

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;
Diane Gillis, Bill Gillis, Ushers;
Cliff Ballantyne, Liturgical Assistant; Anne Thompson, Scripture Reader;
Jenny Trites, Music Director; John Walter, Assistant Organist;
Section Leads: Laura Johnston, Lisa Thornhill;
Sancia Knorr, Church School; Lilli Knorr, Nursery;
Transition Team, Coffee & Conversation;
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator; Emily Kiley Lawlor, Sexton;
Cia Tweel, Yoga

BRAVE BEGINNINGS

Decovenanting Service
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost
October 29, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

Dr Burns was never one to steer clear of sectarian theological controversy. At evening service on Sunday, 8 January 1888, he backhandedly observed the golden jubilee of the ordination to the priesthood of Pope Leo XIII by preaching on "Peter's Primacy," his text being Matthew 16:18 ("Thou art Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.") According to Dr Burns, St Peter was a "thoroughly good Protestant." He spoke for over an hour and his sermon was afterwards printed in part on the front page of the Morning Chronicle. Otherwise, January 1888 was not a good month for Dr Burns; on the 18th he slipped and fell on snow-covered ice outside the manse on Kent Street, breaking his left wrist.

THE WORD MADE FRESH

** indicates rise in body or spirit
(please stand or remain sitting according to your comfort.)*

PRELUDE

*INTROIT MV 88
Over My Head (*refrain X2*)
**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: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: We gather as siblings in Christ, praising God in gratitude.

All: We are called to be the church, to love God and serve others.

One: We celebrate that God has brought us together, me, Fort Massey and Bermuda Nova Scotia Regional Council, altogether in ministry over these two years.

**All: We give thanks as we share this ending and new beginning
preparing for this new season of our lives, to thrive and follow Jesus.**

OPENING PRAYER / ASSURANCE / WORDS OF HOPE

DECLARING OUR VISION

Over my time with you, we entered into the process of becoming an affirming ministry, uplifting our commitments to seek to invite, welcome and support that we are all needed, valued and belong. As you continue to live into this continuing process, I invite us to say together our 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.

*HYMN VU 635
All the Way My Saviour Leads Me

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 541

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

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**

A Strand in the Web of Life

Then Let Us Sing

**A strand on the web of life let me be,
a string on the harp that the Spirit plays,
at one with the sky and earth and the sea,
in the web of life let me be, let me be,
in the web of life let me be.**

SCRIPTURE **Matthew 22:36-40 and Matthew 10:40-42**

Offered as wisdom for the journey.

May we walk in its light.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC Upon This Rock

SERMON Brave Beginnings

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

DECOVENANTING

***HYMN** One More Step VU 639

***PARTING WORDS** **May it be so.**

***CHORAL BLESSING** Go Now in Peace VU 964
**Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

POSTLUDE

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Over My Head:

Words & Music: African-American spiritual, arr. Stephen Lee © 2011 OCP.

All the Way My Saviour Leads Me:

Words: Fanny J. Crosby 1875. Music: Robert J. Lowry 1875.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow:

Words: Thomas Ken ca. 1674. Music: Genevan Psalter 1551.

A Strand in the Web of Life:

Words & Music: Maria Case © 2011. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #P-650326.

Upon This Rock:

Words & Music: Pepper Choplin © 2009 Lorenz Publishing Company.

Where Two or Three Are Gathered:

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

One More Step:

Words & Music: Sydney Carter © 1971 Hope Publishing Company.

Go Now in Peace:

Words & Music: Natalie Sleeth © 1976 Hinshaw Music Inc.

Notices

*Happy birthday to Kai Peter MacDonald on October 30.
Blessings and our best wishes to all who are celebrating birthdays,
anniversaries or other celebrations this week.*

Today is Rev Sharon's last worship service with us. We are so grateful for Sharon's spiritual guidance, pastoral care and leadership over this nearly two years. We are also blessed that Cliff shared his talents with us, including: singing in the choir, playing the trumpet, filming the services when needed. Echo gained many friends while here and will also be missed! Thank you to Rev Sharon, Cliff and Echo – we wish them all the best and safe travels as they start on their next adventure!

Please join us in the Lower Hall for coffee, tea and cake following worship.

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**.

More Heritage Moments

Ruth MacKenzie shared a note from Linda Cleveland-Thompson:

Tristan is involved in a final closing service at George Street United Church this weekend. He met another organist involved in the service. They discovered that they both grew up in the Fort Massey manse - one of those "it's a small world" moments. She is Carolyn Sturge Spears, and her dad was the minister there before Ivan Norton. She was married at Fort Massey.

Hope all is well at the Fort. Trent is back at work and so much healthier than he has been in quite a while.

On Thursday, October 26 two granddaughters of the Rev. Gerald Rogers, minister at Fort Massey from 1941 to 1947, were shown the church by James Robertson and Colleen Estabrooks. Barbara Pritchard, one sister, lives in Halifax, and is the musician at Brunswick Street United Church. The other sister, Margot Pritchard, was visiting from Vancouver. Barbara had said that their mother (in Vancouver) often has stories about the days at Fort Massey, and that several of their siblings are interested in family history, which may result in acquiring items for our archives.

Tamara Out of Office - November 1 to 8

Please forward any announcements to be printed in the November 5 bulletin by noon on October 30 - thank you.

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, a Service of Remembrance, as the new permanent, called minister.

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 or in the aisle as you exit into the Queen Street lobby.

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)