



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

*Our mission is to know
and share the love of Jesus Christ*

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
4:00 PM
NOVEMBER 27, 2022
ST. BEDE'S CHAPEL

6221 MAIN STREET | HOUSTON, TEXAS 77030 | 713.529.6196

PALMERCHURCH.ORG



Welcome to Palmer, where our mission is to know and share the love of Jesus Christ.

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.

COVID-19 CHURCH GUIDELINES

Masking is optional inside our church buildings, and we strongly encourage everyone to be up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters. Note that some who are fully vaccinated will continue wearing masks even when not required to do so.

MEDICAL CENTER GUESTS

If you or a family member are here for care at the Texas Medical Center, please stop at the Welcome Tent on Main Street by the front doors of the Church and let us know how we can support you while you are in Houston. You may also contact Suzie Dennis at sdennis@palmerchurch.org. You are also invited to our service in our chapel on Wednesdays at 11 AM, with prayers for healing and strength for patients and caregivers.

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 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.

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.

CLERGY AND LITURGICAL CHURCH STAFF

The Rev'd Neil Alan Willard, *Rector*

The Rev'd Ryan Hawthorne, *Curate*

The Rev'd Jack Karn, *Deacon*

Roger Hutchison, *Director of Christian Formation and Parish Life*

Dr. Brady Knapp, *Director of Music*

Ken Cowan, *Organist and Artist-in-Residence*

Hannah Cen, *Associate Organist*

David Ashley White, *Composer-in-Residence*

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

I will sing a new song to my God,
for you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.
Let the whole creation serve you,
for you spoke and all things came into being.
You sent your breath and it formed them,
no one is able to resist your voice.
Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths,
rocks melt like wax at your presence.
But to those who fear you,
you continue to show mercy.
No sacrifice, however fragrant, can please you,
but whoever fears the Lord shall stand in your sight for ever.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122

The Celebrant invites the congregation to say the psalm in unison.

I was glad when they said to me,
 "Let us go to the house of the Lord."
Now our feet are standing
 within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is built as a city
 that is at unity with itself;
To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
 the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the Lord.
For there are the thrones of judgment,
 the thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
 "May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls
 and quietness within your towers.
For my brethren and companions' sake,
 I pray for your prosperity.
Because of the house of the Lord our God,
 I will seek to do you good."

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev'd Ryan Hawthorne, *Curate*

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 [and the Son],
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.

The 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, especially our bishops Andy, Jeff, Kai, and Héctor, our priests Neil and Ryan, and our deacon Jack;

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 Joe, President of the United States, Greg, Governor of Texas, and Sylvester, 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 across the street at the Texas Medical Center;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially those who have died from gun violence in Colorado and Virginia and bomb explosions in Jerusalem;

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

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant God of all mercy,

People **we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

The Priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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 Christ 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 says this or another sentence of Scripture to begin the Offertory.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due God's Name; bring offerings and come into the courts of the Lord.
Psalm 96:8

Those who have brought with them an offering are invited to place it in the offering plate by the altar. Others are invited to make their financial contributions online at palmerchurch.org/give or by texting the key word "Palmer" and the dollar amount (for example, Palmer 100) to 73256 or by using this QR code.



The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Celebrant and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and People

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

After communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant God of abundance,

People **you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

TOGETHER, WE PRAY

Please pray for these people:

Easton Allen	Melvyn Huckaby	Lisa Powell
Clifford Arnebeck	Courtney, Peter, & Graham Holcomb	Jennifer Rabb
Adeline Arning	Elizabeth, Jeff, William, James, and Christian King	Posey Raish
Georgia Barton	David Lapp	Maria de Nazare & Michele Rios
John Beckerly	Jennifer Lewis	Jo Anne Ritacca
Mary Broussard	Marcos de Souza Lima	Michael Rybarski
Jack Browns	Jo Lyday	Kellie Shaffer
John Calvert	Berta Maestef	Rick Sheridan
Carmen Brassfield Conaway	Gavin Marshall	Susan Shivers
Katie Courtney	Carolyn Mason	Roxane & Michael Short
Dan Cromack	Paul Martin	Sandy, Julian, Nick, Snyder
Tina & Ricky Cruz	Michael McKinley	Bert Suarez
Kristie Curtis	Samantha Schatte Mitchell	Tim T and family
Ruth Davies	Hashim Musa	Spence Walton
Lauren and Chris Davis	Alexander Nelson-Fryar	Charles & Shirley Watkins
Halley Erickson	Bill Newchurch	Mimi & Kim Lopez-Waymer
Laura Everhart	The Rev'd Liz Parker	Josephine White
Julian Gascoyne	Yamy Lec Perez	Brooke Wilson
Hilda Gomez	Harry Powe	Audray Worthing
Peter Hatten	Marsha Powe	Ruth Yarbrough
James Hesterly		Zach, Sam, Carrie

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 rmdavies@cebridge.net for Palmers or Suzie Dennis at sdennis@palmerchurch.org for non-Palmers.

Please pray for expectant households:

The Mitchell Family
The Zwicker Family

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

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Fr. John Price, "our Chaplain, on his birthday," by Palmer's Scouting Units Troop 1511, Troop 511, and Pack 511.

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.