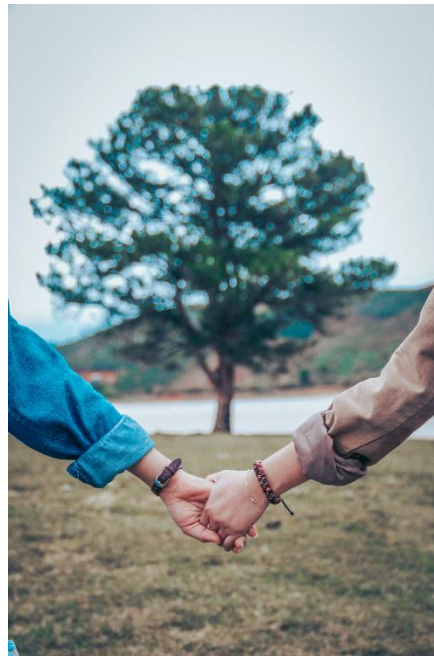


Fort Massey Church

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;
Tamsin Robson, Guest Worship Leader;
James Robertson, Kari Robertson, Ushers;
Carol Dobson, 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;
Affirming Committee, Coffee & Conversation;
Tamara Mugford, Office Administrator; Emily Kiley Lawlor, Sexton;
Cia Tweel, Yoga



Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 22, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

The convocation of Presbyterian College, Halifax ("Pine Hill") took place for the first time at Fort Massey on 28 April 1887, Dr Burns presiding in his capacity as chair of the board. He "briefly referred to the past session, which he characterized as a highly successful one. The number of students [28] had been larger than in previous years. He alluded to the importance of the mission of the college, which could not be dispensed with.

Measures are being considered to improve the financial standing of the institution, details of which are soon to be submitted to the congregations."

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

God's love is a love that shatters barriers!

Let us embrace the unexpected!

God works in ways we cannot yet imagine!

Let us embrace the unexpected!

God moves with ease in the places that scare us!

Let us embrace the unexpected!

May we follow God's path wherever it may lead.

Amen. Let us turn to God.

OPENING PRAYER

**God of the unexpected,
you invite us into movement and change,
calling us to turn our hearts and renew our minds.
Help us open ourselves to your abiding love,
that we in turn may love others
in ways we cannot yet comprehend;
in the name of your Son,
whose words defy the limits of our thought
and in whom your love for us is revealed. Amen.**

*HYMN

God of Many Faces

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**

My Love Colours Outside the Lines

MV 138

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 2:4b-9;18-23 (*Common English Bible, modified*)

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

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

God's Limitless Imagination

SERMON

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** Sing a New World into Being

***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

Music Credits: *Reprinted & streamed under ONE LICENSE #A-734498. All rights reserved.*

Over My Head:

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

God of Many Faces:

Words: Amy Cerniglia © 2019.

Music: Irish trad. melody.

In Gratitude and Humble Trust:

Words: Frank von Christerson © 1961 The Hymn Society.

Music: English trad. melody.

My Love Colours Outside the Lines:

Words & Music: Gordon Light © 1995 Common Cup Company.

God's Limitless Imagination:

Words & Music: David Lohman © 2017 David Lohman Music.

Where Two or Three Are Gathered:

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

Sing a New World into Being:

Words: Mary Louise Bringle © 2006 GIA Publications Inc.

Music: Rowland Huw Pritchard 1831.

When You Walk from Here:

Words & Music: Linnea Good © 1991 Borealis Music.

Notices

*Happy birthday to Jean Cudmore on October 23.
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**.

Pizza Lunch Following Worship Today

Thanks to the Affirming Committee for hosting today; donations are much appreciated to support these lunches.

Dalhousie University Monday Night Meal – October 23

For several years now, folks at Fort Massey have participated in the Monday Night Meal at Dalhousie University. The United Church Chaplain, Robyn Brown-Hewitt tells us that while these meals have always been popular and appreciated the need has greatly increased this fall. There have been 125+ people turn out for the meal each time. Not all have been able to participate but all know it is first come first served and it is not a bottomless pot. We encourage those who have been involved in this before, if they are able and willing, to continue to prepare a main course. If you have not participated before, this would be a good time to join in on this outreach.

There will be two recipes provided: a vegetarian/dairy free chili dish called Belizean Beans & Rice and Halal Butter Chicken Casserole. The third option we will offer this time is a purchased frozen President's Choice Vegetable Lasagna (available at Atlantic Superstores and No Frills) which is meatless but is also considered Halal in the other ingredients, but it is not dairy free. If someone is interested in preparing or providing ingredients for green salads, that would be welcome. If you are willing to participate by providing one of these dishes, please inform Bill Gillis of what you will be providing so we can have a good balance and a better idea of how many meals we can serve.

We will gather at Fort Massey tomorrow at about 2:30 for final preparations and then deliver to Dal. This will include cooking the rice and the lasagnas, and heating what needs to be heated. If you can prepare your recipe and bring it heated in a crock pot/slow cooker that would be most welcome. If anyone has a crock pot/slow cooker you are not using at that time and could lend it to Fort Massey that would be appreciated. Clearly label both container and lid and your dishes will be brought back to the church after the meal.

If someone is not up to preparing a recipe or shopping for a lasagna, donations of cash toward this project would be welcome. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bill Gillis. Thank you Fort Massey for feeding hungry hearts and hungry bellies.

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

Covenanting Service at Hope United

All are warmly invited to a worship service celebrating the ministry between Rev. Dr. Kathleen Anderson and Hope United Church on Thursday, October 26 at 7 p.m. to be held at Hope United, 3055 Connaught Ave, Halifax. Hope United's Minister Emeritus, Rev. Diane MacVicar, will offer the reflection. Light refreshments will follow the service.

Pumpkin Carving Contest

The annual pumpkin carving contest is back at Fort Massey! Bring your pumpkin in on October 29 or send in a photo into the office ftmassey@eastlink.ca before Thursday, October 26 at 12pm. Voting will take place on the 29th after church in the lower hall. Get carving! Let Sancia & Lilli know if you have any questions.

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.

Congregational Meeting – Manse

The congregation met on October 15 to hear of the financial update and recommendations of the Trustees, the Property Committee and the Finance Committee. Following a walk through at the manse by senior Trustee and a local real estate agent, a comparative analysis of local sales and trends, review of numbers and projections by the Finance Committee, the manse not being needed by the incoming permanent called minister, the recommendation was to sell the manse as soon as possible. The congregation voted in favour of this recommendation. The Trustees, Property Committee and the Finance Committee will now move forward and will keep the congregation updated.

Other Events:

- Yoga every Tuesday in the lower hall at 7:00 p.m.
- 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)