

Fort Massey Church

Spiritual Seekers **United** in Community

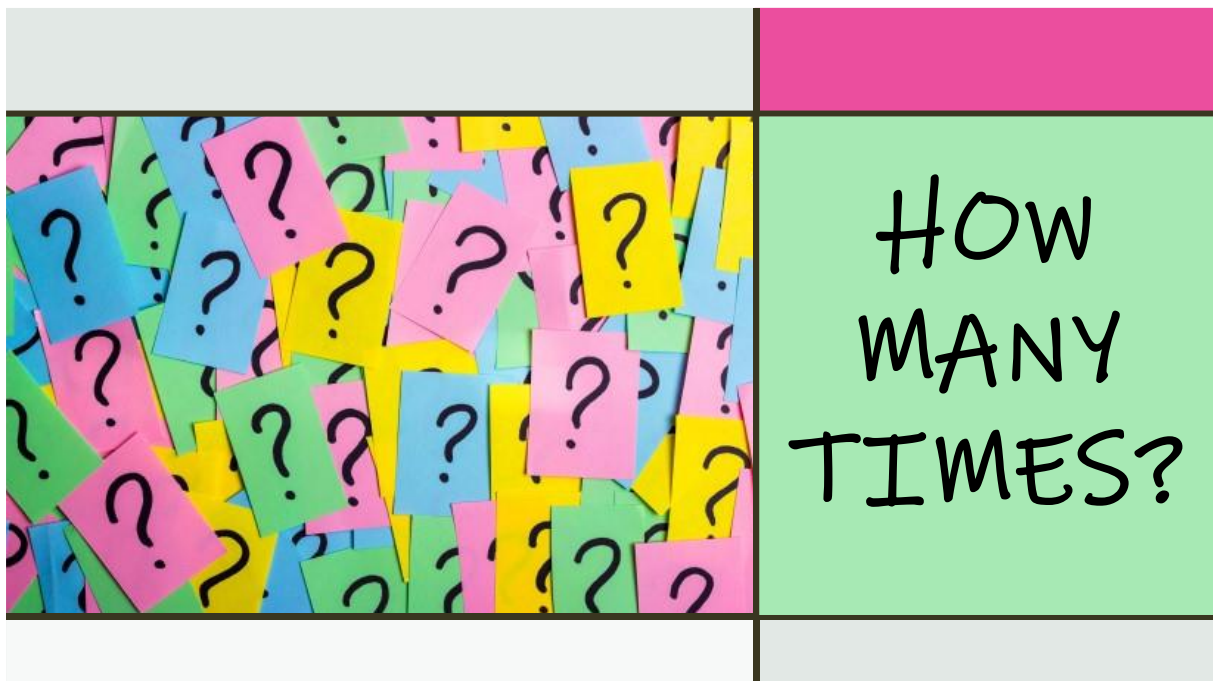
HALIFAX ~ NOVA SCOTIA

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902-423-4294 ftmassey@eastlink.ca

www.fortmasseychurch.com

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God;
Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne, Intentional Interim;
Alison McDonald, Liturgical Assistant; David Griffiths, 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



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Creation Time 2
September 17, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

An inspiring example of Fort Massey's sympathetic engagement with the wider world occurred at the General Assembly meeting in Montreal in early June 1885. Our own Dr Burns, one of the commissioners, moved a substantive and eloquent resolution expressing The Presbyterian Church in Canada's "profound sorrow" at the insurrection, then still in progress, of First Nations and Métis people in what is now Saskatchewan against the Canadian government. Suppression of the "Northwest Rebellion" led to the trial for treason, conviction and execution by hanging, on 16 November, of Louis Riel.

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: We come together in this Creation Time.

All: We come with gratitude and thanksgiving.

One: We praise God for goodness toward all creation.

All: Forgiven and free, we worship.

OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

*HYMN

Come, You Thankful People, Come

VU 516

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

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:**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

VU 509

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:21-22

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

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Walk by Faith

SERMON

How Many Times?

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**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

VU 670

***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, You Thankful People, Come:

Words: Henry Alford 1844, alt.

Music: George Job Elvey 1858.

In Gratitude and Humble Trust:

Words: Frank von Christierson © 1961 The Hymn Society.

Music: English trad. melody.

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky:

Words & Music: Daniel L. Schutte © 1981 New Dawn Music.

Walk by Faith:

Words: J. Paul Williams, Music: Joel Raney © 2010 Hope Publishing Company.

Where Two or Three Are Gathered:

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

Precious Lord, Take My Hand:

Words & Music Adapt.: Thomas A. Dorsey © 1938, 1966 Hal Leonard Corporation.

Music: George N. Allen 1844.

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**.

Last Sunday, there was an overwhelming yes vote in favour by the congregation of Fort Massey, confirming the Search Committee's unanimous support to welcome the Rev. Beth Hayward as Fort Massey's permanent called minister. Beth, her husband the Rev. Dr. Steven Chambers, and their two young adult children relocated back "home" after years away in Ontario and British Columbia.

Faith Family News

We have learned this week of the death of the Rev. Lorna MacQueen. Lorna MacQueen was a daughter of Stanley and Florence MacQueen. Stanley MacQueen was minister at FM from 1970 until his retirement in 1978. A Celebration of the Life of the Reverend Lorna MacQueen took place at St Mark's United, Dundas, on September 15.

Choir Welcome

Your toes may still be tapping from Laura, Lisa and Jenny's singing and Sue's accompaniment on the violin, in their rousing rendition of "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir" last Sunday. We'd love to have you come join us in the choir ensemble; practices are on Thursday nights. 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. 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>

Girl Guide Cookie Time

Lilli Knorr will have mint cookies on Sunday, September 24. These are the mint cookies and will be available for six dollars per box. Get them while they last!

Guest Speaker for World Communion Sunday, October 1

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.

Breads and Spreads Needed for October 1

Do you know how to bake bread, maybe have a favourite bakery? 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.

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

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

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.

From the Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee Chair Nancy Riggs

The Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee acts under the guidelines of the Manual of the United Church of Canada. The committee functions around three roles which are the consultative and supportive role, the healthy relationships role, and the supervisory role. We provide resources and support for the staff and the community of faith with respect to any issue affecting staff of our church, including ministry personnel and lay employees. The committee works to build positive and trusting relationships between staff and members and adherents of the community of faith.

If members of the community of faith have praise or concerns about staff, both ministry personnel and lay employees, these can be shared in signed correspondence with the committee. The issues will be considered confidentially by the M&P Committee, who will recommend action.

Fort Massey United Church is blessed with staff who are committed to their work and we are thankful for this work in our community of faith. Presently serving on the committee are: John Gillis, Margie James, Nancy Riggs, Colleen Estabrooks and Susan Walter.

Affirming Moment (Comments from People of Fort Massey)

It is kind of a person to be concerned for those who might still feel they don't have a place at the table generally, and to think about the feelings and dignity of LGBTQ2S+ people who come in.

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)

What are you doing in honour of our National Day for Truth and Reconciliation?

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.

Fort Massey Vision Statement

At Fort Massey, we live into being a vibrant and evolving community where tradition is honoured, change is embraced, and injustice is challenged, where everyone is welcomed, needed, valued and belongs. Following Jesus' example of expansive love, we aim to provide a safe, nurturing environment where everyone is free to be themselves. We celebrate and encourage people of every age, health situation, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, family configuration, background, ability, interest, culture, economic circumstance and faith journey into the full participation and leadership of ministries in the life and work of Fort Massey United Church.

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)