Halifax Chinese Community is hosting a gala at the Spatz Theatre, Citadel High. A number of balcony tickets have been offered to our church community in gratitude for hosting their practices on Sundays. If you would like a ticket or two, please contact the church office.

Affirming Moment: (Comments from People of Fort Massey)

"Some may reject our invitation, or take it as condescending, but that vulnerability is an important part of righting relations."

What does it mean for Fort Massey to become an affirming congregation?

It would be a statement to the wider community that we are intentional in our desire to be inclusive. Positive action! Not just words.

What concerns do you have about our community of faith becoming affirming? Please let the Affirming Committee know (Jenny, Brooke, David, Bill, Diane, Cliff & Sharon).

Save the date: Casual Carol Sing on Thursday, December 14

Perhaps you are already bargain-hunting for Christmas, or it seems a far way off, but mark this as a wonderful holiday tradition to join Jenny Trites providing musical accompaniment and David Griffiths hosting this wonderful sing along. Invite family, friends, coworkers and neighbours to save the date and plan to join us.

Thank You for Your Financial Support

We thank you for your financial support of Fort Massey. Whether using e-transfer to 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)