

# PALMER MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH ——HOUSTON, TEXAS——

Bringing the peace of Jesus to the whole world

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST CHORAL EUCHARIST, RITE I 10:00 AM JUNE 29, 2025

6221 Main Street | Houston, Texas 77030 | 713.529.6196
PalmerChurch.org

Free parking is available every Sunday across Cambridge Street from the church in the Memorial Hermann Medical Plaza parking garage (6400 Fannin Street), with entrances on both Fannin Street and Main Street. Palmer has purchased this convenient parking and absorbed the cost to provide it to parishioners and guests. Simply bring the ticket you receive when entering the parking garage to the Welcome Table by the front entrance of the church. Then validate your parking ticket by using a machine located on that table. If you do not receive a parking ticket, or happen to misplace your ticket, please notify a parking attendant by pressing the button on the ticket machine as you exit. Upon exiting the parking garage, if the ticket machine indicates that you owe a fee, press the cancel button, and then insert your validated parking ticket into the machine. The gate will go up right away. Again, if you need assistance, please notify a parking attendant by pressing the button on the ticket machine.

#### **Our Mission**

To know and boldly share the love of Jesus Christ through deep understanding of our relationship with God, ourselves, and our neighbors, in a joyfully engaged and welcoming community, dedicated to thoughtful and focused service, and inspired by worship that renews curiosity about all of creation.

#### Our Values And Guiding Principles

# Liturgical Excellence

We believe in sharing God's unconditional love in Jesus, which we call grace, with all who come through our church doors. The beauty and power of our liturgy drawn from the Book of Common Prayer and our music drawn from the Anglican choral tradition are the beginning, not the end, of our weekly Christian journey. Like a flourishing tree, they root us in the past, shelter us in the present, and reach out to the future with the strength and confidence of God's promises to all.

# Joyful Companionship

We believe spending time together and connecting across the generations fosters our spiritual growth. Palmers accompany each other on our pilgrimage with God, toward God. We are an ever-growing household, for the youngest child and each of us through the end of life, built with grace, love, acceptance, laughter, tears, service, singing, and Jesus as our cornerstone.

# **Bold Curiosity**

We believe the gift of inquiry, curiosity, and profound conversation leads to a greater understanding of our place in God's creation and our relationship with God, ourselves, and our neighbors. Knowing and sharing the love of Jesus is experienced in our worship and also through artistic expression, intellectual generosity, and spiritual teaching.

# Spiritual Sanctuary

We believe God loves each of us, no exceptions. As human beings created in God's image, we should have a place where the love of Jesus is made real, a place where we can experience the celebration of who we are and an acceptance of where we are on life's journey. We aspire to be an inclusive community of faith and a beacon of hope for those seeking spiritual refuge.

#### **Loving Service**

We believe following Jesus, as we are called to do, involves caring for our neighbors as we care for ourselves, joining in God's mission to connect with and work alongside an extraordinary array of people, institutions, and communities, and bearing witness to the work of the Holy Spirit in the world around us.



# Welcome to Palmer!

We are a community of Christians worshiping in the Episcopal tradition, which has its roots in the practices of the ancient Church. We are a congregation that values not only eternal answers but also important questions. You are surrounded by the love of Jesus here this morning. Scan the QR code to the left or visit palmerchurch.org/connect to fill out a welcome card or a request for prayer.

#### RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

If you are a baptized Christian of any tradition, you are invited to receive communion with us after the Breaking of the Bread. The consecrated bread will be placed in your outstretched hands. Those who require either grape juice or gluten-free bread and wine should join in the line on the left side of the church and let the minister of communion know. When the chalice of consecrated wine comes to you, you may sip from the chalice, or carefully dip part of the consecrated bread into the wine, or decline it. Rest assured that you will have made a full communion if you choose to receive the consecrated bread only, with nothing lacking in your experience of God's grace today.

