

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.



Loving God. Loving People.

CAMPHOR
Memorial United Methodist Church

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

March 15, 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 (In Unison)**

Barbara Harris-O'Neal

Patient and faithful God, though we gather today from different homes and places, we come united by Your Spirit. In a world that demands quick results and constant productivity, You remind us that growth takes time and grace makes room for becoming.

Like the fig tree tended by a patient gardener, we stand in between—still growing, still learning, still held by Your mercy. In this Lenten season, teach us to trust Your timing and remain rooted in hope, knowing You have not given up on us.

As we worship together across distance, center our hearts, renew our spirits, and help us follow Jesus from barrenness toward new life. Amen.

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

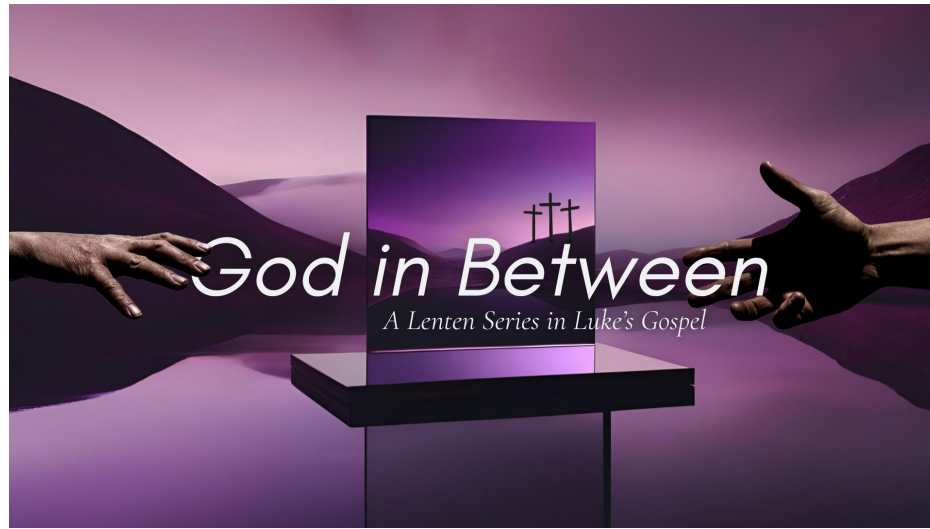


Palm Sunday Faith Action | March 29th

Join thousands on **Palm Sunday, March 29** for **Palm Sunday Faith Action: Reclaiming Christianity in the Public Square at the Minnesota Capitol**. The gathering will include a procession, prayer service, proclamations, mini-sermonettes, and worship led by a Black Church Power Project (BCPP) choir and a multiracial choir; those unable to march may meet at the Capitol at 2:30 pm.

Register online for details, including choir rehearsal information. Scan the QR Code to register





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 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.

[Refrain]

Praise Him!

Praise Him!

Praise Him!

Praise Him!

**Jesus, Blessed Savior
He's Worthy to be praised!**

[Verse 1]

**From the rising of the sun
until the going down of the same,
He's worthy, Jesus is Worthy
He's worthy to be Praise [Refrain]**

[Verse 2]

**God is our rock
Hope of salvation
A strong deliverer
In Him will I always trust**

[Bridge]

**Glory! Glory!
In all things, give Him glory!
Jesus, Blessed Savior
He's Worthy to be praised!**

Centering Prayer (In Unison)

Barbara Harris-O'Neal

Patient and faithful God, In this Lenten season, remind us that growth is often hidden before it is visible. When we feel delayed, discouraged, or uncertain, You are still tending the soil of our lives. When we doubt our progress, You are still cultivating strength within us. Prune what does not bear fruit and nourish what remains. Teach us to trust Your timing and not despise small beginnings. As we walk toward the cross, deepen our endurance, refine our character, and root us in hope that does not wither. Amen.

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

Passing of the Peace

Barbara Harris-O'Neal

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!"**

Intercessory Prayer

Rev. William Petty

Prayer Requests

- T. Mychael Rambo- Recovering from RSV. Surgery to be rescheduled
- Middle East
- Our Children and Young Adults
- Our Community
- Palm Sunday Faith Action

Seniors and Homebound

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

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

Pastor Cynthia Williams

Ministry of Giving | Offering

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

UMH 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**

† Scripture Lesson

Luke 13:6-9 (NRSVue)

Rory Berry

6 Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7 So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' 8 He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.' "

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

Ministry of Music

Min. Winston Holt

Sermon

God In Between: Rest & Growth

Pastor Cynthia Williams

Invitation for Prayer

Pastor Cynthia Williams

† 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)



"There are seasons in every life when prayers feel unanswered and progress feels painfully slow. But the absence of visible fruit does not mean the absence of God. Sometimes God is working beneath the surface—loosening hardened soil, strengthening fragile roots, preparing us for a future we cannot yet see. Faith is trusting that the same God who planted us has not forgotten us. Growth takes time, and grace gives us room to become.

– Rev. Dr. Renita J. Weems

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.**

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



Join us for our **Seven Last Words Good Friday Service** on **Friday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m.** at Camphor Memorial UMC.

This powerful service will reflect on the final words spoken by Jesus from the cross through scripture, prayer, music, and brief reflections from guest preachers.

Featured speakers include **Rev. William Petty, Min. JaNaé Imari, Min. Steven Belton, Rev. Dr. Theresa Mason, Rev. Dr. Genia Garrett, Rev. Henry Dolopei, and Min. Isiah Dennis.**

All are invited to gather for this sacred time of remembrance and reflection as we journey together toward the Resurrection.

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>Tuesday, March 17th</u>	6 pm Admin Council Meeting (Zoom)
<u>Friday, March 20th</u>	9 am Dorcas Circle (Lower Level)
<u>Saturday, March 21st</u>	10 am Trustee's Meeting (Conference Rm.) 1 pm Voice of Grace Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
<u>Sunday, March 22nd</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) 11:30 am Palm Sunday Forum (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.

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. The final Sunday to purchase will be Sunday, March 22 Stop by, support a young leader, and grab your favorite cookies!

