

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

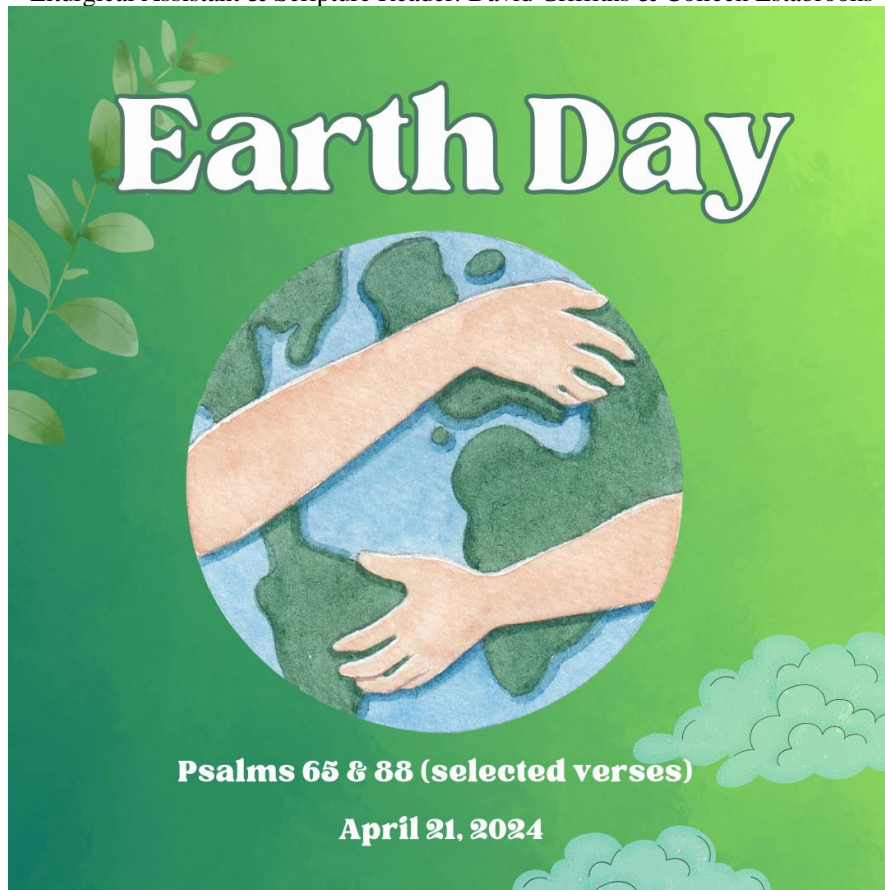
Sexton: Emily Kiley Lawlor

Church School: Sancia Knorr, Nursery: Lilli Knorr

Section Leads: Laura Johnston, Lisa Thornhill

Greeters: Diane & Bill Gillis

Liturgical Assistant & Scripture Reader: David Griffiths & Colleen Estabrooks

A green background with a central illustration of two hands holding a globe of the Earth. The text 'Earth Day' is written in large white letters with a green outline at the top. Below the globe, the text 'Psalms 65 & 88 (selected verses)' and 'April 21, 2024' is displayed in white.

Earth Day

Psalms 65 & 88 (selected verses)

April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



Since we have dispensed with reciting the Creed during divine service, it seemed appropriate to turn the clock back a century to when different views prevailed. At evening worship on Sunday, 17 February 1924, the Reverend Dr Clarence Mackinnon, principal of Presbyterian College and future last moderator of the undivided Presbyterian Church in Canada, addressed a large audience at Fort Massey on the "Authority of the Creed": "In all creeds there were inadequate expressions and those which had now become unintelligible showed a deficiency of faith in treating of the relation of God to man. It would be folly to obliterate the sun because there were spots on it ... but it would be equally as foolish to repudiate creeds because of their defects, these to be remedied through revision. As a reason why man did not have an infallible creed, ... spiritual knowledge is a growing thing and Christianity is not a creed."

