

PALMER MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH ——HOUSTON, TEXAS——

Bringing the peace of Jesus to the whole world

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST CHORAL EUCHARIST, RITE II 10:00 AM AUGUST 3, 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

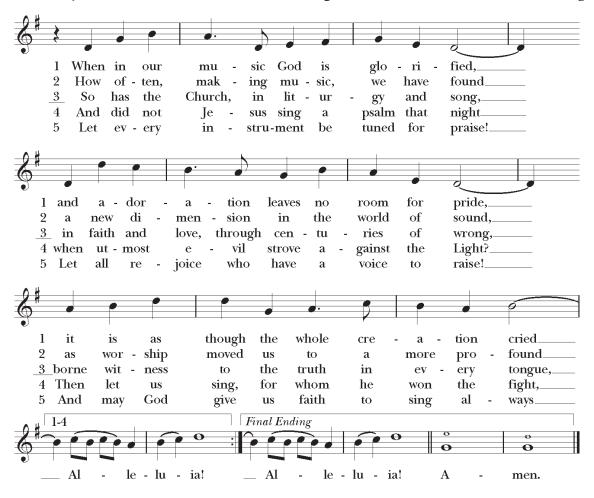
Courtney Daniell-Knapp, Children's Choirs

Prelude: Prelude in G major, Op. 37, No. 2

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn 420 "When in our music God is glorified"

Engelberg



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

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

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



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

The Lessons

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-15; 2:18-23

Reader A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes.

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted.

I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me -- and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

Psalm 49:1-11 Plainchant

Hear this, all you peoples; hearken, all you who dwell in the world,

you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.

My mouth shall speak of wisdom,

and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

I will incline my ear to a proverb

and set forth my riddle upon the harp.

Why should I be afraid in evil days,

when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,

The wickedness of those who put their trust in their goods,

and boast of their great riches?

We can never ransom ourselves,

or deliver to God the price of our life;

For the ransom of our life is so great,

that we should never have enough to pay it,

In order to live for ever and ever,

and never see the grave.

For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.

Their graves shall be their homes for ever,

their dwelling places from generation to generation,

though they call the lands after their own names.

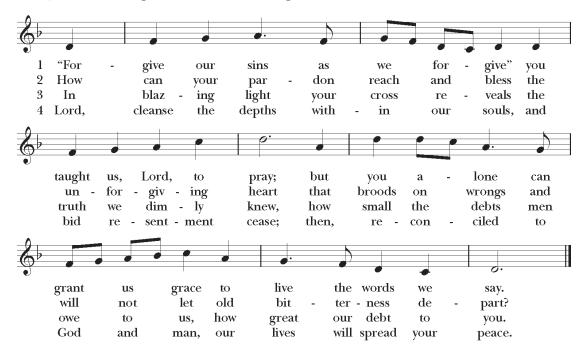
Even though honored, they cannot live for ever;

they are like the beasts that perish.

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 674 "Forgive our sins as we forgive"

Detroit



Gospel Reading Luke 12:13-21

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord 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

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially Donald, President of the United States, Greg, Governor of Texas, and John, Mayor of Houston;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially patients amd those who care for them across the street in the Texas Medical Center:

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, adding our own petitions with our lips or in our hearts.

Silence

The Celebrant then says

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**.

Confession of Sin

The Priest says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

Celebrant Most merciful God,

People we confess that we have sinned against you

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

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

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.

My friends, I implore you by God's mercy to offer your very selves to God: a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for God's acceptance, the worship offered by mind and heart. *Romans 12:1*

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.



Bruce Neswick

Offertory Hymn Shepherd of Souls

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless Your chosen pilgrim flock With manna in the wilderness, With water from the rock.

We would not live by bread alone, But by your word of grace, In strength of which we travel on To our abiding place.

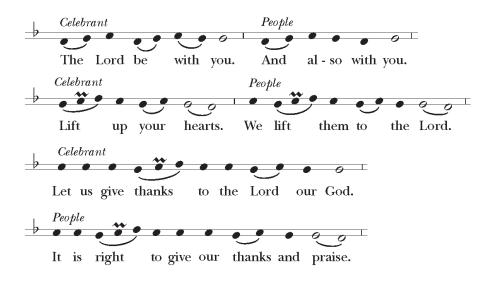
The Doxology (Hymn 380, verse 3)

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. Be known to us in breaking bread, But do not then depart; Savior, abide with us, and spread Your table in our heart.

