



# PALMS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

*He was in the world, and the world came into being  
through him, yet the world did not know him.*

**JOHN 1:10**

## ORDER OF SERVICE

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Prelude  
*Cathy Fortson*

“The First Noel”  
*arr. James Pethel*

“Christmas Gloria”  
*arr. Mary McDonald*

Welcome & Announcements

Introit  
*The Chancel Bells*

“Angels We Have Heard on High”  
*arr. Frances Callahan*

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Response  
*HE CAME DOWN*

“He Came Down”  
*(Hymn 137)*

**He came down that we may have love; (3x)  
hallelujah forevermore.**

Unison Advent Prayer

**Loving God, we thank you for your gift of love—shown to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us prepare our hearts to receive him. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.**

\* Hymn 121  
*ST. LOUIS*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**We seek to serve you, O Lord, with glad and generous hearts. Forgive us when our hearts are hardened; move us to trust the depth of your promise. We seek to live as baptized people, repenting of sin and sharing your grace. Forgive us when we are stuck in old ways; move us to answer your call. By your grace, cleanse us. By your love, help us to learn from our mistakes. By your Holy Spirit, equip us to love and serve you.**

*[A moment for silent confession.]*

**Amen.**

Response

“My Soul in Stillness Waits”

*MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS*

*(Hymn 89)*

**For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;**

**Truly my hope is in you.**

*(Repeat)*

Assurance of Forgiveness

\* Response

“Joy to the World”

*ANTIOCH*

*(Hymn 134)*

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,**

**nor thorns infest the ground;**

**he comes to make his blessings flow**

**far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,**

**far as, far as the curse is found.**

Scripture Reading

Genesis 1:26-27

The Word of God for the people of God;

**Thanks be to God.**

Time for Children

*The Rev. Bryant Anderson*

Anthem

*The Chancel Bells*

“Carol of the Bells”

*arr. Cathy Moglebust*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-5, 10-14

The Word of the Lord;

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“The Great Exchange: Divinity for Humanity”

*The Rev. Bryant Anderson*

\* Hymn 128

*W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY*

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

\* Affirmation of Faith

*Colossians 1:15-20*

**The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.  
Amen.**

Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

*The Chancel Bells*

“Ding, Dong! Merrily on High”

*arr. Fred Gramman*

\* Response

*GREENSLEEVES*

“What Child Is This”

*(Hymn 145)*

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* Hymn 110

*BRING A TORCH*

“Love Has Come”

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

*Cathy Fortson*

Reprise: “Christmas Gloria”

*arr. Mary McDonald*

*The flowers are given in loving memory of Louise Jackson by her husband,  
Vernon Jackson, Sr. and their family.*



*Please join us after worship for refreshments and fellowship in Patten Hall.  
All are welcome to join us!*

## WORSHIP NOTES

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### WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

Please take a brief moment to let us know that you have joined us for worship today. Sign the connection pad in the pew or pull out your phone and visit [palmschurch.org](http://palmschurch.org) and click "Worship Attendance." This simple form will help keep our church family connected.

### LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Bryant Anderson (Pastor), Rev. Beverly Dempsey (Associate Pastor), Bill Wildey (Adult Ministry Director), Dr. Ronn Cummings (Director of Music & Fine Arts), and Cathy Fortson (Organist).

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

(8:30) Esther Haywood, Brad & Donna Bush, Max, Emily & Parker Van Dorn

(11:00) Carolyn Ettlinger, Chip & Phyllis Tousey, Scott, Meredith & Leighton Matthews, Alan Matthews

### HEARING ENHANCEMENT

Please see an usher if you would like to use one of our hearing enhancement devices.

