

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, Alison McDonald;
Lilli Knorr, Liturgical Assistant; Nancy Riggs, Scripture Reader;
Jenny Trites, Music Director; John Walter, Assistant Organist;
Garry Williams, Guest Musician;
Section Leads: Laura Johnston, Lisa Thornhill;
Sancia Knorr, Church School; Lilli Knorr, Nursery;
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator; Emily Kiley Lawlor, Sexton;
Cia Tweel, Yoga



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
World Food Sunday
October 15, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

In February 1887 the presbyteries of Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax and Miramichi unanimously nominated Dr Burns to be moderator of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. His election was confirmed on 9 June at the thirteenth General Assembly, held in Winnipeg. Burns was the only one of our ministers to become moderator while serving as pastor of Fort Massey. "The new moderator's eloquent address" was printed verbatim in the Evening Chronicle of 16 June, and from it we learn that Dr Burns was ordained to the ministry of word and sacrament on 1 July 1847, age just 21.

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 X2)*

MV 88

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

LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LANDS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, the banquet of hope and praise is ready.

All: We come seeking to be fed.

One: Feed on the love of God in Jesus Christ and be his hands, feet, heart and voice to help others.

All: We come at God's gracious invitation.

OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

*HYMN

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

VU 509

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

Draw the Circle Wide

MV 145

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:1–14

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

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

We Shall Walk Through the Valley

SERMON

Hungry Hearts

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	O God beyond All Praising	VU 256
*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.

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky:

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

In Gratitude and Humble Trust:

Words: Frank von Christierson © 1961 The Hymn Society.

Music: English trad. melody.

Draw the Circle Wide:

Words and Music: Gordon Light © 1994 Common Cup Company.

We Shall Walk Through the Valley:

Words & Music: American folk hymn, arr. Tim Sharp © St. James Music Press.

Where Two or Three Are Gathered:

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

O God beyond All Praising:

Words: Michael Perry, alt. © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

Music: Gustav Theodor Holst 1916.

When You Walk from Here:

Words & Music: Linnea Good © 1991 Borealis Music.

Notices

Happy birthday to Leslie Pezzack and James Robertson on October 16.

*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 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 stay if able.

Finance Committee Letter

A letter to all of the Fort Massey family, and its supporters, along with current personal statements, was available last week. Please ensure you have received yours.

There is a Committee of Stewards meeting on October 17, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. on Rev'd. Ballantyne'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; 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 Worship Service and Pizza Lunch Following

Tamsin Robson will lead worship and everyone is invited for a pizza lunch following. Your new minister Beth Hayward will also visit on the 22nd, as part of the congregation, to hear Tamsin and to meet everyone informally. Thanks to the Affirming Committee for hosting the ; donations are much appreciated to support these lunches.

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. 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. To register:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSetJO5NRQw2MDFCr_pSzP-5VZBEYs0S5w7_u6BXFpWkQX4sOA/viewform

Affirming Moment (Comments from People of Fort Massey)

Are there other visible symbols that will indicate our welcome (Affirm)?

Some churches are welcoming except hidden prejudices (some of 2SLGBTQIA+ have been shunned by their home churches).

"Everyone is welcome" is not always real/true – welcome on "our" terms. How could it be different?

In the past didn't always mean it. I don't know. It can be a phrase used to cover up true feelings.

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.

Support for Archives Committee Needed

Anyone who may be driving to or through Sackville, New Brunswick? The Archives Committee has two boxes of material ready to be delivered to the Maritimes Archives Office. The Archivist is on site Wednesdays to Fridays from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. There is usually at least one other staff member on site until noon on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please contact James Robertson to make arrangements.

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.

Other Events:

- Yoga every Tuesday in the lower hall at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 16: World Food Day
- Tuesday, October 17: The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- Saturday, October 21: Annual meeting of General Council 44 (virtual meeting)
- Sunday, October 29: Sharon's final worship service with Fort Massey.
The message is "Brave Beginnings" and we will include "decovenanting" during worship.
- Tuesday, October 31: Sharon's final day serving Fort Massey
- Wednesday, November 1: Welcome Beth Hayward as Fort Massey's permanent, called minister
- Sunday, November 5: Service of Remembrance

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)