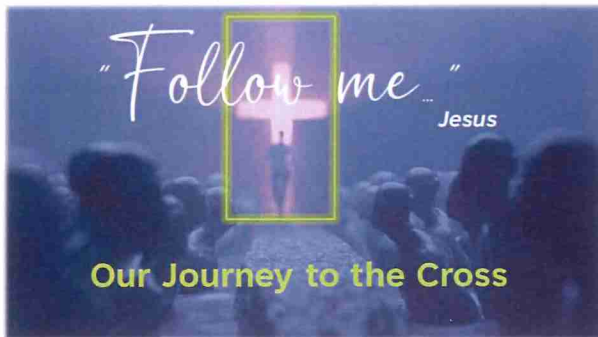


585 Fuller Street | St. Paul, MN 55103  
www.camphorconnects.org



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March 26, 2023  
10:00am

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## Following in the Valley

"...As a fearful people, we are tempted to make safety our highest good and to make virtues of suspicion, preemption, and accumulation. But this leaves the church ill-equipped to welcome the stranger, love the enemy, or give to those in need."

Scott Bader-Saye *Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear: Choosing Trust over Safety*

(You are invited to center your heart and mind for worship.  
Where indicated, speak or sing the words in bold)

Prelude

The Light Enters

Welcome

Acolytes

Rev. Frenchye Magee  
Interim Pastor

We gather to worship God, who makes bones dance in the desert

**Creator of life: bring us joy in the name of Jesus**

We gather to worship God, who calls Lazarus from the grave.

**Mourner of the dead: take away our grief in the name of Jesus**

We gather to worship God, who refreshes dry lives and forgives us.

**Giver of hope: heal us and hold us forever in the name of Jesus.**

Prayer of New Beginnings

† If you are able, please stand.

Assurance of Pardon

*In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of Christ

*The peace of Christ be with you.*

**And also with you.**

†Opening Hymn

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms (UMC 133)*

**What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Refrain: Leaning, leaning,  
Safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Offering Prayer

Offertory Song

*"They'll Know We are Christians (by Our Love)"*

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

† If you are able, please stand.

We will walk with each other we will walk hand in hand  
We will walk with each other we will walk hand in hand  
and together we will spread the news, that God is in our land  
and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
And we'll guard each one's dignity  
And save each one's pride  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

#### Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

#### Song

"Please Guide Me"

Voices of Grace

Guide my feet Lord, Help me to walk in the Christian way;  
Guide my feet, Lord, Guide them every day.

Guide my hands Lord, Let them work for You each day,  
Guide my hands Lord, Guide them every day.

Guide my thoughts Lord Let me think of You each day;  
Guide my thoughts Lord, guide them every day.

Guide my words Lord, Help me to spread Your love each day;  
Guide my words, Lord guide them every day.

Please guide! Please guide me!  
Help me to be willing, Lord to just let You lead!  
Please guide me! Please guide me!  
Guide me every day, Lord, Guide me every day!

(spoken) GUIDE ME!

Scripture *Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11:1-45 (New International Version)*

*Ezekiel 37:1-14*

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

\*\*\*

I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act,"

*John 11:1-45*

There was a certain man who was very ill. He was known as Lazarus from Bethany, which is the hometown of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary did a beautiful thing for Jesus. She anointed the Lord with a pleasant-smelling oil and wiped His feet with her hair. Her brother Lazarus became deathly ill, so the sisters immediately sent a message to Jesus which said, 'Lord, the one You love is very ill.' Jesus heard the message and said, His sickness will not end in his death but will bring great glory to God. As these events unfold, the Son of God will be exalted."

He dearly loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. However, after receiving this news, He waited two more days where He was.

\*\*\*

As Jesus was approaching Bethany (which is about two miles east of Jerusalem), He heard that Lazarus had been in the tomb four days. Now many

people had come to comfort Mary and Martha as they mourned the loss of their brother. Martha went to meet Jesus when word arrived that He was approaching Bethany, but Mary stayed behind at the house.

\*\*\*

When Jesus saw Mary and Martha's profound grief and the moaning and weeping of their companions, He was deeply moved by their pain in His spirit and was intensely troubled. Jesus asked, "Where have you laid his body?" They answered, 'Come and see.'

As they walked, Jesus wept; and everyone noticed how much Jesus must have loved Lazarus. But others were skeptical and they asked, 'If this man can give sight to the blind, He could have kept him from dying...and Jesus loves Lazarus so much, why didn't He get here much sooner?'

*The word of God for the people of God.*

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermonic Song

*I Have Decided (to Follow Jesus)*

**I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
No turning back, no turning back.**

**Though none go with me, I still will follow;  
though none go with me, I still will follow;  
though none go with me, I still will follow;  
No turning back, no turning back.**

**The world behind me, the cross before me;  
the world behind me, the cross before me,  
the world behind me, the cross before me;  
No turning back, no turning back  
No turning back, no turning back.**

Sermon

"Following in the Valley..."

Rev. Magee



Intercessory Prayer

*Your Grace and Mercy*

**Your grace and mercy brought me through.  
I'm living this moment, because of You.  
I want to thank You, and praise You too.  
Your grace and mercy brought me through.**

†Closing Hymn

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

**I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
No turning back, no turning back.**

†Closing Blessing

Postlude



# holy week

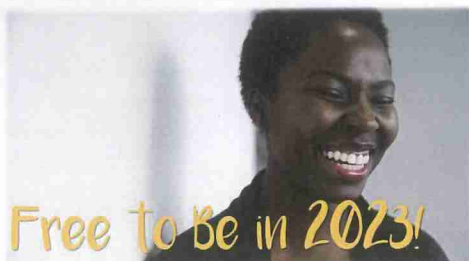
## *at Camphor*

April 2– Palm Sunday Worship, 10:00am

April 7– SPBIMA\* Good Friday Service, 12:00 noon

\*St. Paul Black Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance

**April 9–Easter Sunday Worship, 10:00am**



## Next Week's Worship!

### Palm Sunday

### We are praying for...

#### Sympathy

- Edsel Ammons  
(death of sister)
- Joyce Wiley and family  
(death of nephew, Terrace)
- Giselle Spears  
(death of mother, Retza Gize ("Grammy"))

#### Illness & Recovery

- Robbie and Craig Boatwright in CA  
(friends of Chaplain Irene Weaver)
- Glenice Booker Butler
- Clemon Carter (husband of Robin)
- Margaret Carter
- Leon Daisy
- Fraun Foster
- Sandra McCoy Gaither in No. Carolina  
(sister of May McCoy Anderson)
- Carlton Garner
- Harold Golden and Family
- Karen Morgan

#### Seniors and Homebound

- Carrie Lewis
- Ginnie Dennis
- Fannie Mae Coleman  
(mother of Saran Cryer)
- Carver Isabell
- Barbara Wulf
- Doris Douglas
- Verlene Booker
- Johnette Houston
- Fern Neal
- Pat Jemie
- Ms. Charlotte Drake
- Shirley Cummings
- Glenice Booker Butler