### WIFI

Network: PalmsGuest | Password: oasiswifi

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

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*New Schedule for 2025*

**3:00 PM**

Family Service

**5:00 & 7:00 PM**

Traditional Candlelight Service

*with Choir, JSO Strings, harp, and Wilford Kelly*

**9:00 PM**

Communion Candlelight Service

*with featured soloist Wilford Kelly, JSO Strings, and harp*



## *Flower Dedications*

### **IN HONOR**

- 62 years of marriage to my best friend, AKA Papa by Cynthia and Dick Grove
- Carol DiGiusto by Bob & Carolyn Dickson
- Dr. Ronn Cummings by Sandra Burnaman
- Emma Woo, our newest family member, by Cathy & Rich Finke
- In gratitude for Donovan and the support from Palms by Ben & Erin Whitlock
- James and Anita Stoner & Nicholas Ledbetter by Julie Ledbetter
- Marley Blevins by Lori & Erik Brim
- My mother, Victoria David, by Suneeta Chanan-Khan
- Our grandgirls, Emilia, Luci, and Madison, by Stuart & Sally Young
- Our incredible staff at Palms Presbyterian by Cynthia and Dick Grove
- Our lovely daughter-in-law by Cathy & Rich Finke
- Our newlyweds, Sydney and Billy Grove, by Cynthia and Dick Grove
- Palms Presbyterian ministers and the devoted office staff by Carolyn Bourne
- Palms Staff. Thank you for all you do! by Dave & Rona Burgin
- Palms staff and volunteers by Rev. Carol DiGiusto
- Sallie Gipson by Palms Deacons
- The Bryant Anderson Family by a Palms Member
- Vicki Hull by Stephen Hull
- Walker Penny, my great-grandson, by Rose Walker

### **IN LOVING MEMORY**

- Alex O'Daniel by Georgia O'Daniel & Betsy O'Daniel
- Betty Gilpin by Ed Gilpin
- Betty Lu and George Grune by Joan & Robert Grune
- Betty O'Daniel by Georgia O'Daniel & Betsy O'Daniel
- Bob Bourne by Carolyn Bourne
- Bob Walker by Rose Walker
- Brenda, Gary, Kathy, and Mary Ellen by Art & Phyllis Parrish



## IN LOVING MEMORY

- Catherine Hull by Stephen Hull
- Cathy Metcalfe by Bob Metcalfe
- Charles Fitzgerald by Karyl Fitzgerald
- Charlie Rodgers by Sonja Rodgers
- Chuck Ross by Charlotte & Gary Ehlig
- Dennis Johnson by Charlotte & Gary Ehlig
- Dottie and George Olsen by Georgia O'Daniel & Betsy O'Daniel
- Dr. Jerry Pietan by Mary, Kelly, Mark & Sebastian Pietan
- Emma and Robert Sellery by Carol & Bob Sellery
- Fred King by Janey King
- Gertrude and Edward Burke by Carol & Bob Sellery
- Hansford and Hayden Sams by Elizabeth Sams
- Jack Kyle by Luci Kyle
- James G. Baldwin (Jim) by Sally Baldwin
- Jane Fischer by Del Fischer
- Jane Main by Voncile Jackson
- Janice Parr Wiesner by Jim Wiesner & family
- Jennifer Keyser Salzman by Terry & Brenda Keyser
- Jim Walburn by Lori & Erik Brim
- Karen Larsen by Jim Larsen and family
- Ken Elliott by Ginny Elliott and his family
- Lawrence & Lillian Stoner by Julie Ledbetter
- Lloyd and Marilyn Alamsha by Lew & Annette Ritter
- Lucille Carbulon by Sherry & Jim Gallo
- Lyda and Al Vaughn by Lyda Astrove
- Margaret & Walter Johnson by Martha & Mark Johnson
- Mary Ellen Huhta by Sonja Rodgers
- Melissa Patton by John & family



## IN LOVING MEMORY

- My husband, Bill, by Donna Biettel
- My husband, CDR William R. Lang, USN (Ret), by Sandra C. Lang
- My husband, Dean DeWall, by Judith DeWall
- My husband, Ed, by Betty Spielman
- My husband, Sheldon Jackson, by Voncile Jackson
- My Norm Taylor, Tenor, with much love from his wife Jan & family
- My parents by Jane Palmer
- My son, Peter James Lang, by Sandra C. Lang
- Nancy Carlisle and Tim & Jeanne Speegle by Julie Ledbetter
- Our family by Dottie & Bob Hood
- Our parents by Bernie & Beth Lyons
- Our parents by Carolyn & Russ Ueber
- Our parents, Dave and Marion Turner, by Alison & Edward Walton
- Our parents, Frank and Betty Walton, by Alison & Edward Walton
- Our parents, Tucker and Vail Ford, by Fred & Janet Young
- Our parents, Zeno and Blanche Young, by Fred & Janet Young
- Our parents, Ronald and Florence James and John and Jane Berberich, by Ron & Jan James
- Our parents and brothers by Christian & Ann VanDenBerg
- Our parents, brothers, other family members, and dear friends by Cynthia and Dick Grove
- Phillip and our parents by Sandra Burnaman
- Ralph & Lucille Haggard by Julie Ledbetter
- Rebecca and D.A. Willey by Martha & Mark Johnson
- Renate Rode by Marie Santangelo
- Rev. Dr. George C. Wilson by Kelly Wilson Clark
- Robert and June McGrane by Jeff S. McGrane
- Robert Edward Witters, with continuing love and admiration by his daughters, grandchildren, great grandson, and wife.



