

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

- Somali/Immigrant Community
- Project 2027 (Black Faith Agenda)
- Rondo Community

Seniors and Homebound

- 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 28, 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 Mary Louise Archer

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** Mary Louise Archer

One: Herod feared the truth and chose violence.

Many: But God moved in love, protecting the child.

One: Fear may rise, but love rises higher.

Many: God’s justice will not be stopped.

One: Christ was carried into safety,

Many: So that we might carry courage into the world

One: Let us worship the Liberating One, who turns fear into fire and fire into freedom

Many: We come with bold hope–God is with us, love is rising, and fear will not have the final word.

(Adapted from Church Assistant: Liturgy, Bible Study, Prayer)

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

- Saturday, January 3rd** 1 pm– Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- Sunday, January 4th** 8:45 am: Adult Sunday School (Conf. Rm)
10 am: Worship (Sanctuary & Live-Stream)

Year End Giving Reminder

As 2025 comes to a close and we prepare to enter 2026, please note that any contributions to Camphor you would like counted toward your 2025 giving must be submitted by December 28 (Today). This deadline helps us prepare accurate giving statements, which will be mailed in January 2026.



Thank you for your faithful generosity and continued support of our ministry.

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!



Sermon Notes

sermon title:

key verses:

Prayers

† Hymn of Praise

“Jesus, the Light of the World”

AA/HH 217

[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.**

[Refrain]

**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]**

(Worshippers May Enter)

Lighting of Advent Candle: Christ Candle

Gloria Little & Family

One: In a world still aching with injustice, where do you see Christ's light?

Many: We see Christ's light in every act of courage. We see Christ's light in community care, in truth-telling, in marching feet, in the wisdom of elders and the joy of children.

One: You are right. Even in a fearful world, Christ light still shines. Today, we light the light of the Christ candle as a sign that Emmanuel, God with us, goes before us, walks besides us and calls us to justice.

(Light all Advent candles and light the white candle in the middle)

Many: Thanks be to God for Christ's light still burns bright! Amen.

(Adapted from Church Assistant: Liturgy, Bible Study, Prayer)

Centering Prayer (In Unison) Mary Louise Archer

Liberating God, we are still listening for angels. We are still watching for stars. We are still hoping for peace on earth. So today, as the world turns and the headlines rage, as we read again the story of fear and flight, speak to us with power. Ignite our imagination. Fuel our faith. Let your Word rise in us like fire shut up in our bones. With hope and courage we pray, Amen.

(Adapted from Church Assistant: Liturgy, Bible Study, Prayer)

Passing of the Peace Mary Louise Archer

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 Thank You Lord AA/HH 531 | UMH 84

Thank you, Lord. (x3)
I just want to thank you, Lord.

Been so good (x3)
I just want to thank you, Lord.

You made away (x3)
I just want to thank you, Lord

You saved my soul (x3)
I just want to thank you, Lord.

Joys and Concerns | Intercessory Prayer Rev. William Petty

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 Mary Louise Archer

Ministry of Giving/Offering Rev. William Petty

Scan the QR Code to give online via Square or PayPal!

1st Offering: Change for Change

2nd Offering: Tithes & General Offering



† The Doxology MH 95 | AA/HH 651

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 Voices of Grace

† Scripture Lesson Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 (NLT) Jill Petty

13 After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” 14 That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, 15 and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: “I called my Son out of Egypt.”

19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. 20 “Get up!” the angel said. “Take the child and his mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead.” 21 So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother. 22 But when he learned that the new ruler of Judea was Herod’s son Archelaus, he was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee. 23 So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

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

Ministry of Music Voices of Grace

Sermon Let Fear Fuel A Fire For Justice Rev. William Petty

Invitation for Prayer Rev. William Petty

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

† Benediction with Blessings Rev. William Petty

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

(Worshippers may depart. Go in Peace)