

Prayer Corner

Prayer of the Month: "We Try to Play God Sometimes - Kwasi I Kena (from Africana Worship Book-Year B)

Merciful God, we admit that we try to play God sometimes. We see folks doing things "a little different," in your name; then we whisper-loudly. Without bothering to ask you, we set up sanctions against those who try to serve you sincerely. Who knows who we may be discouraging "in your name." Remind us that we do not have the final say in spiritual matters. Remind us that only disciples of Christ can bear spiritual fruit. Change our first reflex from scrutiny to hospitality. Let your words ring in our ears, for whoever is not against us is for us. Remind us that even cowards criticize, but the courageous encourage. Amen.

Celebration of Life

We send our prayers to the Garner family as Coral's mother Mrs. Nettie H. Summers has joined the Church Triumphant. Pray for safe travels and for God to cover them in this time.

Prayer Requests

- Horace Harper
- James Cummings
- Yahaya Kon (brother of Mary Toe)
- Karen Morgan
- Mario McCoy
- Corey Capers (Hospice Care)
- Sharon Martin
- Gary Martin
- Maxine Bogan (Recovering from Hip Surgery)
- Dr. Leon Rodrigues
- Clifton Fuller
- Dr. Barbara Doyle
- Jackie Sinkfield Fleming



Seniors and Homebound

- Verlene Booker
- Glenice Booker-Butler
- Margaret Carter
- Shirley Cummings
- Ginnie Dennis
- Doris Douglas
- Charlotte Drake
- Johnette Houston
- Pat Jemie
- Carrie Lewis
- Barbara Wulf

CAMP H O R
Memorial United Methodist Church

585 Fuller Avenue | St. Paul, MN 55103
www.camphorconnects.org

May 5, 2024



How Shall We Love | Sixth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to Camphor!

We are an open, welcoming, and affirming congregation, intentional and inclusive of all God's people. Camphor worship services are filmed, recorded and broadcast on line. Whoever you are – you are safe here.

Reverend Dennis M. Oglesby, Jr. , Pastor

Loving God. Loving People.

- † All stand
- * Please be Seated

Where indicated, speak or sing the words in **bold**

Centering Moment: Our Daily Bread

Check out today's passage from "Our Daily Bread" to get centered for Worship.



Prelude

† Acolyte

† Processional

Welcome

Rod Brown

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Rod Brown

One: Easter people, Jesus chose you and calls you friend!

Many: We abide in Christ because Christ abides in us.

One: Jesus made a home among us to show us how to love.

Many: We abide in Love because Love abides in us.

One: Jesus invites us in and beckons us to come to the table to know the joy that comes when we love one another the way God loves us.

Many: We abide in Joy because Joy abides with us.

One: Easter people, Jesus welcomes you home!

Many: We come to make our home with God and one another, bound together by Love and enlivened by Joy. Amen.

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, January 2023.)

This Week at Camphor UMC

Wednesday May 8th

4pm: Woman's Chorale Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

6pm: Camphor Connects Wednesdays

Thursday May 9th

3pm: COVID Vaccine Clinic

Friday May 10th

11am: Blood Drive (Lower Level)

Saturday May 11th

9am: Praise Dance Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

10am: UWF Meeting (Fellowship/Narthex)

10:30am: UMM Meeting (Conference Room)

1pm: Woman Chorale Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday May 12th

(Mother's Day)

8:45am: Adult Sunday School (Conf. Room)

10am: Worship (Sanctuary and Live-Stream)

Camphor Bulletin Board

Community Blood Drive: Friday May 10th!

The Minneapolis-St Paul Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is partnering with the American Red Cross, NABA Inc., and Camphor to host a blood drive on Friday, May 10th. The event starts at 11 am and goes until 5 pm. There will be a raffle for an air fryer, and all donors who participate will receive an Amazon gift card. Voter registration will also be available on-site. Lunch is first come, first served. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the chapter president, Dr. Stephanie Burrage, via president@dstmsp.org or Camphor's Health Ministry Coordinator, May McCoy-Anderson.



Service of Word and Table (The Great Thanksgiving) (Cont'd)

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

...now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Breaking of the Bread

Giving of The Bread and Cup

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

Hymn/Songs

† Benediction with Blessings

Pastor D

**Let the Church say Amen
Let the Church say Amen
God has spoken, Let the Church say Amen**

(Worshippers may depart. Go in Peace)

**Indulge in a delicious meal for just \$12 at Camphor Café,
hosted by Camphor's United Women of Faith.**



† Opening Prayer (In Unison)

O God, we come here this morning to worship and to praise you, glad that we live a world filled with diverse and beautiful examples of your creation. O God, we come knowing that some are burdened with the stresses of daily living and all that it involves. Some are wearied from tasks of serving others; some are worried over the state of the world and where that is all leading. Speak to us, O God, in the stillness of this time and remind us of Jesus' willingness to take our burdens upon Himself and to learn from Him - to experience His gentleness and steadfast love for all. We offer our praise and thanksgiving as gifts to you and for all that Christ has done for us. This we pray in His name. Amen.

Written by Moira Laidlaw and posted on her Liturgies Online website, <http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/>. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/04/opening-prayer-easter-6-b.html>.

(Worshippers May Enter)

† Morning Hymn

Jesus Loves Me

UMH 191

[Verse 1]

**Jesus loves me! this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.**

[Refrain]

**Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
for the Bible tells me so.**

[Verse 2]

**Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, "Let them come to Me [Refrain]**

[Refrain]

**Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
for the Bible tells me so.**

[Verse 3]

**Jesus loves me still today,
Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give
Light and love to all who live [Refrain]**

[Refrain]

**Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
for the Bible tells me so.**

(Worshippers May Enter)

Call to Confession

Rod Brown

Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

(Offer silent prayers of confession)

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

Rod Brown

There are several ways to look at vines, O Lord. Some of us look at vines as tangled messes of wood and fiber, twisted, battered, hopelessly knotted. Others of us see vines as delightful reminders of the many ways in which we are connected and interwoven to the main trunk of the plant. Jesus proclaimed, "I am the true vine." The source of our life stems from Jesus. All that we do or say, the directions in which we go, all reflect our anchor in our true vine. But far too often we have failed "the vine"; we have chosen the gnarled and knotted existence of anger, alienation, and bitterness. We have twisted the words of caring into words of self-preservation and self-interest. O great vinegrower God, prune this bitter direction from our lives. In your forgiving love, heal our tendency to strike out on our own, thinking that we have all the answers. Help us to exhibit new growth and strength of character, that we may faithfully serve you. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

Rod Brown

The commandment that we have from Christ Jesus is that we love one another, treating each other as beloved brothers and sisters. Abide in God's eternal love. Let its power and joy penetrate your hearts and spirits, preparing you for new growth in the Spirit. **Amen.**

(Worshippers May Enter)

Passing of the Peace

Rod Brown

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation, peace, and love. Saying, to our neighbors, "the peace of Christ be with you," the response is, "And also with you!"

Stewardship Moment

Pastor D

Offertory

† The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen**

(Worshippers May Enter)

Ministry of Music

Sanctuary Choir

† Scripture Lesson

John 15:9-17 (NIV)

9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

Ministry of Music

Sanctuary Choir

The Sermon

"Abiding in Christ Jesus (pt 2)"

Pastor D

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Pastor D

(Those who desire prayer or anointing with oil may come at this time.)

Service of Word and Table (The Great Thanksgiving)

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...We praise your name and join their unending hymn **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God, and power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**