

CAMPHOR

Memorial United Methodist Church



Baccalaureate

Sunday

July 13, 2025

Never Alone

Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church
585 Fuller Street | St. Paul, MN 55103
www.camphorconnects.org

Order of Worship

† If you are able, please stand | Where indicated, speak or sing the words in **bold**

Prelude		Judy Henderson
Acolyte		
Processional	<i>Graduation March</i>	Judy Henderson
Welcome & Announcements		Mary Louise Archer
† Call to Worship		Mary Louise Archer

Leader: As we gather today, we give thanks for the journey that has brought us to this moment.

People: We are grateful for the lessons learned, the friendships formed, and the challenges overcome.

Leader: Lord, bless these graduates with wisdom, courage, and compassion as they walk forward.

People: May they be guided by truth, strengthened by love, and inspired to serve.

Leader: As they face the unknown, grant them peace in times of uncertainty and confidence in their abilities.

People: May their paths be filled with purpose, joy, and boundless opportunity.

Leader: For the teachers, mentors, families, and friends who have supported them along the way, we give thanks.

People: May their encouragement continue to uplift and sustain these graduates.

Leader: Lord may Your light shine upon them, and may their lives be a reflection of Your grace.

People: Amen.

(Written by)

† Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Holy God, we extol and honor you for who you are. We praise you for your faithfulness and for your tender mercies that are renewed every morning. We exalt you, Sovereign One, for every blessing of yesterday, the gift of this day, and the promises of our tomorrows. Grant us an enduring faith as we strive against oppression and despair. Endow us with contagious joy that uplifts the downtrodden and inspires hope in you. Increase in us the faith and courage of the prophets, the love of Jesus, and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. In your majestic name we pray, Amen.

[Verse 1]

**I, the Lord of the sea and sky, I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.
I who have made the stars of the night, I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

[Refrain]

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

[Verse 2]

**I the Lord of the snow and rain, I have born my people's pain
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? [Refrain]**

[Verse 3]

**I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide Till their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them Whom shall I send? [Refrain]**

(Worshippers May Enter)

Call to Prayer

Mary Louise Archer

All loving, ever gracious God, we open our hearts to your presence today as we celebrate a milestone in the life of our graduates. We give you thanks for all the things you put in place that brought us to this moment... for the wisdom, insight and strength you provided, for the facilities and resources of higher learning, for the teachers, tutors and support staff for study spaces, the encouragement by friends and family. Grant strength and good cheer to all our graduates as they embark on a new part of their journey. In the Name of our Lord, who walks the journey with us. AMEN. *(written by Frank Schaefer)*

(Offer silent prayers of confession)

Prayer of Intercession

Rev. Isiah Dennis

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.

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Isiah Dennis

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!"**

Stewardship Moment

Rev. Isiah Dennis

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

Ministry of Music

Damari Jackson

"The Greatest Love of All" | Composer- Michael William Masser

† Scripture Lesson

Philippians 1:6; 4:4-9 (NIV)

Mary Louise Archer

1:6

"...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

4:4-9

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

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

Ministry of Music

Kevin Jackson

"You'll Never Walk Alone" | Composers-Rodgers and Hammerstein

Message to Graduates

Rev. Isiah Dennis

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Rev. Isiah Dennis

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

Acknowledgement of Graduating Students

Mary Louise Archer

Acknowledgement of Thomas Scholars

Chaplain Irene Weaver

† Benediction with Blessings

Rev. Isiah Dennis

Recessional

Graduation March

(Worshippers may depart. Go in Peace)

Please join the Graduates and Thomas Scholars in the Narthex/Fellowship Area for a light reception following service!

