

# Fort Massey Church

Spiritual Seekers **United** in Community

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[www.fortmasseychurch.com](http://www.fortmasseychurch.com)

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God  
Clergy: Rev. Beth Hayward  
Guest Preacher: The Rev. Canon Dr. Jody Clarke  
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: James & Kari Robertson  
Coffee & Conversation: Session  
Liturgical Assistant: Elaine Janson, Scripture Reader: Jude Janson



**Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**152<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary**  
**November 26, 2023, 10:30 a.m.**

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



## HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

In April 1889 Dr Burns published a pamphlet on “The Sunday Question,” its being the essence of his sermons on the subject. Passage of a Lord’s Day (Sabbath Observance) Act was extremely controversial at the time.

There would be no such legislation until 1964, when the government of Premier Robert Stanfield enacted a bill respecting The Lord’s Day. Unfortunately, no copy of Dr Burns’s pamphlet is known to have survived.

It must have been a bestseller in Halifax bookstores.

*\* 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:** “Make a Joyful Noise”

VU 820

#### 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

#### Time for the Young and Young at Heart

**\*Hymn:** “Jesus Christ Is Waiting” (*vs 1-2, 4-5*)

VU 117

#### Offering

Response: “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

VU 541

**Scripture:** Matthew 25: 31 – 46, Psalm 100

*Offered as wisdom for the journey.*

**May we walk in its light.**

**Ministry of Music:** “Come Sing unto the Lord”

**Sermon:** “Staying Spiritually Sane in a World That Is Spinning”

The Rev. Canon Dr. Jody Clarke

**Hymn:** “Where Two or Three Are Gathered”

MV 14

#### Prayers of the People

**Lord’s Prayer**

VU 921

**\*Hymn:** “You Call Us Out”

VU 569

#### \*Blessing and Sending Forth

**\*Sung Blessing:** “Go Now in Peace”

VU 964

#### Postlude

## *Notices*

### ***Today we welcome our guest preacher, The Rev. Canon Dr. Jody Clarke.***

“At the heart of the Gospel is a fundamentally challenging understanding of human relatedness. The address will explore how we can graphically and courageously invite peace into a deeply divided world. If society thought that Tom Cruise owns the Mission Impossible franchise, what we will discover is that we, as Christians have to be leaders on a far more precarious quest, namely one of changing the world.”

### ***Please stay after the service for a Soup Lunch.***

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.

### ***Congratulations to Beatrice Cleveland-Thompson and Ian Clark, who were married at Fort Massey on November 20***

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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

### **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.

## Fall Financial Update

Fort Massey's Income Statement for 10 Months, as of October 31, 2023, was presented to the Official Board Meeting on November 21, 2023, stating an operating deficit of \$75,812.56. The main driver of this deficit is the increase in Total Personnel Expenses, which have increased by \$15,985.95 in comparison with October 31, 2022.

These Personnel Expenses will increase by an additional amount of \$7,633.34 for the months of November and December, adding to this 2023 operating deficit.

On March 12, 2023, the Finance Committee presented to the Church's Annual Meeting, a budget indicating an operating deficit of \$52,142.85, for the 12 months ending December 31, 2023. Consequently, the committee is quite concerned about this escalation of actual expenses over the budget.

We welcome the usual generosity of the Fort Massey family to provide financial assistance in this matter. Thank you.

## 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.

## 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/>

## Brunswick Street Mission

The BSM is experiencing an urgent need for basic necessities their community needs to stay warm, dry and fed. Please bring what you are able and deliver it to the Tobin St. lobby on the first two Sundays in December. We will then deliver these items to the Mission for distribution.

### Outreach Items

Winter sleeping bags

Tarps

Tea light candles

Gift cards - \$25.00 for Walmart and Superstore

Lighters

Backpacks

Lip chap

Waterproof gloves and mittens

New socks

New long johns

Toques

***(n.b. – no used clothing please)***

### Food Bank Items

Toiletry items

- Shampoo
- Body wash
- Deodorant

Baking supplies

- Sugar
- Butter
- Flour
- Salt

Diapers, all sized

Menstrual products

Instant coffee & juice

Halal items (eg. Meat)

## 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**

Monetary donations may be forwarded to: Seafarers Halifax, 844 Marginal Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 2P7. Please endorse your cheque to **Mission to Seafarers** – thank you.

## 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.

## **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](mailto: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)*