

PALMER MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH ——HOUSTON, TEXAS——

Bringing the peace of Jesus to the whole world

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST CHORAL EUCHARIST, RITE II 10:00 AM OCTOBER 26, 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 Allen M. Junek, Associate Rector

The Rev'd Katherine Tuttle, Director of Parish Life

and Membership

The Rev'd Mary Reddick, Deacon

The Rev'd Beth Anne Nelson, The Diocese of Texas

Missioner to Rice University

Roger Hutchison, Director of Children's and

Youth Ministries

Dr. Brady Knapp, *Director of Music*

Ken Cowan, Organist and Artist-in-Residence

Laura Smith, Associate Organist

David Ashley White, Composer-in-Residence

Courtney Daniell-Knapp, Children's Choirs

THE WORD OF GOD



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.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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 Joel 2:23-32

Reader A reading from the Book of Joel.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame. Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

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

Psalm 65 Plainchant

You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;

to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.

To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come,

because of their transgressions.

Our sins are stronger than we are,

but you will blot them out.

Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!

they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.

Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,

O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.

You make fast the mountains by your power;

they are girded about with might.

You still the roaring of the seas,

the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;

you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.

You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;

the river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain,

for so you provide for the earth.

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;

with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

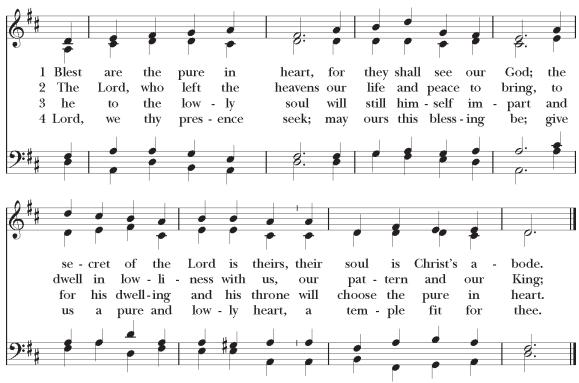
You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty. May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

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 656 "Blest are the pure in heart"

Franconia



Gospel Reading Luke 18:9-14

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Deacon 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 and 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

Lord Jesus Christ, make this a temple of your presence and a house of prayer. Be always near us when we seek you in this place. Draw us to you, when we come alone and when we come with others, to find comfort and wisdom, to be supported and strengthened, to rejoice and give thanks. May it be here, Lord Christ, that we are made one with you and with one another, so that our lives are sustained and sanctified for your service. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen**.

Confession of Sin

The Deacon 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.

Welcome and Prayer for Newcomers to Palmer

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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

Let us with gladness bring to the Lord the first of the fruit of everything God has given us.

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: God you move among us

Carson Cooman

God, you move among us with grace, with the lift and the sweep of the wind of the Spirit.

But we often refuse to move with you.

We stiffen our backs and tighten our souls and lower our eyes and mumble that we cannot dance.

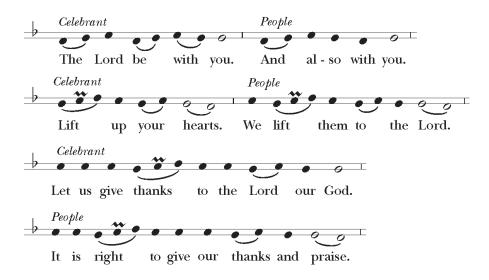
Send us the truth that will set us free, free to bend with your Spirit, free to follow your beat, free to give ourselves entirely to you, free to love and to live with the grace that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Doxology (Hymn 380, verse 3)

Old 100th

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



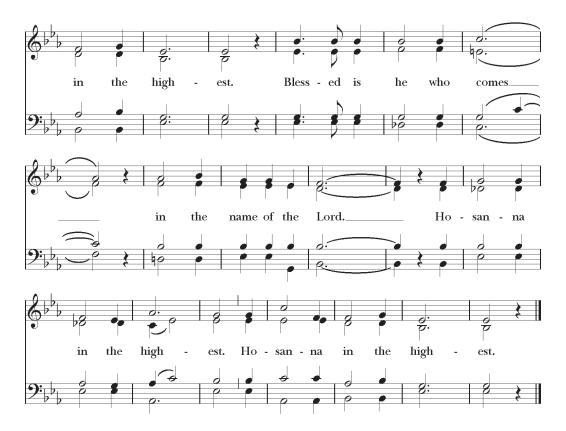
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord, for you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

Sanctus (Hymnal S-130)

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 has 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.

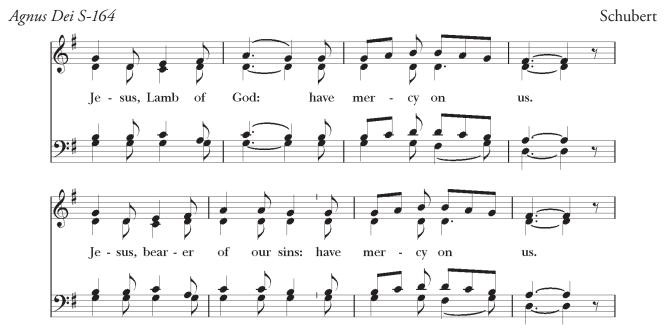
For thine is the kingdom,

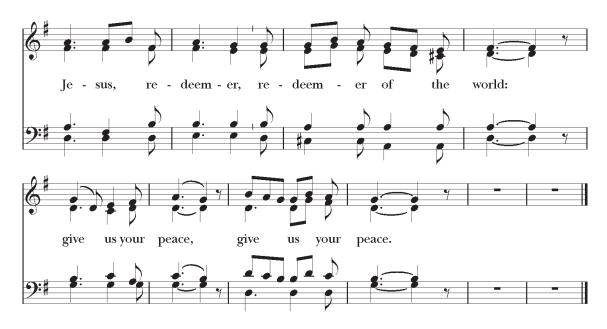
and the power, and the glory,

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: Ave verum corpus

Kathryn Rose

Hail, true Body, born of Mary the Virgin; truly suffering, sacrificed on the cross for man; from Whose pierced side flowed water and blood. Be to us a foretaste at death's trial, O sweet Jesus, O loving Jesus, O Jesus Son of Mary.

