

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

Section Leads: Laura Johnston, Lisa Thornhill

Ushers: Clarissa Sit, Vurain Tabvuma, Vurai and Kushinga



Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page

Follow us on Instagram @fortmasseyuc

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.

** Indicates rise in body or spirit*

(please stand or remain sitting according to your comfort.)

Prelude

Introit: "Jesus Came Bringing Us Light"

MV 33

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Call to Worship

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

VU 59

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Candle Lighting Song: "Christ Is the Light of the World"

Then Let Us Sing

Time for the Young and Young at Heart

***Hymn:** "Once in Royal David's City"

VU 62

Offering

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

VU 55

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

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

Ministry of Music: "Ding Dong Merrily on High"

Christmas Reflection

Hymn: "Away in a Manger"

VU 69

Prayers of the People

Hymn: "The First Nowell"

VU 91

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Sung Blessing:** "Silent Night"

VU 67

Postlude

Merry Christmas

Welcome to Fort Massey Church. We're glad you're here to celebrate the mystery of this Christmas season in the beauty of this place. On this night we remember an unassuming birth from long ago, as we celebrate the coming of divine love, incarnate in our time. The joys of Christmas abound. In this night the unexpected is born anew in our hearts and lives.

May the spirit of love, that is Christmas, be felt in the wonder of this night and in the days ahead.

We gather each Sunday for worship at 10:30. We are a small, growing congregation, comprised of long-time members, and spiritual seekers. We offer a staffed children's ministry on Sunday mornings. We are in the process of becoming an Affirming Ministry, as we reflect on the ways members of the LGBTQ2S+ community can experience a full welcome in this place.

If you wish to make a financial contribution you will find envelopes in the pews. You can donate to us through Canada Helps, link on our website (Community => Financial Stewardship), and through e-transfer at: fmchurch@eastlink.ca.

All donations will receive a full tax receipt at year's end. Your generous gift contributes to the on-going mission of Fort Massey Church including: worship and music, outreach locally and abroad, spiritual nurture for and all ages.