Lord, sup with us in love divine; Your body and your blood, That living bread, that heav'nly wine, Be our immortal food.

Old 100th

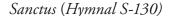
The Great Thanksgiving



It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life..

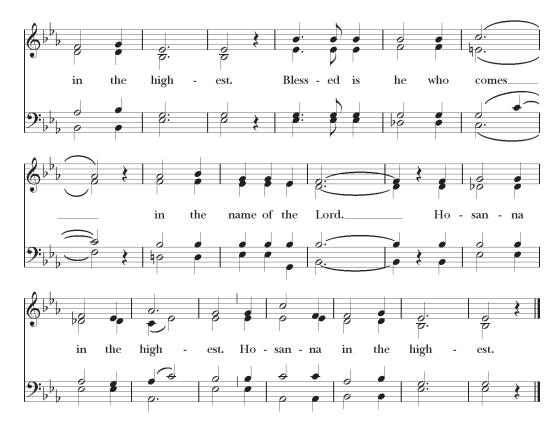
Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Schubert





Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **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.



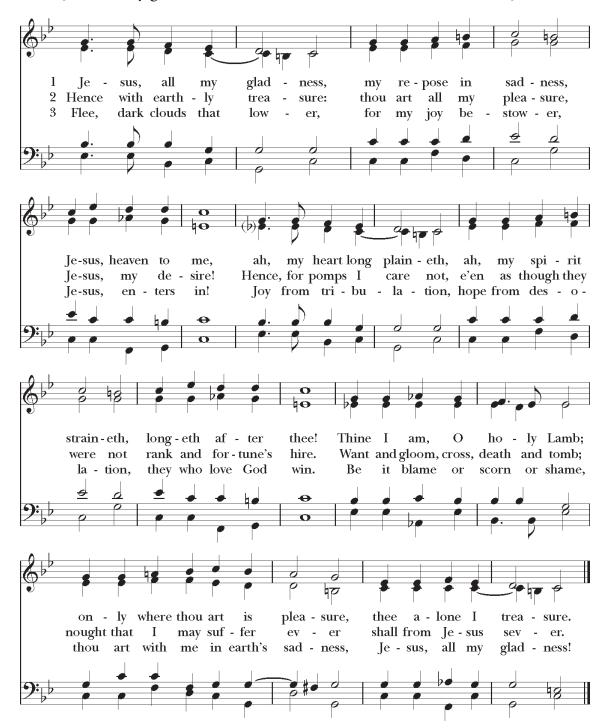
The Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

God be in my head, And in my understanding; God be in mine eyes, And in my looking; God be in my mouth, And in my speaking; God be in my heart, And in my thinking; God be at mine end, And at my departing.

Hymn 701 "Jesus, all my gladness"

Jesu, meine Freude



Hymn 324 "Let all mortal flesh keep silence"

Picardy



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.

Celebrant Almighty and everliving God,

People we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food

of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries

that we are living members of the Body of your Son,

and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,

to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,

be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Priest gives the blessing.

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. 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 in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.



Postlude: Fugue in G major, Op.37, No. 2

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

TOGETHER, WE PRAY

Please pray for these people:

Polly Allen Brandon Hertz The Ross Family Georgia Barton Patricia Hinojosa Roxane Short Kim Bavousett Courtney, Peter, & Graham Holcomb The Smith Family Roger Beebe Holman Family Linda Sylvan Viola Cleo Bradshaw Steve Howard Bill Tilney Brown Family **James Hunter** The Toranzo Family

Jack BrownsLinda IttnerEleanor ViebigCynthia Candler and familyJacob IsbellFran WallisCarlosRoy Knapp, Jr.Daniel Allen WhiteJeff CarowitzThe Landry FamilyDavid Ashley White

Jeff Carowitz Katie Courtney Jim Lober Randy William Mike Collins Jo Lyday Lewis Williams Shirley Matthews Dan Cromack Arnold Willis Ruth Wilkes Carlo Del Frate Don May The Rev'd Liz Parker Maria De Nazare Marie Woodward Dan and Cathy Dodge Patricia Lynn Paxton **Audrey Worthing** Donna Yacoe

Scott Follmar Jane Richardson
David Furr Bill Robertson
Michael Gamboa Don Robinson

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

Oliver John Van Arsdale (Born July 5, 2025)

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 Nate Miller Alex Walker Travis Chambers 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.

The Altar flowers given to the glory of God and to the memory of Reverend John Price by his family. His presence and love stays with us with all the stories and punchlines that we remember.

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.