

Fort Massey Church

Spiritual Seekers **United** in Community

5303 Tobin Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1S3

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Minister: 902-333-3123 minister@fortmasseychurch.com

www.fortmasseychurch.com

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God

Clergy: Rev. Beth Hayward

Music Director: Jenny Trites

Assistant Organist: John Walter

Office Administrator: Tamara Mugford

Sexton: Emily Kiley Lawlor

Church School: Sancia Knorr, Nursery: Lilli Knorr

Section Leads: Laura Johnston, Lisa Thornhill

Ushers: Elaine & Jim Janson

Coffee & Conversation: Diane & Bill Gillis

Liturgical Assistant: John Gillis, Scripture Reader: Diane Gillis



Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Fort Massey
November 19, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



United against Racism



MISSION AND
SERVICE FUND

HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

It is instructive to compare the origin of Fort Massey with that of the “West End Extension,” dedicated on 11 October 1888. That church planting was the first such Presbyterian initiative since Fort Massey. Like Fort Massey it began as a Sunday school. Unlike Fort Massey, it was a formal undertaking of the city ministers and elders conference. The dedication service was presided over by Fort Massey elder, John S. Smith, superintendent of the Sunday school which had been organized in the area nine months earlier. The service raised \$408 towards paying off the debt incurred by purchasing and rehabilitating the old Coburg Road Methodist church.

“A little girl, belonging to the Sunday school, was warmly applauded as she came forward with her \$1.”

Some of us will remember this former church building, which stood for years at the southeast corner of Coburg Road and LeMarchant Street. Such was the remote beginning of today's St Andrew's United Church.

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

Prelude

Introit: “One God, Many Names!”

Then Let Us Sing

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Call to Worship

Lighting of the Christ Candle

***Hymn:** “Spirit God, Be Our Breath”

MV 150

Announcements

Passing the Peace **One:** The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***Affirmation of Faith:** A New Creed

VU 918

The Order of Fort Massey Recipients:

Lilli Knorr

Saul Janson

Jacob Janson

Anne Naldrett

Clarissa Sit

Gail Gillis

Time for the Young and Young at Heart

***Hymn:** “Take This Moment”

Minute for Mission: Mission to Seafarers Boxes – Colleen Estabrooks

Offering

Response: “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

VU 541

Ministry of Music: “With My Voice Alone”

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

Offered as wisdom for the journey.

May we walk in its light.

Sermon: “Old Fears, New Paths”

Hymn: “Where Two or Three Are Gathered”

MV 14

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

VU 921

*Hymn: "All Praise to You"

VU 297

*Blessing and Sending Forth

*Sung Blessing: "Go Now in Peace"

VU 964

Postlude

Notices

Blessings and our best wishes to all who are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries or other milestones this week. Likewise, if you're walking through some difficulty this week: grief, anxiety, challenge, we hold you in prayer.

A special welcome to all who are worshipping here for the first time. We strive to notice you and make you feel welcome.

Do let us know if we fall short of our aspiration. We know that stepping into a new church can be daunting.

If, after you leave, you find questions, curiosities, or insights arising, you are most welcome to reach out to our minister Rev. Beth (minister@fortmasseychurch.com).

We offer a pretty great coffee hour. Following the service, make your way to the front of the church and down the stairs and you'll be greeted by warm hospitality and terrific snacks!

Please feel comfortable to sit, stand, stretch, move for your own self-care and comfort.

Our services are generally an hour in length. When the Postlude begins, please feel free to get up and chat.

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**.

Advent Sermon Series

We begin a sermon series on December 3rd for the season of Advent. Please share social media posts and take a poster to share in your neighbourhood.

Part of the legacy of church is that it has too often closed its doors to:

- people who most need refuge,
- ideas that desperately need light shone on them,
- vulnerability as the gateway to wholeness.

Advent is a season of new beginnings, of emptying ourselves of all the things that keep our doors closed: the doors of our hearts and even the doors of our sanctuaries.

If you feel lost, closed off, like there is no room for you in the places you occupy: you're invited to join a community of beautiful, broken people, as we reflect on the ways we close doors to others and places we're called to break down the doors of exclusion.

This Advent there is room at the Inn: join us at the Corner of Queen & Tobin, Sundays at 10:30 a.m., where you'll find there is room in the most unexpected place – church.

Theme: Room at the Inn

Advent 1 – Room at the Inn for...bodies

Advent 2 – Room at the Inn for...skeptics

Advent 3 – Room at the Inn for...hot messes

Advent 4 – Room at the Inn for...wonder

Broadview Magazine

We have received correspondence from former Moderator Mardi Tindal related to Broadview magazine. The General Council of the United Church has made cuts across the country to many longstanding ministries, including Broadview magazine. Tindal is asking you to consider making a tax-deductible donation to Broadview to support their ongoing ability to publish their magazine. <https://broadview.org/donate/>

There is a Chancel Guild meeting at 10:00 am on Thursday, November 23 at the Church.

Help Wanted 🙏

As of January 1, 2024, Fort Massey will be without a treasurer since our current treasurer is unable to continue past that date. The position of treasurer is not as onerous as it once was since many of the tasks are done by others. We aim to have the position as a three-year term. Anyone who is interested please speak to Alison McDonald or Kathy Evans from the Nominating Committee.

Mission to Seafarers

Once again, we'll be collecting shoeboxes for Mission to Seafarers to be taken down to the mission in December. What is in a shoebox gift?
socks; hard candy/chocolate; toothpaste & toothbrush; razors; lip balm; hat; scarf; playing cards; memento of Nova Scotia or Canada
Items in high demand: shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream; work gloves

Anniversary Sunday – Sunday, November 26

Celebrate our 152nd with a soup lunch to follow. Guest preacher is The Rev. Canon Dr. Jody Clarke, Professor of Pastoral Theology at Atlantic School of Theology. Dr. Clarke's specializations include pastoral psychotherapy, death and dying, trauma and trauma recovery, guilt, forgiveness, and peace. He teaches courses in these areas, as well as sexuality, congregational dynamics and development, leadership, personality theory, sports and religion, and individual and community resilience. He is a certified trainer and supervisor of Clinical Pastoral Education supervisors.

Communion Sunday – Sunday, December 3

The Session has determined that we would experiment with serving communion in pre-pandemic ways. Join us on the first Sunday of Advent when we mark the season by sharing in the nourishment of the communion table.

Congregational Meeting – Sunday, December 3

There will be a Congregational Meeting immediately after the Service in the sanctuary. The Trustees will discuss the Manse's list price with the congregation.

Casual Carols – Thursday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Don't forget to pick up your carol sing requests sheet in the Queen and Tobin Street lobbies.

Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24

Join us for Advent 4 worship at the usual 10:30 a.m. on December 24 and the Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m.

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.

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)