

# CAMPHOR

Memorial United Methodist Church

December 1, 2024



Come, Let Us Adore Him | First Sunday of Advent

## **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 online. Whoever you are—you are safe here. You are loved here. You are invited into full participation in our life together.*

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585 Fuller Street | St. Paul, MN 55103

[www.camphorconnects.org](http://www.camphorconnects.org)

# Order of Worship

† If you are able, please stand | 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**

Sanctuary Choir

**Welcome/Announcements**

Carlton Garner

**What is Advent**

Juliet Mitchell

† **Call to Worship (Lighting First Advent Candle-Hope)**

Gloria Hazelwood & Family

Reader 1: We come seeking hope.

Reader 2: This year hasn't been easy. We come with our sadness, grief, burdens, and doubts. We come discouraged about troubles in our communities and in the world around us.

Reader 1: God hears our cries and responds with a sign of hope. Throughout the ages, God heard the cries of the oppressed and set them free. God built a highway through the wilderness, And sent us Jesus to be with us, Emmanuel.

Reader 1: We light this candle in hope, trusting in God's promises.

Reader 2: This candle is a sign of the coming light of Christ.

*(Light the First Advent candle on Advent Wreath)*

† **Opening Prayer (In Unison)**

**Holy God our hearts ache for hope for our lives and for our weary world. Help us to trust you are with us in both good and troubled times. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we may experience hope and the wonder of your presence with us, Emmanuel. Amen.**

*(Written by Rev. Dr. Theresa Mason)*

*(Young people are dismissed for Advent Series on "The Birth of Christ")*

*(Worshippers May Enter)*

[Verse 1]

Hark the herald angels sing.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Glory to the new-born King.  
Jesus, the light of the world.

[Chorus]

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.  
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.  
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.  
Jesus, the light of the world.

[Verse 2]

Joyful, all ye nations, rise.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Join the triumph of the skies.  
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]

[Verse 3]

Christ, by highest heav'n adored.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]

[Verse 4]

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!  
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]

**Call to Confession**

Carlton Garner

We have come this morning with full hearts - hearts that carry sorrow, and worry, and guilt. In this time we offer our hearts to God, remembering Christ's invitation that all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens may come to him. Trusting in that love, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

*(Offer silent prayers of confession)*

**Prayer of Confession (In Unison)**

**Holy God, we confess that we are busy with many preparations. We are busy with parties, with feasts, with giving. We are busy cleaning house and wrapping presents. We are busy with the stuff of the holiday. And we confess that our busyness may be misplaced, that we spend more time preparing for things than preparing for You. Draw us back to the center, which is You.**

**Remind us that our hearts and souls have work to do, too. Enable us to let go of that which does not matter, and to see what does matter. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

Carlton Garner

One: Friends, hear the good news: Jesus calls us follow him, and he will not lead us astray. His path is one of forgiveness and renewal. Know that you are forgiven, and so you are ready to go out and serve.

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

(“Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’.)

**Passing of the Peace**

Carlton Garner

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!”**

*(Worshippers May Enter)*

**Stewardship**

Rev. Florence Conover

**Offertory**

**† Doxology**

UMH 95

**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**

**Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)**

Carlton Garner

14 “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

*(Leader: The Word of God for the People of God/ All: Thanks be to God)*

*(Worshippers May Enter)*

**Ministry of Music**

Sanctuary Choir

**Sermon**

*“Hope in the Coming Light”*

Rev. Florence Conover

*Supplemental Sermon Scripture Passages*

*John 1:5; Psalm 27:1; Malachi 4:2; Romans 15:13; Psalm 23:4; Hebrews 6:19; 1 Peter 3:15*

## Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Florence Conover

*(Those who want to join the church, desire prayer or be anointed with oil may come at this time.)*

## Service of Word and Table (The Great Thanksgiving)

Rev. Florence Conover

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.**

...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. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen**

### Giving of The Bread and Cup

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

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen**

### † Benediction with Blessings

Rev. Florence Conover

**Let the Church say Amen**

**Let the Church say Amen**

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

*(Worshippers may depart. Go in Peace)*

***Come join us for the Family Meal in the Narthex/Fellowship Area!!!***

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*"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."*

*Desmond Tutu*

# Camphor Bulletin Board

## **This Week at Camphor Memorial UMC**

**Monday December 2nd** 6:30 pm–Trustee’s Meeting (Zoom)

**Wednesday December 4th** 4 pm–Woman’s Chorale Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
6 pm–Outreach Team Meeting (Zoom)  
6 pm–Christian Education Team Meeting (Zoom)

**Thursday December 5th** 3 pm–COVID Vaccine Clinic (Lower Level)

**Saturday December 7th** 9 am–Praise Dance Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
1 pm–Women’s Chorale Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

**Sunday December 8th** 10 am–Worship (Sanctuary and Live Stream)  
10 am– Children’s Worship/“Birth of Christ” (Large Sunday School Room)

## **Christian Education Update**

As we enter the season of Advent, we have several exciting updates for you!

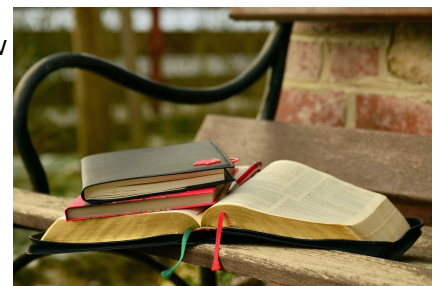
**Adult Sunday School Returns - December 15!:** Join us starting December 15 for Adult Sunday School! Classes will meet from 8:45 am to 9:45 am in the lower-level Conference Room, where books and lessons will be provided.

**Camphor Connect Wednesday Bible Study - December 11:** Camphor Connect Bible Study resumes on Wednesday, December 11 from 6:00 to 7:15 pm via Zoom. We’ll continue our study of Precepts for Living. Please read Week 15, "A Treasure Worth Seeking" (pp. 145) in preparation for the session.

**Christian Education Meeting for Teachers & Volunteers - December 4:** If you're interested in teaching or volunteering in Nursery, Children's Church, Sunday School, or Wednesday Night Bible Study, please join us on Zoom, December 4 from 6:00 to 7:15 pm for an informational meeting.

For questions, contact De Anna Conover at 651-508-1619 or [conoverdeanna@gmail.com](mailto:conoverdeanna@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you at these events as we grow together in faith!



# Sermon Notes

sermon title:

key verses:

Notes

Prayers

## **Prayer Corner**



### **Prayer of the Month: "A Prayer of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Italy, 13th century" United Methodist Book of Worship #530**

*Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy thought can drag downward, unconquered hearts, which no tribulation can wear out, upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **Celebration of Life: Richard Mangram**

We send prayers to the family of Richard Mangram who passed away on Tuesday, November 19th. The celebration of life service will be held on Tuesday, December 3rd at Pilgrim Baptist Church (732 Central Ave W, St Paul, MN 55104). Visitation is at 10am with the service starting at 11am.

### **Prayer Requests**

- William Watkins, Jr.
- Dave Anderson
- Dr. Joi Lewis
- Karen Morgan
- Calvin Morgan
- Willie P. McCoy, Jr.
- Sharon Martin
- Gary Martin
- Clifton Fuller
- Alton Campbell
- Mel Henderson

### **Seniors and Homebound**

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

*Loving God. Loving People.*