

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;
Usher: Colleen Estabrooks;
Vurain Tabvuma, Liturgical Assistant; Clarissa Sit, 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



Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Creation Time 5
Thanksgiving Sunday
October 8, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

On 28 August 1886 the Presbyterian Witness published this account of Fort Massey: "Here we find a strong, somewhat massive structure of brick and stone, by far the most costly Presbyterian church in the city. The congregation is composed chiefly of families who formerly belonged either to Chalmers or Poplar Grove. Last year Fort Massey congregation raised for the various schemes of the Church \$1217 This is all the more creditable to Fort Massey when we remember that there is still a heavy debt on the church. ... The pastor of this church is the Rev. R. F. Burns DD, than whom no minister is better known throughout the extent of our Church, from ocean to ocean. As an author, lecturer and preacher, Dr Burns occupies a foremost place among our ministers. ... Every good work finds in him a champion and friend. He has always been a sort of 'nursing father' to the Pine Hill College [Atlantic School of Theology] in which he takes a deep interest and in which he is a lecturer. He is genial and kind and hospitable. To know Dr Burns is to respect and love him. The Fort Massey people are, as they should be, somewhat proud of their minister."

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 you thankful people, come as you are, beloved children of God.

All: We come, as we are.

One: We come to pray and to praise, thankful for all of creation.

All: Creator invites us and we come.

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 518

**As those of old their first-fruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield;
so we today our first-fruits bring: the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.**

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:

Ev'ry Day Is a Day of Thanksgiving

MV 185

SCRIPTURE

Mark 10:17-22

Offered as wisdom for the journey.

May we walk in its light.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Autumn Carol

SERMON

Sharing Our Abundance

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 We Plough the Fields VU 520
- *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.

As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought:

Words: Frank von Christierson © 1960 Hope Publishing Company, alt.

Music: traditional English melody.

Ev'ry Day Is a Day of Thanksgiving:

Words & Music: © Leonard Burks.

Autumn Carol:

Words: John S.B. Monsell, alt.

Music: Johann Steurlein, Russell Schultz-Widmar © 1998, 2016 Hope Publishing Company.

Where Two or Three Are Gathered:

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

We Plough the Fields:

Words: Matthias Claudius 1782, trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell 1861, alt.

Music: Johann Abraham Peter Schulz 1800.

When You Walk from Here:

Words & Music: Linnea Good © 1991 Borealis Music.

Notices

Happy birthday to Anne Naldrett on October 12.

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

The Thanksgiving decorations are edible gourds and other produce. Please help yourselves to them after the service. Any donations to cover the cost will be given to the UCW and will be greatly appreciated.

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**.

Some Reminders

A reminder that next week's newsletter is the final Fort Massey newsletter that Sharon will be sending out. If you have not connected about a home visit and would like to set one up for the next week, please let her know. Please also provide any information on activities and events that you know of for the rest of 2023, so they can be shared.

Yoga Is Back at the Fort: Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Hope Cottage – Meals for October 12 and December 7

Our thanks to our Fort Massey Hope Cottage meals coordinator Teresa Orser who so faithfully coordinates the outreach of the casseroles for Hope Cottage. She will update later in the year for dates and needs for 2024.

If interested in making a casserole for Hope Cottage for October 12 or December 7, please go to:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RGrfq9bcU1XBmdDKNXyxi-C3BAcCd4AchHEpRDUOA8/edit#gid=0>

Please enter your name under the date that works best for you. If you have questions or any troubles with this link, please let Teresa know by email/call/text, as she can enter your name in. Thank you!

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.

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; we have filled at least one table for Fort Massey, but it would be great if we could make it two. A tax receipt for the amount over and above the meal cost is available.

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.

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.

Dalhousie Monday Night Meal on October 23, Fort Massey Hosting

Fort Massey has been asked to provide the supper on Monday, October 23. The meal is put on by the Dalhousie Multifaith Service and the United Church Chaplaincy and is attended by 125+ students. More and more students are struggling financially so the need is increasing. The Dalhousie U/C Chaplain has suggested we settle on no more than 3 different recipes with at least 2 of them being vegetarian. We will provide more details by next week. Ian MacDonald, who usually coordinates this outreach will be out of town so on this occasion; Bill Gillis will be organizing it. We are grateful for the several people who have been preparing these meals in the past. Given the increased need we would welcome others to participate. Please feel free to contact Bill if you have questions.

Saint Andrew's United Church Is Hosting Pride Place

They are embarking on a journey, with the support of The Living Spirit Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation, to ensure support of and meeting the needs of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. They invite representatives from 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations and community members from across the province to join us in a round table discussion on Tuesday, October 24, to share thoughts and plan for a future as an allied organization, to learn: What is happening now in the community? What do we see in the future? How can we best support that future in a positive and productive way? To register:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSetJO5NRQw2MDFCr_pSzP-5VZBEys0S5w7_u6BXFpWkQX4sOA/viewform

Affirming Moment (Comments from People of Fort Massey)

*Accessibility is part of Affirming * All people are represented in visuals, committees, celebrations*

*Humour Joy Lightness * Truly welcoming to newcomers of all types – what are our next steps?*

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

Please sign up if you can assist with counting offering after service on any Sunday. Also please sign up to host coffee and conversation after worship. See Kathy Evans if you need some instructions for counting or help coordinating with others for Coffee and Conversation. These are important ministries and your help is greatly appreciated.

Out of the Cold Thanks from Stephanie and Peter

The last donation of clothing from Fort Massey has been delivered and the donation box has been removed from the lobby. Brunswick Street Mission advised that they no longer accept clothing, and directed us to Parker St. Furniture and Food Bank on Maynard St. They were grateful to receive the donation. Please make your future donations directly there or to a charity of your choice. Thank you again to all for your generosity - Peter & Stephanie

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)