

# Fort Massey Church

Spiritual Seekers **United** in Community

5303 Tobin Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1S3

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

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God

Clergy: Rev. Beth Hayward

Music Director: Jenny Trites

Guest Musician: Garry Williams

Sexton: Emily Kiley Lawlor

Church School: Sancia Knorr, Nursery: Lilli Knorr

Section Leads: Laura Johnston, Lisa Thornhill

Greeters: Kari and James Robertson

Liturgical Assistant & Scripture Reader: Daisy Janson & David Griffiths

Coffee & Conversation: Diane & Bill Gillis



**Lent 5**

**March 17, 2024, 10:30 a.m.**

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



On Friday afternoon, 1 January 1892, just after leaving St Andrew's manse, where he had been on a short visit to the minister, Dr Burns suffered "a slight shock of paralysis." He was immediately taken in a cab to the manse on Kent Street, and a physician sent for. He had suffered a second paralytic stroke affecting his left side. It seemed at first that the attack was worse than it afterwards proved to be, as neither his thinking nor his speech was impaired. Through February Dr Burns was said to be "steadily improving in health," but he never preached at Fort Massey again. On 22 March, his having resigned his pastorate, the Morning Chronicle gave Burns its lead editorial ("His Vindication") — a unique tribute to a departing clergyman. Burns's seventeen-year pastorate officially came to an end on Sunday, 3 April, when Rev. Dr John Forrest, president of Dalhousie University, declared the pulpit of Fort Massey vacant

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

**Prelude**

**Introit:** "Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary" MV 18

**Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Call to Worship**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**\*Hymn:** "We Are One"  
(v 1,2,4) VU 402

**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:** "In the Quiet Curve of Evening" VU 278

**Offering**

Response: "I Thank You, Thank You, Jesus" (v 1) MV 188

**Scripture: Isaiah 46:1-9**

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

**Ministry of Music:** "Your Love is Amazing"

**Sermon:** "Breaking Heaven"

**\*Hymn:** "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying" VU 400

**Prayers of the People**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:** "Great is Thy Faithfulness" VU 288

**\*Blessing and Sending Forth**

**\*Sung Blessing:** "Let Us, O God, Depart in Peace" VU 961

**Postlude**

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](mailto: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 AGM of the congregation is Today, March 17<sup>th</sup>**



Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/98012739900?pwd=M2s3Ym1JRj1QVBGNWdyeDNzWUo4dz09>

**There will be a pizza lunch with a free will offering, with coffee and tea provided.**

We are aware that many of you have not been receiving the newsletter the past several weeks. This is a result of new security measures. While we work to resolve this, we will be sending the newsletter through the church's email list in addition to the newsletter list. Some of you will receive it twice. Apologies for any inconvenience. The newsletter can also be read on the church's website. The link is just below the bulletin link on the home page at: <https://fortmasseychurch.com/>

### **Holy Week and Easter - Mark Your Calendars for Our Holy Week Events:**

Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday Service 10:30 am

Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday Potluck Meal & Communion 6:00 pm

Friday, March 29 - Good Friday Service 10:30 am

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Service 10:30 am

### **Flourishing Nova Scotia – Time with the Moderator – Save the Dates**

Flourishing Keynote presentation with Andre Picard and the Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne

April 11 at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

Day-long Free Workshop on April 13 from 9 am to 4:30 pm at Bedford United Church

To register for these events, please use the links in the weekly newsletter

### **🙏 From the Nominating Committee 🙏**

Fort Massey is looking for a new treasurer. 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.



### **Brunswick Street Food Bank**



March is "Birthday Month" so please bring in cake mix and canned icing to give away to people with birthdays coming up. All other items are still much appreciated of course; please refer to the list in the Tobin Street entrance.

### **Easter Flowers**

We are collecting donations for Easter flowers. Please send in donations by **Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**.

As in previous years, the names of the donors and who they are remembering will be printed in the Easter Bulletin. Please give the names of donors and who they are remembering to Kathy Evans and email them to the church office.

### **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)*