#### RECEIVING A BLESSING

If you are not a baptized Christian, or your Christian tradition does not allow you to receive communion with us, we encourage you to come forward at the time of communion to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest as someone approaches with the bread, and that person will know to give you a blessing instead of communion. In this way, everyone can participate in this part of the service.

#### RECEIVING PRAYER

If you would like someone to pray for you, members of the Order of St. Luke will be available for that in the narthex (i.e., the entryway near the front doors of the church) during the administration of communion.

#### SEEKING BAPTISM

If you have never been baptized and desire to be immersed in grace and forgiveness as a follower of Jesus, please speak with a member of the clergy listed below or someone at the Welcome Table after this hour of worship. It would be a joy to baptize you as a Christian here at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church.

#### Medical Center Guests

If you or a family member are here for care at the Texas Medical Center, please let us know how we can support you while you are in Houston by stopping at the Welcome Table by the front doors of the church or contacting Suzie Dennis at sdennis@palmerchurch.org.

#### CARING FOR THE WELLNESS OF OUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY

We strongly encourage everyone to be up to date on vaccinations and boosters. Masking is optional.

#### CLERGY AND LITURGICAL CHURCH STAFF

The Rev'd Neil Alan Willard, Rector

The Rev'd Katherine Tuttle, *Director of Parish Life* and *Membership* 

Roger Hutchison, *Director of Children's and Youth Ministries* 

Dr. Brady Knapp, Director of Music

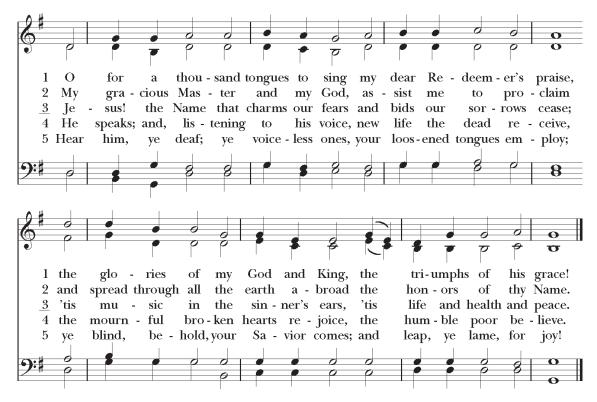
Ken Cowan, Organist and Artist-in-Residence David Ashley White, Composer-in-Residence

Courtney Daniell-Knapp, Children's Choirs

# THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn 493 "O for a thousand tongues to sing"

Azmon



6 Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.



# The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O Almighty God, who hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made an holy temple acceptable unto thee; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

# The Lessons

First Reading 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

*Reader* A reading from the Second Book of Kings.

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 Plainchant

I will cry aloud to God;

I will cry aloud, and he will hear me.

In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord;

my hands were stretched out by night and did not tire; I refused to be comforted.

I will remember the works of the Lord,

and call to mind your wonders of old time.

I will meditate on all your acts

and ponder your mighty deeds.

Your way, O God, is holy;

who is so great a god as our God?

You are the God who works wonders

and have declared your power among the peoples.

By your strength you have redeemed your people,

the children of Jacob and Joseph.

The waters saw you, O God; the waters saw you and trembled;

the very depths were shaken.

The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered;

your arrows flashed to and fro;

The sound of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook.

Your way was in the sea, and your paths in the great waters,

yet your footsteps were not seen.

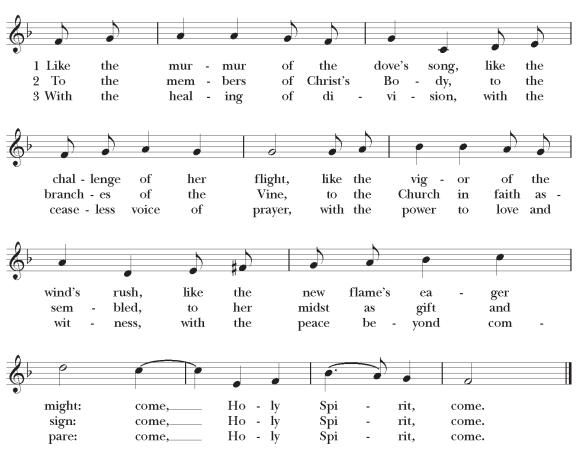
You led your people like a flock

by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

During the 10:00 AM liturgy, children of all ages are invited at the beginning of the Sequence Hymn to follow the children's cross to the Holy Cross Children's Room for Liturgy Preparation. After learning, praying, and singing together, the children return to the Church at the Peace to receive communion with their families.

