

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

# Bringing the peace of Jesus to the whole world

COVENANT SUNDAY
THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
CHORAL EUCHARIST, RITE II
10:00 AM
NOVEMBER 16, 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

Prelude: II. Aria from Trumpet Sonata

Flor Peeters

George Chase, guest trumpet

Introit: To the Glory of Our King

Robert Leaf

# Holy Cross Children's Choir

To the glory of our King, we will joyful praises All who give to God their praise, all who seek his sing. Let the sound of voices ring, bringing praise dwelling place, all who will his Word embrace to Christ the King.

look to God for truth and grace.

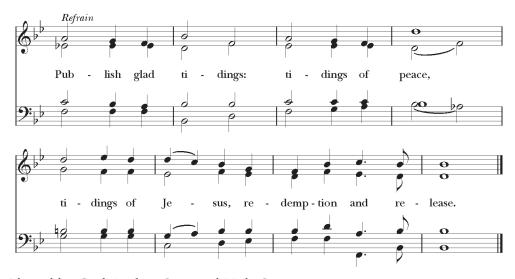
To the glory of our Lord, all unite with one accord. To the glory of our King, we will joyful praises He alone will be adored! Let us ever love the Lord. sing, let the sound of voices ring, Alleluia, bringing praise to Christ the King.

# THE WORD OF GOD

# Processional Hymn 539 "O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling"

**Tidings** 





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.

Hymn 421 "All glory be to God"

Allein Gott in der Höh



# The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

# The Lessons

First Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

*Reader* A reading from the Second Letter to the Thessalonians.

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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

Psalm 98 Plainchant

Sing to the Lord a new song,

for he has done marvelous things.

With his right hand and his holy arm

has he won for himself the victory.

The Lord has made known his victory;

his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,

and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;

lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

Sing to the Lord with the harp,

with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn

shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,

the lands and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands,

and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.

In righteousness shall he judge the world

and the peoples with equity.

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 706 "In your mercy, Lord, you called me"

Halton Holgate



Gospel Reading Luke 21:5-19

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

# The Sermon

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

# 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.

On this Covenant Sunday, as we express our gratitude for the blessings we have received from you, we give thanks for those who will support this congregation;

That the Body of Christ may be strengthened through our presence, our prayers, and our financial offerings in the coming year.

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.

# 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.

Today is Covenant Sunday, when Palmers have been invited not only to worship together but also to bring to the altar their completed estimated giving cards, which is a spiritual practice to indicate their commitment of time, talent, and treasure to this congregation for the next calendar year. In the pew racks are blank cards for 2026 that can be used to make this commitment by those who are not yet on our mailing list or who may have forgotten to bring a completed card with them. Also in the pew racks, for those who turned in their estimated giving cards early, are special gratitude cards to use as an outward sign of having made the same commitment.



PARTE On this particular Sunday, those who have brought with them a financial offering for this week are also invited to come forward to place those offerings on the altar. Others are invited to make their financial contributions online at palmerchurch.org/give or by using this QR code.

If what you have to offer God in the coming year, here or elsewhere, is only yourself, then come forward with one of the gratitude cards as an outward sign of that commitment. If you're not able to walk up the stairs, simply ask a neighbor in the pews to take your card or your offering for you. We are here to help each other.

If you're a guest with us today, perhaps visiting us for the first time, or friends with people in our congregation, or just someone who is curious about Jesus, do not be anxious about watching those around you make this commitment. If you belong to another church, allow yourself to be inspired to make a similar commitment to that community of faith. If you've never given much back to God out of your blessings, consider what it would be like to participate in something larger than your own needs, something that is rooted in the love of Jesus Christ and shares that love with the world around you.

Offertory Anthem: Praise ye the Lord of hosts

Camille Saint-Saëns

Praise ye the Lord of hosts, Sing His salvation, bless His name, show forth His praise in His holy house!

Praise ye the Lord of hosts, Sing His salvation, bless His name, show forth His praise in His holy house!

Rejoice, ye heavens be joyful, on earth, rejoice in the name of the Lord, for He cometh, Alleluia.

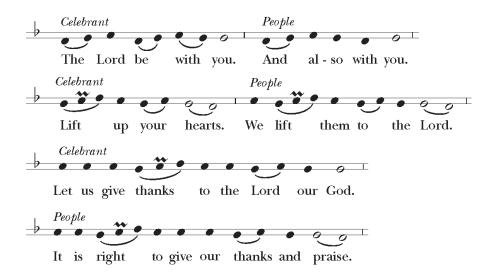
The Doxology (Hymn 380, verse 3)

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. Rejoice, ye heavens be joyful, on earth, rejoice in the name of the Lord, for He cometh, Alleluia. Alelluia, alleluia, alleluia, ...

Rejoice ye angels Sing praise all ye nations, Praise to the name of the Lord, for He cometh, Alleluia.

