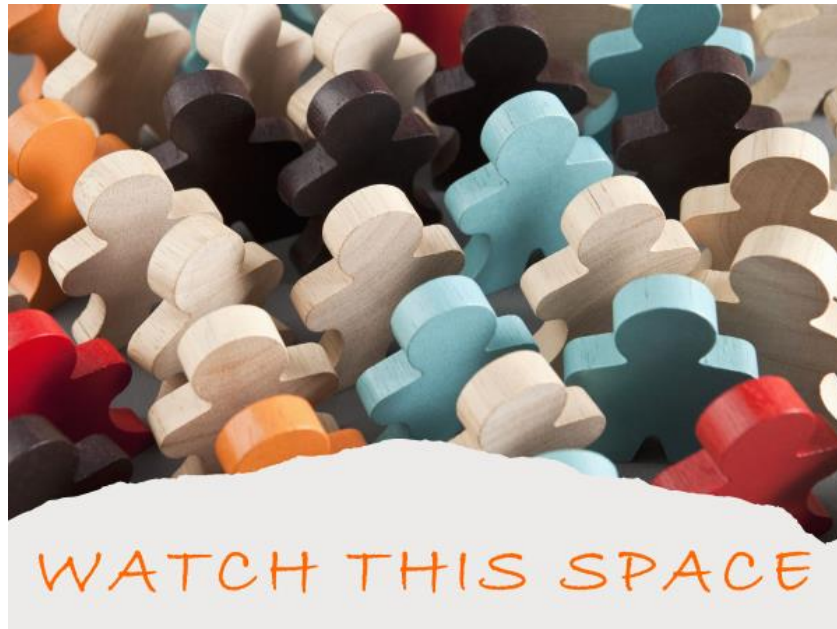


Fort Massey Church

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

5303 Tobin Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1S3
902-423-4294 ftmassey@eastlink.ca
www.fortmasseychurch.com

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God;
Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne, Intentional Interim;
Elaine Janson, Liturgical Assistant; Jude Janson, 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;
Cia Tweel, Yoga



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Creation Time 3
Orange Shirt Day Observed
September 24, 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: Come, as we gather in this space.

All: We come to reflect, to ponder and to wonder at possibilities.

One: It is a season of creation, and we are reminded that every child matters.

All: In every season we offer our thanks to God.

OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

*HYMN

Morning Has Broken

VU 409

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:

There Is Room for All

MV 62

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Offered as wisdom for the journey.

May we walk in its light.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Song of the Land

SERMON

Watch This Space

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

For the Healing of the Nations

VU 678

***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.

Morning Has Broken:

Words: Eleanor Farjeon © 1931 Oxford University Press.

Music: trad. Gaelic melody.

In Gratitude and Humble Trust:

Words: Frank von Christiernson © 1961 The Hymn Society.

Music: English trad. melody.

There Is Room for All:

Words & Music: Bruce Harding © 2004 www.evensong.ca.

Song of the Land:

Words & Music: Brown, Emerson & Morrison, arr. Enns © 2016 Cypress Choral Music.

Where Two or Three Are Gathered:

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

For the Healing of the Nations:

Words: Fred Kaan © 1968 Hope Publishing Company.

Music: Henry Purcell ca. 1682.

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**.

Girl Guide cookies are available for sale – please see Lilli Knorr

Updates from the Meeting of Official Board from September 19 Meeting

The work done by the roofing company recently saw several temporary repairs being completed and since that time, no water has been seen inside the church. Plans are beginning for fixing up the minister's study.

Please contact Alison, Carol D or Viola (Admin Committee) if you might be interested in learning more about the Fort Massey website - updating and maintenance. Thank you to Ian who has looked after this; his wisdom and experience is much appreciated, along with his kind offer to train interested people. Our thanks to Tamara who updates the site, to Leslie for keeping us current on Facebook and to Alison who keeps us current on X (Twitter). Let Tamara and the Admin Committee know if you see a church site of interest, have features you think would be helpful to have on our website.

All users of our building, both renters and those using it as outreach, are reminded to check with Tamara about current needs and confirmation of all needed insurance coverage.

Out of the Cold Ministries Update from Peter and Stephanie

Many thanks for your constant and steady support with Out of the Cold donations this past year. Sadly, there have been changes at OTC. Our navigator Campbell and his partner resigned their positions in early summer and have not been replaced. Campbell spent an afternoon with Peter and I and his recount of the situation and events was sobering. A recent check-in confirmed there is no OTC support presently for the tent communities. OTC staff are in fact not allowed to offer food, showers, clothing and camping gear to them. Apparently, the OTC program is under review by community services. We will remove our OTC donation bin, and perhaps your donations can be directed to Brunswick St Mission, Phoenix House or a similar program.

We pray for our homeless neighbours and that good decisions be made by our city and provincial elected officials to help them. Many thanks - Peter and Stephanie

Another Mission Outreach of Fort Massey Ministry: Pennies from Heaven

Two large jars of pennies were discovered in the Minister's study recently. Ruth Mackenzie faithfully tallied and rolled all 2,215 of them. The \$22.15 will be part of Fort Massey's contribution to Brunswick Street Mission. It's a reminder that small contributions can sometimes have large stories.

Manse Considerations

All members of the finance, property and trustees are asked to come to the manse at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26, for a "round the dining room table" discussion as preliminary explorations begin.

Yoga Is Back at the Fort Every Tuesday – All Are Welcome

Everyone is welcome to join any Tuesday from 7 to 8 p.m. in the lower hall. Sessions will be led by Cia Tweel.

The Chancel Guild meets in the Church kitchen on Thursday, September 28 at 10:00 a.m.

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.

The next Stewards meeting is October 17 at 7:30 p.m. on Sharon's Zoom.

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

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.

Save the Date: October 22 Pulpit Supply

Please plan to join worship as Tamsin Robson brings their powerful message to us at the Fort. A great Sunday to learn more about inclusion and belonging as we support our commitment to belonging and welcome for all.

Request for Help

Kathy has put new sign-up sheets for Counting and for C&C on the Tobin entry bulletin board. Anyone needing help, education, or a partner to do either, please let her know and she will see that you get the help you need (except for the week of Oct 1). If any groups are planning to host C&C, please write the group in. Thank you in advance.

Affirming Moment (Comments from People of Fort Massey)

“Worry that some people may feel unseen and unwelcome if we explicitly “see” and “welcome” certain groups and not others.”

“By naming a group, you run the risk of inadvertently missing someone and then they would feel excluded.”

Commenting on the Riverside Video *“The idea of safety and growth within the congregation;... that unity of thought creates a community...;... Impressed by the enthusiasm of the congregation”*

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).

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 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.

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)