# Sequence Hymn 513 "Like the murmur of the dove's song"

Bridegroom



Phrase 1 of each stanza may be sung by one group, with a contrasted group singing phrase 2, and all joining for the final phrase.

Gospel Reading Luke 9:51-62

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* Glory be to thee, O Lord.

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

#### The Sermon

The Rev'd Neil Alan Willard, Rector

# The Nicene Creed

Celebrant We believe in one God,

People the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess thy Name may be united in thy truth, live together in thy love, and reveal thy glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

# Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations in the ways of justice and peace; especially Donald, President of the United States, Greg, Governor of Texas, and John, Mayor of Houston; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

# Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as thy own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to thy honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

# Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

# Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially patients and those who care for them across the street in the Texas Medical Center; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of thy salvation.

Silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

# Hear our prayer.

We commend to thy mercy all who have died, that thy will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all thy saints in thy eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in thy mercy,

#### Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant then says

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of thy people; in the multitude of thy mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to thee for help; for thou art gracious, O lover of souls, and to thee we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen**.

# Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Those who are able may kneel, and silence is kept.

Celebrant Most merciful God,

*People* we confess that we have sinned against thee

in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will,

and walk in thy ways,

to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant says the following sentence, first saying

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to Christ.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. Matthew 11:28-30

# The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Celebrant begins the Offertory with this or another sentence of Scripture.

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty. For all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. 1 Chronicles 29:11

Those who have brought with them an offering are invited to place it in the offering plate that will be passed in the pews. Others are invited to make their financial contributions online at palmerchurch.org/give or by using this QR code.



Offertory Anthem: O sacrum convivium

O sacrum convívium, in quo Christus súmitur, recólitur memória passiónis ejus, Et futúrae glóriae nobis pignus datur, Allelúia. O sacred feast, in which Christ is received, the memory of his passion renewed, the mind filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory given to us. Alleluia.

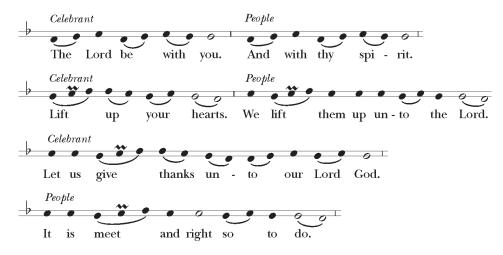
The Doxology (Hymn 380, verse 3)

Old 100th

Roger Parker

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

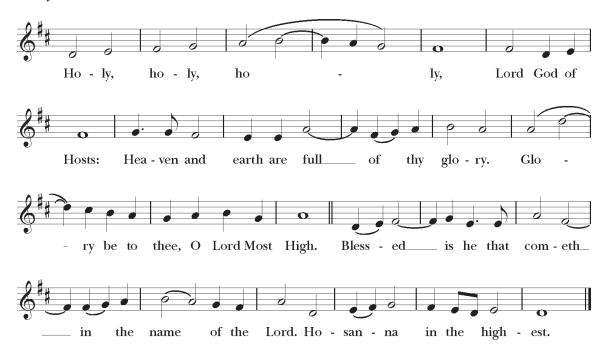
# The Great Thanksgiving



It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, Creator of the light and source of life, who hast made us in thine image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Willan



All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN**.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say

Celebrant Our Father,
People 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,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

# The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.



The Celebrant says the following Invitation
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

# Anthem: Savior like a Shepherd lead us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care. In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours. We are yours, in love befriend us. be the guardian of our way; keep your flock, from sin defend us,

seek us when we go astray. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

Let us always seek your favor; let us always do your will; Jesus Christ, our only Savior, with your love our spirits fill. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.

