

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

Office Administrator: Tamara Mugford

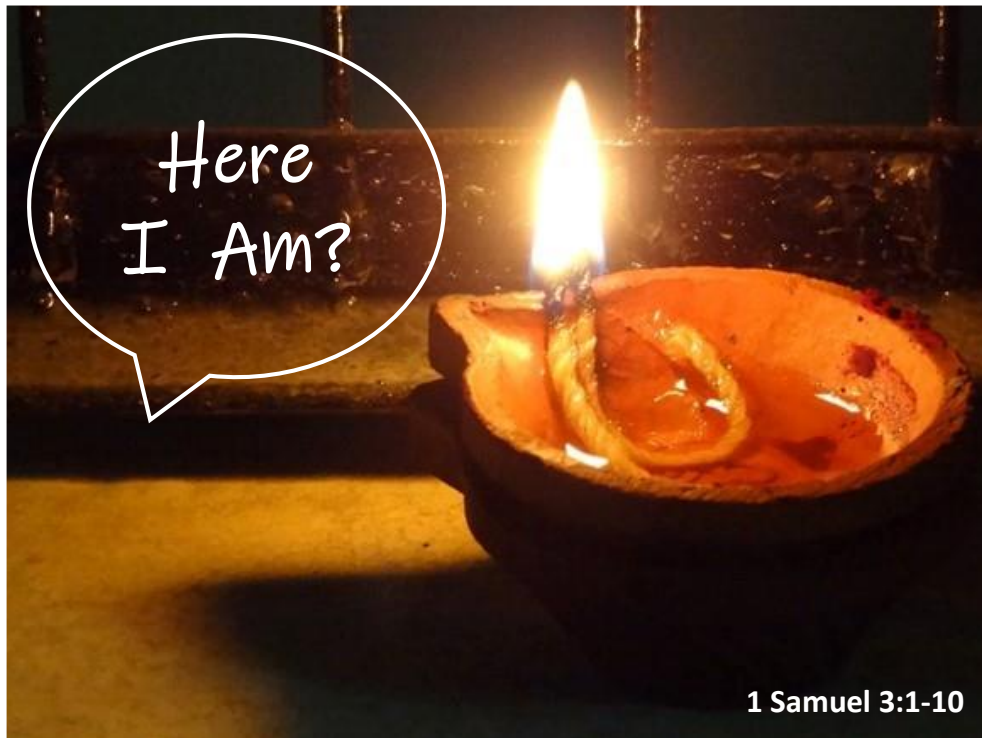
Sexton: Emily Kiley Lawlor

Church School: Sancia Knorr, Nursery: Lilli Knorr

Section Leads: Laura Johnston, Lisa Thornhill

Coffee & Conversation: Margie James and Elaine Janson

Liturgical Assistant: Lilli Knorr, Scripture Reader: Carol Dobson



Epiphany 2

January 14, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

It did not take Fort Massey long to find a new minister after Rev. Smith departed in December 1874. Dr Burns's induction, on 18 March 1875, was front-page news in The Presbyterian Witness: "The whole services were deeply impressive and were enjoyed by a very large congregation. It was arranged that his people should have an opportunity of welcoming their pastor and of being introduced to him, in the basement of the church, where a very happy hour was spent in hand-shaking and in the exchange of words of good cheer and Christian greeting. At one end of the basement an attractive table was set, and ladies were in waiting to dispense tea, coffee etc. to all comers." Not to put too fine a point upon it — a star was born.

While Fort Massey has had many distinguished ministers, Robert Ferrier Burns is in a class by himself.

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

Prelude

Introit: "A Light Is Gleaming" (*refrain*)

VU 82

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Call to Worship

Lighting of the Christ Candle

***Hymn:** "Open My Eyes"

VU 371

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:** "Draw the Circle Wide"

MV 145

Minute for Mission: Brunswick Street Mission

Offering

Response: "What Can I Do?"

MV 191

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

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

Ministry of Music: "Have You Heard God's Voice"

Sermon: "Here I Am?"

***Hymn:** "O God We Call"

VU 411

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

VU 921

Hymn: "I Have Called You by Your Name"

MV 161

*Blessing and Sending Forth

***Sung Blessing:** "May the Peace of God Be Your Peace"

MV 222

Postlude

Notices

Happy birthday to Matthew Adrian MacDonald on January 16, Peter Orser on January 18, and Margie James on January 20

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).

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.

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!

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 2023 tax receipts have been completed and they may be picked up in the Tobin Street lobby.

There is a Committee of Stewards meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. on the Fort Massey ZOOM account.

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)