

Prayer Corner

"A Prayer for the Lenten Journey "

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

God of Mercy, we come before You at the beginning of this Lenten season aware of our need for You. You call us to repentance, yet we cling to what is comfortable; You call us to truth, yet we resist what is costly. We confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and have not loved You or our neighbors as we should. When You call us to pray, we are distracted; when You call us to stand, we hesitate. Lord, have mercy on us and search our hearts.

As we walk these forty days, remove from us what is not like You—pride, fear, and anything that keeps us from love. Teach us to fast from what harms and to hold fast to what gives life. Remind us that You have carried our people through wilderness seasons before and will carry us still. Create in us clean hearts, renew right spirits within us, and prepare us to rise with Christ in faith, hope, and holy purpose. In Jesus' name, Amen.

A Word of Thanks

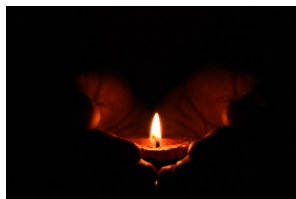
Barbara Bolar and family extend their sincere thanks to the Camphor family for the cards, prayers, and loving support during this time of loss. Your continued prayers and care in the passing of Brenda Bolar-Ford are deeply appreciated.

Prayer Requests

- De Anna Conover (Family Emergency)
- Min. JaNaé Imari (Recovering at Home)
- Rondo Community
- All who are grieving

Seniors and Homebound

- Doris Douglas
- Johnette Houston
- Pat Jemie
- Barbara Wulf



Loving God. Loving People.

CAMPHOR
Memorial United Methodist Church

585 Fuller Avenue | St. Paul, MN 55103
www.camphorconnects.org | 651-224-0341

March 1, 2026 | 10 am
God In-Between | Lent



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.



Prelude

† **Bringing in the Light | Processional**

Welcome

Pastor Cynthia Williams

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Trenna Ross McQuirter

One: We gather in a world that has mastered division – drawing lines between us, building walls around us, teaching us who to fear.

Many: Yet we serve a God who crosses roads, breaks barriers, and kneels in ditches beside the wounded.

One: On roads like Jericho – roads of violence, injustice, and quiet suffering – the question still echoes: "Who is my neighbor?"

Many: The neighbor is the one in need. The neighbor is the one we have overlooked. The neighbor is the one God places directly in our path.

One: In a nation still wrestling with race, poverty, displacement, and distrust – where too many are left bruised by systems and silence –

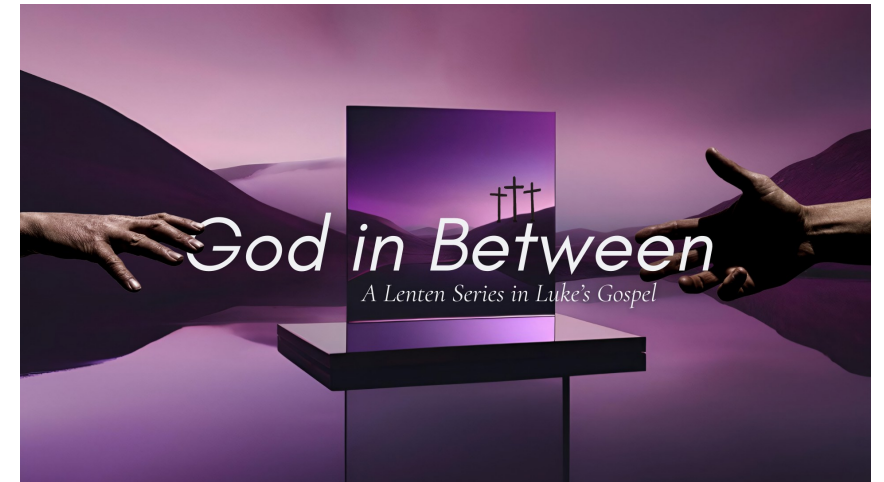
Many: Christ calls us not to cross the street, but to cross the line – to see, to stop, to serve, and to love without limit.

One: As we enter this Lenten season – walking the hard road of reflection, truth-telling, and transformation

Many: We will repent of what divides us. We will love the neighbor before us. We will follow Jesus from the road to the cross. Amen.

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

Camphor Bulletin Board



God In Between | A Lenten Series in Luke's Gospel

This Lenten season, we invite you to journey with us through God in Between—a sacred invitation to reflect on the spaces where faith meets uncertainty, where questions remain open, and where God is still at work. Lent calls us to slow our pace, quiet our distractions, and listen more closely for God's presence, especially in moments that feel unresolved or unfinished.

Through scripture, prayer, and worship, we will explore themes that hold tension together—hope and grief, rest and growth, mercy and justice—trusting that God does not abandon us in the middle of the story. Rather than rushing toward easy answers, this season invites us to dwell in holy complexity and discover how God shapes us through patience, honesty, and faithfulness.

March 1st | Stranger & Neighbor (Luke 10:25-37)

March 8th | Faith & Works (Luke 10:38-42)

March 15th | Rest & Growth (Luke 13:6-9)

March 22nd | Righteousness & Mercy (Luke 19:1-10)

March 29th- Palm Sunday | Shouting & Silence (Luke 29-40)

April 3rd- Good Friday | Seven Last Words Service-6:30pm

April 5th-Resurrection Sunday | Grief & Hope (Luke 24:1-12)

We encourage you to remain engaged throughout the Lenten journey and come just as you are. Bring your questions, your weariness, your hope, and your trust, as we walk together and stay open to the ways God continues to meet us, guide us, and transform us in the in-between.

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 & 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:

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.

