

Fort Massey Church

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

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www.fortmasseychurch.com

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God;
Rev. Dr. Sharon Ballantyne, Intentional Interim;
Alison McDonald, Usher;
Sally DeWolf, Liturgical Assistant; Colleen Estabrooks, 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



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Creation Time 4
World Communion Sunday
October 1, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

In 1887 Canadian Thanksgiving Day fell on Friday, 18 November, and was observed in the Halifax churches. At morning service in Fort Massey Dr Burns' discourse bore on the question whether the glory of the British Empire and Canada may yet issue in "ruin and decay." That was the title of Burns' "powerful Thanksgiving sermon," which was published the next day on the front page of the Morning Chronicle. His text was Proverbs 14:34 ("Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people").

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 gather to celebrate God's world.

All: We gather to rejoice in this abundant love.

One: We gather to eat and remember.

All: Come let us worship.

OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

*HYMN

All Who Hunger

VU 460

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: Lisa Harrison, Executive Director of Brunswick Street 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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The United Church celebrates an open table.
All are invited to share in receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Children who wish, are invited to proceed directly to Sunday School with Sancia during the singing of our Communion hymn or children can remain in the sanctuary and take part in the receiving of Communion, according to family wishes, and join Sunday School with Sancia following Communion.

From the Beginning, followers of Christ have broken bread together.

Jesus shared meals in all kinds of homes.

This sacred table, wherever we find ourselves, whatever the elements we use, connects us.

We are gathered as community in the sacred space of wherever we are.

Our sanctuary is the physical place that we find ourselves in.

Behold all the colours around us, God's creation, of every hue and tone of our skin,
in every colour created in nature, in every colour that humanity has imagined, there is vibrancy of life.

We bring together our unity and our diversity, the growth of this United Church of Ours,
ever striving, struggling and learning to include, value, love and support all people.

***COMMUNION HYMN**

Deep in Our Hearts (*v 1 & 2*)

MV 154

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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.

THE STORY OF THE SUPPER

CELEBRATION OF THE MEAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

Nourishing, ever-present Rainbow God, thank you for your grace that makes space for us at your table wherever we are, whoever we are, however we find ourselves on life's journey. We pray that the elements we have shared may continue to remind us of your unending love. Thank you for the ways you feed us body, mind and spirit. In Jesus name, Amen.

*COMMUNION HYMN Deep in Our Hearts (v 3 & 4) MV 154

SCRIPTURE Exodus 17:1-7
Offered as wisdom for the journey.
May we walk in its light.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC Come Before the Table

SERMON All Our Tables

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 Let All Things Now Living VU 242

*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.

All Who Hunger:

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan © 1991 GIA Publications Inc.

Music: William Moore 1825, arr. David Kai © 1994.

In Gratitude and Humble Trust:
Words: Frank von Christerson © 1961 The Hymn Society.
Music: English trad. melody.

Deep in Our Hearts:
Words: John Oldham © 1995.
Music: Ron Klusmeier © 1996 www.musiklus.com.

Come Before the Table:
Words & Music: Karen Marroli © 2020 MorningStar Music Publishers.

Where Two or Three Are Gathered:
Words & Music: Bruce Harding © 2002 www.evensong.ca.

Let All Things Now Living:
Words: Katherine K. Davis © 1966 Schirmer Music Company
Music: Welsh folk melody.

When You Walk from Here:
Words & Music: Linnea Good © 1991 Borealis Music.

Notices

*Happy birthday to Linda MacDonald on October 2
and Shannon Lee MacDonald on October 4*

*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**.

Final Visits Until October 12

Covid impacts have restricted many of our face-to-face opportunities and particularly visits to people in their homes. We are hearing another Covid wave of concern, so with masks on faces, Sharon and Cliff would be pleased to do a home visit before our time together closes. If you are comfortable and would like a home visit, please contact her directly so a connection can be made.

Notes for the Next Few Weeks

There will be two more newsletters shared with you, October 5 and October 12. If you know of any items, events or activities that are happening between now and the end of the year, please get the information to Sharon, so people can get them on their calendars.

Rev. Beth will begin November 1 and over time will determine what communication methods are desired. In the meanwhile, at least after October 12 and into early November, please submit any announcements to Tamara at the office. She is generally in the office Mondays and Thursdays between 8 and 3. Please phone ahead if you can, to be sure she is in and available, if you are coming to the church. It is hoped that work on the minister's study will get underway soon.

Congregational Meeting on October 15 Immediately After Worship

The Finance Committee, Property Committee and the Board of Trustees met on September 26, this meeting was called to share information, get your input and vote regarding decisions about the manse. Please plan to attend if able.

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.

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.

Looking Ahead - November 5

Fall back one hour as we change to Atlantic Standard time and join in our service of worship welcoming Rev. Beth to her first Sunday worship service as the new permanent, called minister.

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. If any groups are planning to host C&C, please write the group in. Thank you in advance.

Affirming Moment

From Affirm United Volunteer Coordinator for Atlantic Canada, the Rev. Kim Curlett, responding to some comments last week:

"I think we need to make "inclusions" because so many have been left out of what most assumed was inclusive for a very long time. While we believe God loves everyone and accepts them as they are (because God made them in their image), not all churches or all "Christians" model that in the world. The affirming statements of many churches are made because folks have strongly considered who they affirm and include and how they do that. It's important. Imagine if you only ever heard that who you are and who you love is a sin. Wouldn't it be nice to have someone say, "not us, you (your identity) are affirmed here". I think so. Thanks for the comment.

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.

Gifts With Vision, a United Church of Canada Ministry

Every Gift with Vision provides support for a specific Mission and Service partner and for a unique project; without Mission and Service, Gifts with Vision projects would not be possible. <https://giftswithvision.ca>

Service Project

When you are doing your fall cleaning, have you found a purse that still has life in it but is taking up space on your shelf? The Zonta Club of Halifax is looking for purses to stuff with personal care items for Bryony House as a service project during its district conference. If you do, can you please bring them to church up to and including October 22 and give them to Carol Dobson. Zonta is a worldwide service organization that is aimed at improving life for women and girls.

Girl Guide Cookies Sold Out - Note of Thanks from Lilli Knorr

Thanks to everyone who bought cookies, supporting me and my trips next year!