

Prayer Corner

Advent Prayer of the Month:

"Come, Lord Jesus, Even Now"

Adapted from Church Assistant: Liturgy, Bible Study, Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus, into this season of waiting and wonder. In a world that often chooses fear over faith, remind us that your light still breaks through the longest nights. When hope feels fragile, help us trust that you are near. When peace seems distant, settle our spirits with your presence. When joy is buried beneath grief or weariness, stir it gently within us. And when love is hard to offer, teach us again the depth of yours. Walk with us in our homes, in our neighborhoods, and in this church. Let us not rush through Advent, but dwell with intention—listening, watching, expecting. Let our lives reflect your promise, our witness speak of your coming, and our hearts make room for your arrival. In the name of the One who is always drawing near, we pray. Amen.

Prayer Requests

- People facing financial insecurity
- Somali Community
- Those who are grieving over the holidays

Seniors and Homebound

- Glenice Booker-Butler
- Brenda Bolar
- Doris Douglas
- Johnette Houston
- Pat Jemie
- Barbara Wulf



Loving God. Loving People.



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

December 14, 2025 | 10 am
What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope



Rev. Cynthia Williams | Lead Pastor

Welcome to Camphor Memorial UMC!

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.

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- ↑ 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.



Advent 2025: What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope



Even in a world marked by fear, the story of Jesus' birth reminds us that God draws near with reassurance and courage. Together we will explore the fears of Herod's time and our own, listening for the angels' persistent message of hope. Christ's presence breaks into our lives in ways that steady us and set us free. This Advent season, we invite you to walk with us as we seek God's transforming hope.

Prelude

† Bringing in the Light | Processional

Welcome

Pastor Cynthia Williams

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Louise Archer

- One: Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy."
- Many: Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"**
- One: Mary said, "How can this be?"
- Many: We often say, "But God, I am afraid."**
- One: Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.
- Many: So may we trust the Inviter.**
- One: May we heed God's invitation.
- Many: May we summon our courage & sing Gods praise. Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!**

(Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

Camphor Bulletin Board

S.E.R.V.E. @ Camphor Memorial UMC

Sharing **Every Resource, Voice, & Experience** | *"Because ministry takes all of us."*



Are you looking for a way to use your gifts and make a meaningful impact in the life of our church? S.E.R.V.E. @ Camphor is your invitation to share your God-given resources, voice, & experiences in service to our community. This is more than filling a spot—it's about living your faith out loud & strengthening the body of Christ through love in action. Join one of the ministry areas below & let your presence be a blessing.

Usher Ministry: Help create a welcoming environment for worshippers.
Contact: Saran Cryer - sarancryer@gmail.com

Communion Stewards: Assist in preparing and serving Holy Communion.
Contact: Harold Golden - harold.golden@comcast.net

Digital Ministry: Support worship and outreach through technology.
Contact: Forest Clardy-mediaministry@camphorconnects.org

Christian Education: Help lead and grow our spiritual formation programs.
Contact: De Anna Conover - deanna.conover@state.mn.us

Congregational Care Team: Support, prayer, presence, compassion, connection.
Contact: Nieeta Presley - nieeta@yahoo.com



Happy 106th Birthday Camphor!!!

Thursday, we joyfully celebrate 106 years since that first prayer meeting on December 18, 1919, when a faithful handful gathered and planted the seeds of this ministry. Through every season—storm, rebuilding, and renewal—God has carried this church with steadfast grace and purpose. As we honor our history and all who built this community, we give thanks that the same God who began a good work in us in 1919 is still at work today!

sermon title:

key verses:

Prayers

[illegible]

AA/HH 199 | UMH 234

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; [Refrain]**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; [Refrain]**

Gerald & Carolyn Burns

Many: We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.

One: You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us. Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

Many: Thanks be to God for that good news! Amen.

(Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

Centering Prayer (In Unison)
Holy One, the story of this season is not a new one. We’ve heard this tale before. We’ve seen the nativities, watched the plays, sung the songs, witness the children act it out. The story of this season is not a new one and yet we long to hear it as if it is. So spark our spirits awake. Call forth awareness, attention, and reverence in us. Allow us to hear this ancient tale with brand new ears. With hope we pray, Amen.

(Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

Passing of the Peace
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)

Song of Intercession *O Come All Ye Faithful (Chorus)* AA/HH 199 | UMH 234

***O come let us adore him, O Come let us adore him,
O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord***

***We give you all the glory, We give you all the glory,
We give you all the glory, Christ the Lord***

Joys and Concerns | Intercessory Prayer
Lord’s Prayer (In Unison)

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.

Gathering our Community/Announcements
Ministry of Giving/Offering

Scan the QR Code to give online via Square or PayPal!
1st Offering: Change for Change
2nd Offering: Tithes & General Offering



Mary Louise Archer

Mary Louise Archer

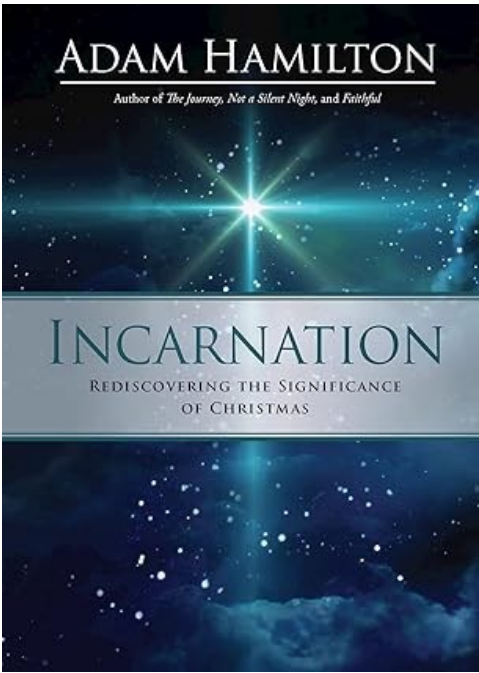
Pastor Cynthia Williams

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Camphor Bulletin Board

Advent Bible Study: Incarnation



Join us for for our last session of our three-week Advent Bible Study Series, *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*.

