

## **Prayer Corner**

### **Prayer of the Month:**

#### **"For Beauty in the Mundane" Cole Arthur Riley -Black Liturgies**

*God of every beautiful thing. Make us people of wonder. Show us how to hold on to nuance and vision when our souls become addicted to pain, to the unlovely. It is far easier to see the gloom and decay; so often it sings a louder song. Attune our hearts to the good still stirring in our midst, not that we would give ourselves to toxic positivity or neglect the pain of the world, but that we would be people capable of existing in the tension. Grant us habits of sacred pause. Let us marvel not just at the grand or majestic, but beauty's name etched into every ordinary moment. Let the mundane swell with a mystery that makes us breathe deeper still. And by this, may we be sustained and kept from despair. Amen.*

#### **Celebration of Life: Gordon Edmond**

We extend our prayers and condolences to the family of Gordon Edmond, who passed away on Saturday, July 26th. Gordon was the beloved brother of Stacey Swain and Joel Edmond. A Celebration of Life was held this weekend in Nashville, TN. The family deeply appreciates the outpouring of love, prayers, and support during this time.

#### **Prayer Requests**

- Brenda Anderson (Sister of Chaplain Irene)
- Gayle Anderson
- Johnny Barker
- Brenda Bolar-Ford
- Edward Goodwin, Jr. (Brother of Fairy Goodwin)
- Larry Gray
- Dr. Joi Lewis
- Gary Martin
- Sharon Martin
- Karen Morgan
- Willie P. McCoy, Jr.



#### **Seniors and Homebound**

- Verlene Booker
- Glenice Booker-Butler
- Margaret Carter
- James Cummings
- Ginnie Dennis
- Doris Douglas
- Charlotte Drake
- Johnette Houston
- Pat Jemie
- Joyce Neal Long
- Barbara Wulf

*Loving God. Loving People.*



585 Fuller Avenue | St. Paul, MN 55103  
[www.camphorconnects.org](http://www.camphorconnects.org)

**August 3, 2025 | 10 am  
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost**



**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**

† **Acolyte**

† **Processional**

**Welcome**

Pastor Cynthia Williams

**Announcements**

Carlton Garner

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Carlton Garner

One: Beloved, God has not given us a spirit of fear–

**Many: But of power, love, and a sound mind.**

One: The Spirit is stirring, the season is shifting, and a new chapter begins today.

**Many: What God starts, God will sustain. What God shapes, God makes beautiful.**

One: Let us worship the One who writes beauty into every beginning.

**Many: With open hearts and expectant faith, we give God all the glory!**

† **Opening Prayer (In Unison)**

**God of new seasons and ancient promises, we thank You for this day. You have called us not to fear, but to faith—and not just any faith, but the faith You stirred in Timothy, in his grandmother Lois, and his mother Eunice. We welcome Pastor Cynthia with joy, and we welcome Your Spirit with expectation. Make this season beautiful with Your presence. Let every gift be stirred, every heart be open, and every word bear fruit. In the name of Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Amen.**

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

# Sermon Notes

sermon title:

key verses:

Prayers

...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:

The Lord’s Prayer

**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**

Giving of The Bread and Cup

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**  
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

Prayer of Intercession

Pastor Cynthia Williams

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

† 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)*

**Join us in the Fellowship/Narthex area immediately following service as we extend a warm welcome to Rev. Cynthia Williams with a special reception!**



*“When God starts something in you, it may begin quietly–  
but it always ends in beauty.”*

*– Inspired by 2 Timothy 1:6–7*

[Verse 1]

**O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds thy hand have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

[Refrain]

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!**

[Verse 2]

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze; [Refrain]**

[Verse 3]

**And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin; [Refrain]**

[Verse 4]

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art! [Refrain]**

*(Worshippers May Enter)*

Call to Confession

Carlton Garner

God invites us not to hide our flaws but to bring them forward with trust. Before the beauty, there is often brokenness. Before the new, there is often letting go. Let us come before the Lord and be honest—so that grace may restore and reshape us.

*(Offer silent prayers of confession)*

### Prayer of Confession (In Unison)

**Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have not always believed in the beauty You are creating in us. We've clung to fear instead of faith, silence instead of boldness, comfort instead of calling. Forgive us for the times we have buried our gifts and dimmed our light. Breathe new life into us. Rekindle what You placed inside us. Make us vessels of Your beauty and agents of Your grace. In Christ's name, Amen.**

**Words of Assurance** Carlton Garner

One: Hear the good news: God has not forgotten you. The gift within you is still alive. The grace around you is still flowing. In Jesus Christ, we are renewed, restored, and recommissioned.

**All: Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. We are made new. Amen.**

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

## Passing of the Peace

Carlton Garner

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)*

**SPRC Moment** Theresa Neal & Pedro Ramos, Co-Chairs

Theresa Neal &amp; Pedro Ramos, Co-Chairs

**Stewardship Moment** Pastor Cynthia Williams

Pastor Cynthia Williams

## Offertory

### † 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**

**Ministry of Music** Mass Choir

Mass Choir

## † Scripture Lesson      2 Timothy 1:1-14 (CEB)      Carlton Garner

**2 Timothy 1:1-14 (CEB)** Carlton Garner

Carlton Garner

From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, to promote the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus. 2 To Timothy, my dear child. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I'm grateful to God, whom I serve with a good conscience as my ancestors did. I constantly remember you in my prayers day and night. 4 When I remember your tears, I long to see you so that I can be filled with happiness. 5 I'm reminded of your authentic faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice. I'm sure that this faith is also inside you. 6 Because of this I'm reminding you to revive God's gift that is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 God didn't give us a spirit that is timid but one that is powerful, loving, and self-controlled. 8 So don't be ashamed of the testimony about the Lord or of me, his prisoner. Instead, share the suffering for the good news, depending on God's power. 9 God is the one who saved and called us with a holy calling. This wasn't based on what we have done, but it was based on his own purpose and grace that he gave us in Christ Jesus before time began. 10 Now his grace is revealed through the appearance of our savior, Christ Jesus. He destroyed death and brought life and immortality into clear focus through the good news. 11 I was appointed a messenger, apostle, and teacher of this good news. 12 This is also why I'm suffering the way I do, but I'm not ashamed. I know the one in whom I've placed my trust. I'm convinced that God is powerful enough to protect what he has placed in my trust until that day. 13 Hold on to the pattern of sound teaching that you heard from me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 14 Protect this good thing that has been placed in your trust through the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

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

**Ministry of Music** Mass Choir

## Mass Choir

**Sermon** *God Make Things Beautiful* Pastor Cynthia Williams

*God Make Things Beautiful* Pastor Cynthia Williams

Pastor Cynthia Williams

**Service of Word and Table (The Great Thanksgiving)** Pastor Cynthia Williams

Pastor Cynthia Williams

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 and 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.**