Old 100th

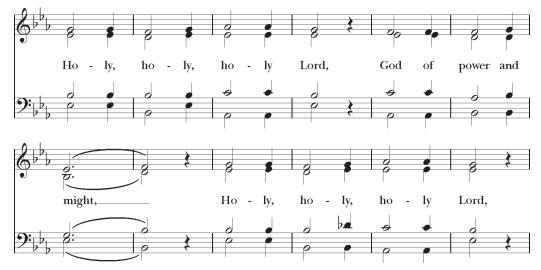
# The Great Thanksgiving

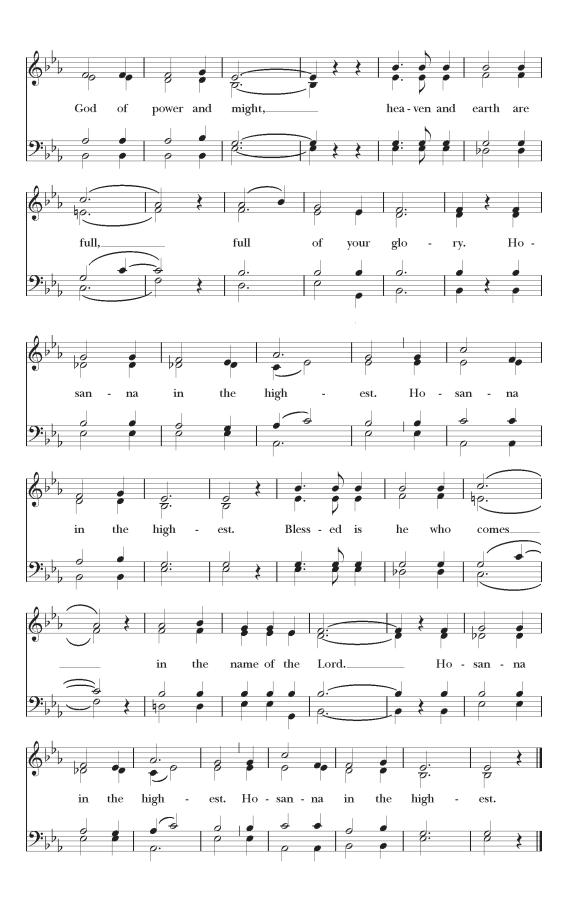


It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, for by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

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.

Agnus Dei S-164 Schubert



The Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Motet: Salvation is nearer Virgil Ford

Salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. Sing and rejoice, I come, says the Lord. I come and will dwell in the midst of you. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it.

Sing and rejoice, I come, says the Lord. I come and will dwell in the midst of you. Salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

Solo: God's own time Richard W. Gieseke

# Jack Burrows, baritone

#### God's own time is the best of all.

For in him we live, for in him we move, for in him we have our being. In him we die at the moment that he will choose.

So teach us Lord, to number our days, and incline our hearts to wisdom.

Hymn 693 "Just as I am, without one plea"

Woodworth



6 Just as I am, of thy great love the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove, here for a season, then above: O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Hymn 327 "Draw nigh and take the Body of the Lord"

Palmer Church



- 6 He that his saints in this world rules and shields to all believers life eternal yields;
- 7 with heavenly bread he makes the hungry whole, gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
- 8 Alpha-Omega, unto whom shall bow all nations at the doom, is with us now.

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.



Postlude: Trumpet Tune from Voluntary No. 5 in D

William Bryce

# TOGETHER, WE PRAY

# Please pray for these people:

Polly Allen Don Robinson Brandon Hertz James Armstrong Patricia Hinojosa The Ross Family Georgia Barton Courtney, Peter, & Graham Holcomb Roxane Short Kim Bavousett Holman Family The Smith Family Roger Beebe Steve Howard Stephanie Viola Cleo Bradshaw Connie Hulin Linda Sylvan James Hunter Brown Family The Thomas Family Leigh Anderson Burdette Linda Ittner Bill Tilney Cynthia Candler and family Jacob Isbell The Toranzo Family

Cynthia Candler and family Jacob Isbell The Toranzo Fa
Carlos Roy Knapp, Jr. Eleanor Viebig
Jeff Carowitz The Landry Family Fran Wallis
Karie Courtney Jim Lober Daniel Allen W

Katie Courtney Daniel Allen White Jim Lober Mike Collins Jo Lyday David Ashley White Randy William Dan Cromack Shirley Matthews Carlo Del Frate Don May Lewis Williams Maria De Nazare The Rev'd Liz Parker Arnold Willis Dan and Cathy Dodge Patricia Lynn Paxton Ruth Wilkes

Scott Follmar Philip Marie Woodward
David Furr Jane Richardson Audrey Worthing
Michael Gamboa Bill Robertson 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 Ashley Elizabeth Condrey and Cory Condrey

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:

Adam Salvati Evan Adams **Jarrett Johnson** Nathan Adam Christopher Kent Alex Swartz Michael Anderson Matthew Van Arsdale James King 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

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.