Sharing of the Meal *Please come forward as the ushers direct to receive by intinction: taking a piece of bread and dipping it into the cup.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)

Gracious and faithful God, We thank You for Your mercy that meets us on every road and Your grace that does not give up on us. In this Lenten season, You call us to renewal and deeper trust. Thank You for walking with us when the journey is difficult and for shaping us through truth and love. As we continue toward the cross, keep us grounded in gratitude and anchored in hope. Amen.

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

† Benediction with Blessings

Pastor Cynthia Williams

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

(Worshippers may depart. Go in Peace)

† Hymn of Praise

"Blessed Assurance" AA/HH 508 | UMH 369

[Verse 1]

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

[Refrain]

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.**

[Verse 2]

**Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]**

[Verse 3]

**Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]**

(Worshippers May Enter)

Centering Prayer (In Unison)

Trenna Ross McQuirter

God of mercy and holy disruption, You see the roads we travel and the suffering we sometimes avoid. In this Lenten season—this hard road of reflection, truth-telling, and transformation—You call us to look again at who lies before us. When we have crossed to the other side out of fear, fatigue, or indifference, You have not crossed away from us. You have drawn near with compassion and grace. As we center ourselves now, unsettle what has grown comfortable within us. Soften what has hardened. Awaken what has gone numb. Turn our hearts from stranger to neighbor, from hesitation to mercy, from comfort to courageous love. As we walk this road toward the cross, steady us in Your truth and anchor us in Your grace. Make us a people who see, who stop, and who serve. In Christ our Lord, Amen.

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

Passing of the Peace

Trenna Ross McQuirter

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 | Children may depart for Children's Ministries)

Song of Intercession

God Has Smiled On Me

AA/HH 152

*God has smile on me,
He has set me free,
God has smile on me,
He's been good to me.*

Intercessory Prayer

Pastor Cynthia Williams

Announcements | Ministry of Giving

Pastor Cynthia Williams

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



† 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**

UMH 95 | AA/HH 651

Ministry of Music

Sanctuary Choir

† Scripture Lesson

Luke 10: 25-37(NRSVue)

Carlton Garner

25 An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" 27 He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." 28 And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." 29 But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead.

† Scripture Lesson

Luke 10:25-37 (NRSVue) -Cont'd

Carlton Garner

31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

Ministry of Music

Sanctuary Choir

Sermon

God In Between: Stranger & Neighbor

Pastor Cynthia Williams

Invitation for Prayer

Pastor Cynthia Williams

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

Call to Confession

Pastor Cynthia Williams

In this Lenten season of repentance and renewal, let us come honestly before God, confessing the ways we have fallen short of Christ's call and asking to be made new.

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

God of mercy and truth, We confess that we have not always walked the road You set before us. We have allowed fear to guide us, pride to harden us, and comfort to shape our choices. We have sinned in what we have done and in what we have left undone. Forgive us for the ways we resist transformation. In this season of reflection, search us and renew us. Strip away what is not of You and restore in us a right spirit, that we may follow Christ more faithfully. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Pastor Cynthia Williams

One: Beloved, hear the good news: God's mercy is deeper than our failure and stronger than our sin.

All: In Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and strengthened to walk this Lenten journey in grace. Amen.

Thomas Scholarship 2026 | Honoring a Legacy, Investing in Our Future



Established in 2018 to honor Rev. Gloria Roach Thomas and Leroy Thomas, this scholarship reflects Camphor's commitment to higher education, social justice, and developing future leaders. Over the past seven years, Camphor has awarded multiple scholarships each year to students pursuing degrees in a wide range of fields.

Scholarships of \$500-\$2,000 are available for students enrolled in college or vocational programs in Fall 2026. **Apply by June 1, 2026 by submitting materials to jones010@umn.edu.**

New Members Classes | March 8th & 15th

New to Camphor or ready to take the next step? Join us for the **New Members Orientation**, held after worship on **Sundays, March 8 and March 15**.

Contact the church at office@camphorconnects.org if you would like to participate.

These sessions offer an opportunity to learn more about Camphor's mission, ministries, and what it means to belong to this faith community.



Girl Scout Cookie Time!

It's Girl Scout Cookie season! Corinne is representing Troop 58205, and cookie sales run through March 29.

Look for her cookie table after worship in the Fellowship Area on:

Sunday, March 1
Sunday, March 8
Sunday, March 15
Sunday, March 22

Stop by, support a young leader, and grab your favorite cookies!



Camphor Bulletin Board

Announcement Submissions: Submit announcements by 10 a.m. two weeks before publication (events: at least one month in advance).

This Week @ Camphor Memorial UMC

<u>Wednesday, March 4th</u>	6:30 pm Bible Study (Zoom)
<u>Friday, March 6th</u>	11 am Exercise w/ Connie (Lg Sunday School Rm)
<u>Saturday, March 7th</u>	1 pm: Women's Chorale Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
<u>Sunday, March 8th</u>	8:45 am: Adult Sunday School (Conf. Rm) 10 am: Worship (Sanctuary & Live-Stream) 11:30 am: Girl Scout Cookie Sales (Fellowship/Narthex Area)

Change for Change: Small Coins, Big Impact!



We continue our monthly Change for Change offering—loose coins and spare dollars supporting local organizations through the Oglesby House of Blessing.

The March 2026 recipient is Love First, founded in 2020 and led by Chauntyll Allen and Satara Strong-Allen, Love First builds a school-to-success pipeline by dismantling barriers for youth, connecting them to community resources, and creating safe, culturally centered spaces where young people can cultivate joy, purpose, and long-term success.

Experiencing God Bible Study

Join us for an eight-week study, *Seven Realities for Experiencing God: How to Know and Do the Will of God*, on Wednesday's at 6:30 pm via Zoom

The book is required for this study. You may purchase it on Amazon

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89022802750>