## **IN LOVING MEMORY**

- Ruth Gallo by Sherry & Jim Gallo
- Rev. Jack and Judy Swann by George & Gene Bland
- Scott Gilpin by Ed, Todd, Sarah, and Christy
- Sylvia Cross Murray by Charles Lynn Murray
- Terry Weidle by Nancy Weidle & family

## **TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

- Lewis Hull by Stephen Hull
- The amazing music of Palms and the beautiful choir under the direction of Dr. Cummings by Cynthia and Dick Grove

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

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### SUNDAY STUDY

*Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes*

**SUNDAYS AT 9:40 AM (PALMS ROOM)**

- December 21: Christmas at John's House with Craig Davies

### MESSAGE OF THE CAROLS

*One Service Next Sunday!*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 10:00 AM**

Join us for a reflective service where the timeless message of our favorite carols leads us in worship and hope.

Palms contributes annually to Beaches Habitat, helping build 44 new townhomes in the Coastal Haven Community in Mayport. Volunteer opportunities are available!

**DID YOU KNOW?**

## SERMON SERIES

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The theologian Laurence Hull Stookey once referred to Christmas as "the Great Exchange": the moment when God exchanges divinity, power, and life for humanness, weakness, and death—all for our benefit. In the words of C.S. Lewis, "The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God." We call this the Incarnation: God taking on flesh in Christ. Christmas is more than a birthday

celebration for Jesus; it is a moment to remember what God has done, to recall the power of the incarnation, and to rediscover the great exchange that has taken place for us.



## CHILDREN & YOUTH

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### KIDWORSHIP

*Age 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

#### **SUNDAYS DURING 11 AM SERVICE**

Following the Time for Children, all children, age 3 through 5th grade, are invited to attend **KidWorship**. This program will feature music, Bible study, games, prayer, and more fun activities to help kids grow in faith and deepen connections with one another. **Children can be picked up after worship** in our children's area in the educational building.

**If you are visiting** and your child would like to join KidWorship, please ask an usher for a KidWorship check-in form. This will give us some quick information, so you can enjoy worship knowing your child is safe in a new space. Returning participants can be checked in for KidWorship at the base of the Grand Staircase in the education building.

### PRAISE & PLAY

*Age 5 and Under*

#### **SUNDAYS, 8:15 AM - 12:15 PM (RM 125)**

This nursery time includes free play, age-appropriate crafts, and a caring, fun environment. If your child is not ready for KidWorship during the 11:00 service, children up to 5 years old are welcome to join us in Palms Praise and Play.

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

*Middle School Youth*

#### **MOST WEDNESDAYS, 5:15-7 PM**

All middle school students are invited to join us for youth group most Wednesday evenings in the Youth Room.

- Dec 24 & 31 – *No Youth Group*

*High School Youth*

#### **SUNDAYS, 5:30-7 PM**

All high school students are invited to join us. *November events will gather at Palms in the Youth Room.*

- Dec 21 & 28 – *No Youth Group*



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# CALENDAR

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## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 8:15 a.m. Praise & Play, RM 125
- 8:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:40 a.m. Faith Explorers, RM 214
- 9:40 a.m. Sunday Study, Palms Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. KidWorship, RM 126
- 5:30 p.m. Small Bites Ornament Exchange, Palms Room

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

No Events Scheduled

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

- 6:15 p.m. Men's 50+ Basketball, Gym

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

### CHRISTMAS EVE

- 3:00 p.m. Family Service
- 5:00 p.m. Tradition Candlelight Service
- 7:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service
- 9:00 p.m. Communion Candlelight Service