Hymn 559 "Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us"

Dulce carmen



Hymn "So the day dawn"



When Eucharistic Visitors take communion to the shut-in and infirm:

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

After communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The people kneel or stand.

Celebrant Almighty and everliving God,

People we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and

glory, world without end. Amen.

The Priest gives the blessing.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord's countenance turn toward you and give you peace. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.** 

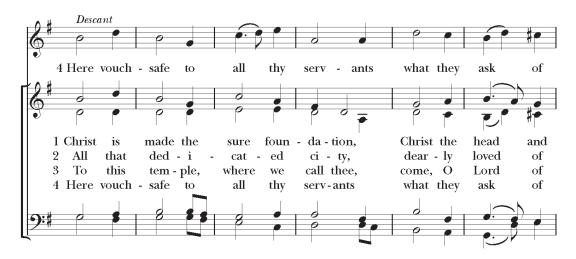
The Celebrant dismisses the people with these words

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn 518 "Christ is made the sure foundation"

Westminster Abbey





Postlude: March in G Major

Alexandre Guilmant

# TOGETHER, WE PRAY

# Please pray for these people:

Polly Allen Mac Hall Bill Robertson Mike Allison Brandon Hertz Don Robinson Georgia Barton Patricia Hinojosa The Ross Family Kim Bavousett Courtney, Peter, & Graham Holcomb Roxane Short Roger Beebe Holman Family The Smith Family **Brown Family** Linda Ittner Bill Tilney Jack Browns Jacob Isbell Cathy Troisi Eleanor Viebig Leigh Anderson Burdette **Jack** Fran Wallis

Cynthia Candler and family Roy Knapp, Jr. Carlos Jim Lober Daniel Allen White Jo Lyday David Ashley White Katie Courtney Mike Collins Mauro Randy William Dan Cromack Don May Lewis Williams The Miller Family Arnold Willis Carlo DelForte Felicia Pace-Hamilton Ruth Wilkes Maria De Nazare Dan and Cathy Dodge Boisen "Buzz" Palmer Marie Woodward David Furr The Rev'd Liz Parker **Audrey Worthing** Michael Gamboa Patricia Lynn Paxton Donna Yacoe

Allison Gould David Renaud Wayne Green Jane Richardson

Names remain on the list for two Sundays unless the request is renewed by contacting one of the coordinators of our Pastoral Care Ministry: Ruth Davies at rmmdavies@cebridge.net for Palmers or Suzie Dennis at sdennis@palmerchurch.org for non-Palmers.

#### Please pray for expectant households or families with newborns:

Riley Hutchison and David Ramirez, Matthew and Clare Van Arsdale

Those expecting a child by birth or adoption are encouraged to contact Roger Hutchison at rwhutchison@palmerchurch.org.

#### Please pray for those in the armed forces:

Evan Adams Adam Salvati Jarrett Johnson Nathan Adam Christopher Kent Alex Swartz Michael Anderson James King Matthew Van Arsdale Mike Martinez Gaston Baza Ashley Waddle Travis Chambers Nate Miller Alex Walker Owen Green Andrew Nesom Taylor Wilby John Harrison Harrison Power Connor Hurt Jim Rosenbach

### Please pray for our congregation's five-year strategic plan called *Come. Be. Palmer*.

God of grace and glory, you are faithful from one generation to another: Grant to us, as Palmers, the courage to know and boldly share the love of Jesus Christ, that our own hearts and the world around us may be changed and reflect more and more your great mercy and compassion; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

If you would like to make a special flower dedication please visit palmerchurch.org/give/flowerfund or fill out a flower envelope located in the narthex or bell tower entrance.