Congratulations to our Graduates and Thomas Scholars



High School

Rahel Hashel Woodbury High School	Keyon Archer Cretin Derham Hall
Senhit Hashel Cretin Derham Hall	Nicholas Vukelich Eden Prairie High School
Michelle Dallow-Elliott Blake School	Luciana Drechsel St Peter High School
Caleb Nesbitt Highland Senior High School	Jordan Webber Eden Prairie Senior High School
Peyton Fuller East Ridge High School	Scarlett Gibson Summit St Paul Academy
Jayda Thornton Lakeville North	

Colleges and Universities

Ariam Hashel | Engineering, Vanderbilt University
Malaki Milton-Jackson | Mechanical Engineering, University of St Thomas
Asla Hashel | Pre-Dental, Emory University
Chase Abercrombie | Associates Degree, Inver Grove Heights Community College

Thomas Scholarship Recipients

Marquan Harper	Latrese Johnson
Wacheke Njoroge	Keyon Archer
Ream Hashel	Zhara Christopher



"Becoming isn't about arriving somewhere or achieving a certain aim. I see it instead as forward motion, a means of evolving, a way to reach continuously toward a better self. The journey doesn't end."

– Michelle Obama, Becoming

Camphor Bulletin Board

This Week at Camphor Memorial UMC

***M-F: 7 am-CCEL/Bethel University Summer Gardening (Noah's Ark)**

Tuesday, July 15th

6 pm- Admin Council Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, July 16th

4 pm- Summer Music Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

6 pm- Mindful Movement (Lg. Sunday School Room)

Friday, July 18th

11 am- Trusted Messenger Grant Mtg (Conf. Room)

Saturday, July 19th

Rondo Days

9 am- Exercise w/ Connie (Lg Sunday School Room)

1 pm- Summer Music Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday, July 20th

10am- Worship (Sanctuary and Live Stream)

Volunteer Corner - Get Involved at Camphor Memorial UMC!

Are you looking for a way to serve and make a difference in the life of our church? Several ministries at Camphor Memorial UMC are currently seeking volunteers. Your time and talents are needed! Consider joining one of the following ministry teams:

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.

Contacts: Dr. Darlene Fry - darlene-fry1637@comcast.net

Christian Education: Help lead and grow our spiritual formation programs.

Contact: De Anna Conover - deanna.conover@state.mn.us

Volunteers are needed for the 2025 Black Affair to help ensure a successful event. Roles include Event Greeter, Silent Auction Assistant, and Ticket Table Assistant. To sign up, contact Dr. Beverly Hawkins at beverley.hawkins@comcast.net.

Sermon Notes

sermon title:

key verses:

Notes

Prayers

Prayer Corner



Prayer of the Month: "For a Joy That Transcends" Cole Arthur Riley -Black Liturgies

Honest God, We don't want to fake it. We can't go on with forced smiles and feigned laughter when happiness seems so far from us. The weight of the world is so heavy, it feels as if we don't have any strength left to carry joy along with it. Be with us now as we try to reclaim and attune to some beauty in the world. Keep us from despair. Let joy be the arms that carry us from our hopelessness. Not that we would have to manufacture our own happiness, but that a mysterious peace would comfort us, that joy itself would be the ground beneath our feet when we feel weary. Grant us emotional honesty on the journey, knowing you will never ask us to dismiss our pain; rather you ensure that our pain doesn't consume us. Remind us that more than one thing can be true at once. That the world can be terrible and still dare to be beautiful. In the fight against oppression in all forms, may joy protect us. Amen.

Celebration of Life- Melvin Giles

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family and loved ones of Melvin Giles, Co-Founder of the Urban Farm & Garden Alliance and Co-Chair of the Partnership Advisory Committee. A beloved community organizer and educator, Melvin's legacy of environmental justice, peace building, and unity reached across the Twin Cities and beyond. Camphor honors his life and lifts his sister-in-law, Rena Moran, and all who mourn in love and prayer.

Prayer Requests

- Linda Anderson-Hill
- Gayle Anderson
- Johnny Barker
- Gordon Edmond (Brother of Stacey Swain & Joel Edmond)
- Larry Gray
- Xavier Golden
- Melvin Henderson
- Dr. Joi Lewis
- Gary Martin
- Sharon Martin
- Willie P. McCoy, Jr.
- Karen Morgan
- Calvin Morgan

Seniors and Homebound

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