Based on Adam Hamilton’s exploration of the names of Christ in the Gospels, this study reflects on both the historical and personal meaning of Jesus’ birth.

Together, we will embrace more deeply the significance of the Christ-child who gathers us, heals us, and calls us to be light in our lives and in the world today.

Join us on Zoom by entering the Zoom Link information in your URL (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89022802750>).

Blue Christmas | Sunday, December 21st @ 4pm

Join us on December 21 at 4 PM for our Blue Christmas Service—a sacred time of reflection, comfort, and healing during a season that can be difficult for many. While Christmas is often portrayed as joyful and bright, we recognize that grief, loss, and other challenges can make this time of year feel heavy.

This service creates space to breathe, to be still, and to rest in God’s presence. Through prayer, music, and words of encouragement, we will gather as a community to acknowledge the full range of emotions this season can bring, trusting that Christ meets us in every moment.



Advent 2025 at Camphor: What Do You Fear? – Insisting on Hope



This Advent, Camphor Memorial UMC invites you into a season of honest reflection and courageous hope. Luke’s Gospel begins “In the time of Herod,” reminding us that Jesus was born into a world shaped by fear and instability. Yet the angels continually proclaimed, “Do not be afraid.” Like Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi, we are invited to face our fears with faith, trusting that Christ’s coming brings good news even in uncertain times.

Throughout Advent, we will explore the fears present in Herod’s time and the fears we carry today, seeking the hope that is resilient, grounded, and strengthened by community. As we walk this journey together, we look for the ways God is breaking in, calling us toward courage, justice, and joy.

Advent Worship Dates:

November 30 – In the Time of Herod: We’re Longing for God to Break In
December 7 – When We’re Running Out of Hope, God Is at Work
December 14 – Even in Our Fear, We Are Called Forward (Children will assist; Camphor’s 106th Anniversary)
December 21 – When You’re Afraid, Give Me Your Hand
December 21 at 4:00 p.m. – Blue Christmas Service
December 28 – Let Fear Fuel a Fire for Justice

As we journey through this season, may our hope deepen and our hearts open to the presence of Christ, who meets us with courage and peace.

**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**

Ministry of Music

Woman’s Chorale

† Scripture Lesson

Karin VanDyke

Jeremiah 1:4-10 | Luke 1:26-39 (NRSVue)

Jeremiah 1:4-10

4 Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, 5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” 6 Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” 7 But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.” 9 Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. 10 See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Luke 1:26-39

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” 34 Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” 35 The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. with God.” 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.

Luke 1:26-39-Cont'd

37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her. 39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country...

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

Ministry of Storytelling		A skit by Camphor’s Youth
Ministry of Music	<i>Silent Night</i>	Woman’s Chorale & Youth
Ministry of Music		Woman’s Chorale
Sermon		Rev. Dr. Theresa Mason

Even in Our Fear, We Are Called Forward

Invitation for Prayer	Rev. Dr. Theresa Mason
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(Those who desire prayer or anointing with oil may come at this time.)

† Benediction with Blessings	Rev. Dr. Theresa Mason
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**Let the Church say Amen, Let the Church say Amen
God has spoken, Let the Church say Amen**

(Worshippers may depart. Go in Peace)

Join us in the Narthex after worship for cake and punch as we celebrate 106 years of ministry and community!

Stay Connected with the Camphor Community!



We invite you to stay informed and inspired by subscribing to our weekly newsletter and church communications. Scan the QR code below to visit our website. Once you're there, simply scroll down to the "Subscribe" section and enter your email address.

By subscribing, you’ll receive regular updates about worship services, upcoming events, ministry opportunities, and more – right in your inbox. Don’t miss a moment of what God is doing at Camphor!



Camphor Bulletin Board

Announcement Submissions: Please submit announcements for the newsletter, bulletin, and Tuesday weekly email by 10 a.m. two weeks before the desired publication date, ensuring events are promoted at least a month in advance to allow the congregation sufficient time to engage and participate.

This Week @ Camphor Memorial UMC

<u>Tuesday, December 16th</u>	6 pm– Admin Council (Zoom)
<u>Wednesday, December 17th</u>	4 pm– Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 6:30 pm– Bible Study (Zoom)
<u>Thursday, December 18th</u>	Happy 106th Birthday Camphor Memorial UMC
<u>Saturday, December 20th</u>	10 pm– Angel Tree Prep (Conf. Rm)
<u>Sunday, December 21st</u>	8:45 am: Adult Sunday School (Conf. Rm) 10 am: Worship (Sanctuary & Live-Stream) 12 pm: Gift Pick-Up (Lg. Sunday School Rm) 12 pm: Angel Tree (Fellowship/Narthex Area) 4 pm: Blue Christmas (Sanctuary)

Change for Change: Small Coins, Big Impact!



We are excited to continue our new “Change for Change” monthly offering—an ongoing opportunity to give our loose coins and spare dollars to bless local nonprofits making a meaningful difference in our community. All funds collected go through the Oglesby House of Blessing and are distributed to a different organization each month.

December: Irreducible Grace Foundation - Fostering the holistic wellness of BIPOC youth in community

Bring your loose change each Sunday and join us in this small but powerful way to bless our neighbors and make a difference together!