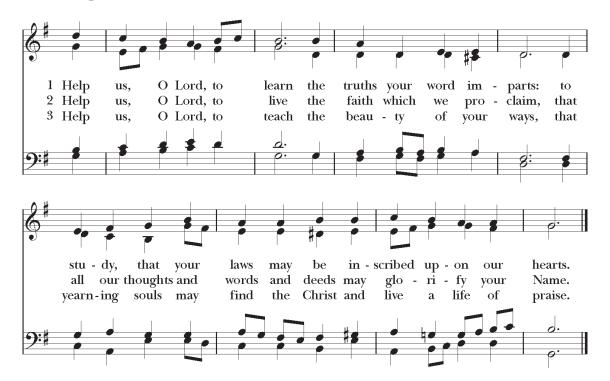
Anthem: A universal blessing

Alice Parker

May love so dwell in our hearts,
May compassion so flow from our hands,
May peace so encompass our lives
that justice and mercy abound in this world.
Sing love, sing compassion, sing peace.

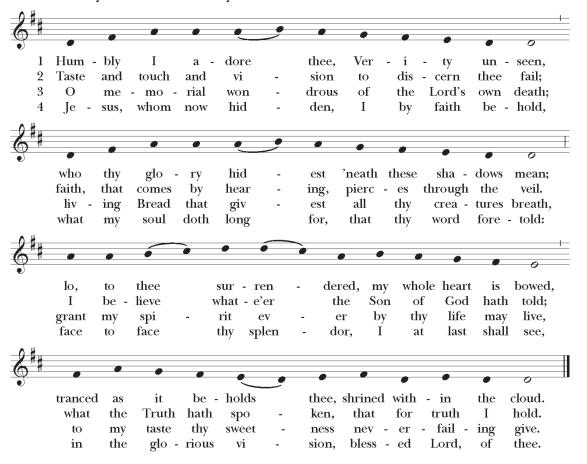
Hymn 628 "Help us, O Lord, to learn"

St. Ethelwald



Hymn 314 "Humbly I adore thee, Verity unseen"

Adoro devote



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.

Remember always that by the goodness of God you were born into this world, by the grace of God you have been kept all the day long even unto this hour, and by the love of God revealed in the face of Jesus, you are being redeemed. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

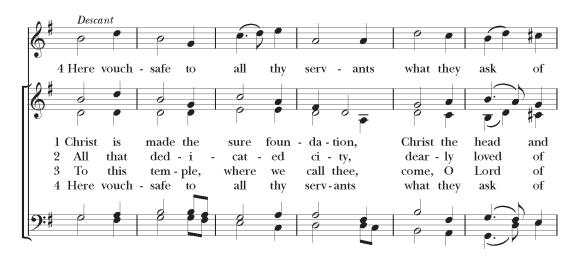
The Deacon dismisses the people with these words

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn 518 "Christ is made the sure foundation"

Westminster Abbey





Postlude: "Hornpipe "from Water Music

George Frederick Handel

TOGETHER, WE PRAY

Please pray for these people:

Polly Allen Michael Gamboa Bill Robertson James Armstrong Brandon Hertz Don Robinson Georgia Barton Patricia Hinojosa The Ross Family Kim Bavousett Courtney, Peter, & Graham Holcomb Roxane Short Roger Beebe The Smith Family Holman Family Viola Cleo Bradshaw Steve Howard Stephanie Brown Family Linda Sylvan Connie Hulin **James Hunter** Bill Tilney Jack Browns Leigh Anderson Burdette Linda Ittner The Toranzo Family

Cynthia Candler and family Jacob Isbell Eleanor Viebig Fran Wallis Roy Knapp, Jr. Carlos Jeff Carowitz The Landry Family Daniel Allen White Katie Courtney Jim Lober David Ashley White Mike Collins Jo Lyday Randy William Lewis Williams

Dan CromackShirley MatthewsLewis WilliamsCarlo Del FrateDon MayArnold WillisMaria De NazareThe Rev'd Liz ParkerRuth WilkesDan and Cathy DodgePatricia Lynn PaxtonMarie WoodwardScott FollmarPhilipAudrey Worthing

Scott Follmar Philip Audrey Worthing
David Furr Jane Richardson Donna Yacoe

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

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 Jarrett Johnson Adam Salvati Nathan Adam Christopher Kent Alex Swartz Michael Anderson James King Matthew Van Arsdale Gaston Baza Mike Martinez 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.

For more information visit palmerchurch.org/strategicplan

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glord of God and in celebration of Heather and Richard Avant's 32nd wedding anniversary and their sons Donald and Christopher's 30th birthday by Richard Avant.

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.