

Fort Massey Church

Spiritual Seekers **United** in Community

5303 Tobin Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1S3

Office: 902-423-4294 ftmassey@eastlink.ca

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: James Robertson, Kari Robertson

Liturgical Assistant: Lilli Knorr, Scripture Reader: Nancy Riggs

Coffee & Conversation: Alan Hayman, Joanne Hayman



Third Sunday of Advent
White Gift Sunday
December 17, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

Fort Massey's golden jubilee celebrations ran the week of December 11th 1921. Monday brought an organ recital by Harry Dean (director of music for 46 years). Worship resumed Friday evening with a prayer service at which the guest preacher was the Reverend James Alexander Stead Burns, a son of our own Dr Burns. The final event was a Thanksgiving communion service which took place Sunday, December 18th.

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

Prelude

Introit: "Jesus Came Bringing Us Joy" MV 33

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Call to Worship

***Hymn:** "Lo, How a Rose" VU 8

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Candle Lighting Song: "We Are a People of Joy" *Then Let Us Sing*

Announcements

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

Time for the Young and Young at Heart

***Hymn:** "Joy to the World" VU 59

Offering

Response: "In the Bleak Midwinter (v 4)" VU 55

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11

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

Ministry of Music: "He Shall Feed His Flock"

Sermon: "Room at the Inn for...hot messes"

Hymn: "There Is Room for All" MV 62

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer VU 921

Hymn: "There's a Voice in the Wilderness" VU 18

*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**.

The boxes of 2024 donation envelopes are now available for pickup in the Tobin St lobby.

Church Office Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8am to 3pm (office closed December 22 to January 2 inclusive)

Rev. Beth's Contact for Emailing: Please use the Fort Massey email address: minister@fortmasseychurch.com – thank you.

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

Isaiah 40 is traditionally read during Advent. A voice, (maybe God?) is heard in the wilderness demanding that the human "cry out." The human, exasperated, overwhelmed answers: "What shall I cry?" Sometimes we are such a mess that we don't even know where to begin, tears are dried up, direction is absent...

Or maybe you're just at the point, in the overwhelm that is pre-Christmas, that you don't know where to begin! Today we consider the possibility that God cries out to us even and especially when circumstances in our lives are not ideal for our receptivity. It's like the very source of Love is in perpetual pursuit of us, go figure!

Upcoming Theme: Advent 4 – Room at the Inn for...wonder

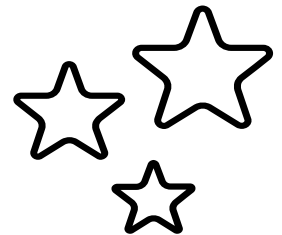
Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24

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.

Say It with Stars

At this time of year some may be looking for a "gift" to give to someone who may not need one more object. Or you may be wanting some way to honour the memory of a friend or family member who has died. Or there may be some special event you wish to honour. Please complete one of the donation forms available each Sunday or by request from the church office, and indicate the event or person being recognized by your gift. Each week the list of donors with their citations will be published in the Sunday bulletin as will the total of all gifts received so far. Unless you choose to be anonymous, your name and the reason for your gift will be published

in the Sunday bulletin. The amount of your donation will not be made public. Gifts must be received by December 31, 2023. All funds received will be helpful in reducing the amount of the projected operational deficit. You will receive a tax receipt for your donation. A star will be hung in the sanctuary for each gift received.





In memory of family members from Sally DeWolf



In honour of and gratitude for the wonderful Fort Massey Family from Carol Dobson

In memory of Allan Gillis and Catherine May Gillis from Angela, Stephanie, Gail & Patricia Gillis

Four stars in memory of unnamed individuals from Viola Greer

In memory of the life of Mary Carmichael from Alan Hayman

In celebration of the birthday of Alan Hayman from Joanne Hayman

In appreciation for the people of Fort Massey from Beth Hayward and Steven Chambers

Total of gifts for the season: \$2050.00

Christmas Ornaments

Long-time member Betty Pacey has recently gifted the congregation with pewter ornaments, crafted in Fredericton by Aitkens Pewter. These are beautifully detailed replicas of the Fort Massey building. We will be selling them until Christmas Eve for \$25.00. These stunning ornaments make for a lovely, timeless gift. See Kathy Evans to order yours!

 <i>A Season of Support</i> 		
AST Christmas Lights	Visit: www.astheology.ns.ca	Monetary Donations
Parker Street Food Bank	Visit: www.parkerstreet.org	Monetary donations and food
Phoenix House	Visit: www.phoenixyouth.ca	Monetary donations

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)