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

### Merry Christmas

**The Church office is closed**

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

### Merry Christmas

**The Church office is closed**

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

No Events Scheduled

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 9:45 a.m. Praise & Play, RM 125
- 10:00 a.m. Message of the Carols, Sanctuary

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service for Dennis Johnson

# WAYS TO GIVE

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GIFTS OR MAIL CHECKS



IN PERSON



ONLINE AT [PALMSCHURCH.ORG](http://PALMSCHURCH.ORG)



## PRAYERS & CONCERNS

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### IN OUR PRAYERS

Nancy Aves, Jenny Colvin, Mary Frost, Sara Gordon, Joan Kemp, Penny Leonard, Faye Lightburn, Nelson Moore, Barbara Pickett, Betty Spielman, Malvina White

### IN THE MILITARY

John Arena, James McDuffie Brunson, Woody Cromley, Zach Johnson, Dr. Janet West, Andrew Whelan, Daniel Wise, and Dr. Austin Yoder

### GLOBAL MISSION

Pastor Charles George, Zoe Church, Home of Compassion, Delft, Cape Town, South Africa; Leon & Jacky Dorleans and Nadege Gay, Haiti Outreach Ministries (HOM); CODEP- Comprehensive Development & Reforestation Project (Haiti); Dr. Connie Duke, Art Creation Foundation (Haiti); Dr. Tharwat Wahba, Evangelical Theological Seminary, Cairo (ETSC) and the Presbyterian Church of Egypt; Dr. Roger Wegurih, "Operation Go Home" (Upper Presbytery, Ghana); Dr. John Azumah, The Sanneh Institute (Ghana); and Rev. Dr. Philip Laryea, The Akrofi-Christaller Institute for Theology, (Ghana)

### LOCAL MISSION

Jeff Winkler, BEAM; Steve Gilbert, Beaches Habitat for Humanity; Latoya Thomas, The Carver Center, Jelisa Jackson, The Gail Baker Center; Dee Davis, The Jordan Center, Faculty, students, and families of local Beaches Area schools, Lucas Seilhymmer, Mission House; Rick Cartlidge, The Sanctuary on 8th Street; Lori Anderson, Dial-A-Ride, Mary Jane Brown, Beaches Community Kitchen

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Submit a prayer request by contacting Pam Mann at either 904-509-6192 or [gatorpep@aol.com](mailto:gatorpep@aol.com).

## LEADERSHIP

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### *Elders*

**Class of 2026**  
 Phil Hammond  
 Andy Mignerey  
 Lucy Stewart  
 Gordon Strickland

**Class of 2027**  
 Jan Duggar  
 Bob Vick  
 Devon Witt

**Class of 2028**  
 Karen Ackerman  
 Gary Deal  
 Elizabeth Gainer  
 Ena Stoops

### *Deacons*

**Class of 2026**  
 Ellen Carson  
 Laura Kusumoto  
 Pam Mann  
 Laura Strickland  
 Phyllis Tousey

**Class of 2027**  
 Barbara Bishop  
 Marcele Gillum  
 Howard Jolles  
 Justine Ness  
 Georgia O’Daniel  
 Jane Palmer

**Class of 2027**  
 Kristin Edwards  
 Brian Keller  
 Martha McNulty  
 Judy Muir  
 Jeremy Thien

## STAFF

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Rev. Bryant Anderson .....	Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Beverly Dempsey .....	Associate Pastor
Dr. Ronn Cummings .....	Director of Music & Fine Arts
Bill Wildey .....	Adult Ministry Director
Rev. Craig Davies .....	Parish Associate
Rev. Dr. Tom Walker .....	Pastor Emeritus
Taylor Brown .....	Children’s Ministry Director
Cathy Fortson .....	Organist
Sallie Gipson .....	Congregational Care Coordinator
Lori Vaughn.....	Church Business Director
Lesley Hunter .....	Communications Coordinator
Annette Ritter .....	Receptionist & Volunteer Coordinator
Sylvia Hammond.....	Assistant to Membership & Connection
Katie Byrd .....	Nursery Coordinator
Alex Crawford .....	Facilities Director
Noël Millan .....	Facilities Assistant
Christoper Sprinkle .....	Sexton
David Stang .....	Audio/Video Technician



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