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

Prelude

Introit: "O Let the Power Fall on Me" MV 13

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Call to Worship

Lighting of the Christ Candle

***Hymn:** "Creator God, You Gave Us Life" MV 27

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:** "Called by Earth and Sky" MV 135

Offering

Response: "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" (V1) VU 575

Scripture: Psalms 65 & 88 (selected verses)
Offered as wisdom for the journey.
May we walk in its light.

Ministry of Music: Garden Song Arr Kim Kirkman

Sermon: "Interconnected"

Hymn: "There is Room for All" MV 62

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa

Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" VU 232

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Sung Blessing:** "Halle Halle Halle" VU 958

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).

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**.

Welcome Gail

Gail Clarke is our new Office Administrator, and she began work with us this past week. Gail brings over a decade of experience as a church administrator. She recently began work at St. Andrew's United in the role of Congregational Administrator. Gail is also a professional photographer. Outside of work you may see her with her camera and/or her two large mutts.

Gail is in the office on Tuesdays and Fridays from 1:30 - 4:30 and works an additional 6 hours remotely.

◆ **Membership** ◆

Maybe you're new to Fort Massey or perhaps you've been around for a while but never formally become a member. Rev. Beth will be hosting membership sessions in May where you can explore what it means to be a member, practically and spiritually. New members will be received during a service of worship in June. Membership is open to both those who have been baptized and those who wish to be baptized. Please reach out to Rev. Beth at minister@fortmasseychurch.com for more information.

Website

We will be updating our website this spring, giving it a fresh new look and making it easier to navigate. Our website serves as the first point of contact potential newcomers have with our congregation. It is also where our established members go to access the most up to date information. With these varied needs in mind, we urge you to let us know what features and content you would find helpful. Are there examples of websites that you have found particularly easy to navigate? Have you ever thought, "it sure would be nice if..." Share your thoughts with us. Reach out to any member of the Administration Committee, (Alison M, Carol D, Viola G) or send a note Gail in the office at ftmassey@eastlink.ca

Session

The Session will meet on **Tuesday, April 23rd**, in person at the church. Please reach out to Alison McDonald if you have any questions.

Something New

During the Easter season (the 50 days following Easter Sunday) we will be experimenting with some new elements to our worship service. Here's what you can expect.

The Lord's Prayer: Each week we will speak together a different paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer. The beauty of the traditional translation lies in its familiarity, how the words roll off the tongue, how we can go into places of worship around the world and hear the familiarity of the same words spoken. Language is a powerful tool in shaping our minds and hearts. By interspersing contemporary translations with the traditional we can become aware of new insights, and our hearts can be opened in new ways. We might hear nuances in the prayer that otherwise would remain hidden. You are urged to pay attention to which paraphrases resonate with you, which ones make you bristle, which ones open new questions.

Silence: From time to time we will introduce more extended periods of silence and quiet reflection into the worship service. This might be woven in after the sermon or as part of our regular prayers, perhaps when we light the candle. So much of our lives is filled with words, with an outward focus. Silence holds the potential for us to hear the calling of God on our lives in ways that words cannot.

Brunswick Street Food Bank

April is "**Protein Drinks/ Bars Month**" please bring Boost and other brand names of protein drinks, and protein bars throughout the month of. All other items are still much appreciated; please refer to the list in the Tobin St. Entrance.

Brunswick Street Mission: Annual General Meeting

The Board of BSM will hold its 9th Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday April 30, 2024 at 7:00 pm** in-person at the Mission.

Fort Massey is one of 8 United Church congregations in the HRM who has an appointed representative on the Board of Directors of the Mission. Each member congregation shall have one vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Brunswick Street Mission, and this vote shall be through our duly appointed representative, David Griffiths. If you have any questions, please contact your representative.

Celebration of Life

All are welcome and encouraged to attend a service in celebration of the life of Mary Carmichael. The service will be held at JA Snow Funeral Home, 339 Lacewood Dr. at 10:00 am on Tuesday, April 23rd.

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.

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)*