



# PALMS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
**Sunday, May 3, 2026**

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

**1 PETER 2:9**

# ORDER OF SERVICE

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Prelude

*Cathy Fortson*

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

*arr. Josh Bing*

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

*arr. Jason Payne*

Welcome & Announcements

Introit

*The Chancel Choir*

“Taste and See”

*James Moore*

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord!

Call to Worship

Come, all who hunger for good news.

**We thirst for words of hope and healing.**

Come, from rural road and city street.

**We gather at the King’s invitation.**

Come, for everything is ready now.

**Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

\* Hymn 475

*NETTLETON*

“Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Eternally patient God, we ask again and again, “What should we do?” And again and again, you tell us, “Repent and return to me.” Yet we have not changed our ways. We fall into old habits, cling to our own ways, and take for granted the grace you give. Once again, we ask you for forgiveness. Show us the way forward and help us return, once again, to you.**

*[A moment for silent confession.]*

**Amen.**

Response

*SINGAPURA*

“Lord, Have Mercy”

*(Hymn 576)*

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

\* *Rise in body or in spirit*

Assurance of Forgiveness

\* Response

*BE NOT AFRAID*

“Be Not Afraid”

*(Hymn 243)*

**Be not afraid; sing out for joy!**

**Christ is risen, alleluia! (repeat)**

## RECEPTION OF CONFIRMATION CLASS

*Owen Anderson, Lydia Boyd, Devika Delany, Warren Garner, Luke Lonegro, Gavin Machinski,  
Grant McCrary, Elena Morrison, Wilder Newell, Henry Thien, Harmony Toma*

[11:00 service]

Profession of Faith

\* Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Sacrament of Baptism

*Lydia Anne Boyd*

Closing Prayer

Scripture Reading

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

The Word of God for the people of God;

**Thanks be to God.**

Time for Children

*The Rev. Bryant Anderson*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

The Word of the Lord;

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Putting Down Roots”

*The Rev. Bryant Anderson*

\* Hymn 321

“The Church’s One Foundation”

*AURELIA*

*(verses 1-4)*

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

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

*The Chancel Choir*

*Dan Forrest*

Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure, through a world that would deceive us, where to sin our hearts are lured. Ever in his footsteps treading, living here, yet home above, full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Father’s bidding, faithful Lord, abide with me; Savior, lead, I follow thee. Let us also die with Jesus, by his cross he conquered death, freed us from our soul’s destruction, quickened us with life’s new breath. Let us mortify, while living, self and pride, and die to sin, and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heaven. Jesus, here I die to thee, there to dwell eternally. Let us gladly live with Jesus, he is risen from the dead. Death is swallowed up in victory, Jesus, thou art now our head. Living members of thy body, where thou livest we shall be, thou wilt keep us constantly, even so, dear Lord, come quickly, Jesus, here I live to thee, there to dwell eternally. Let us ever walk with Jesus.

\* Response

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

*BEACH SPRING*

*(Hymn 245, verse 4)*

**Hail the Lord of earth and heave! Alleluia!  
Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!  
Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia!  
Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!**

\* Prayer of Dedication

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table & Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Communion Anthem

“In Remembrance of Me”

*The Chancel Choir*

*arr. John Purifoy*

Take and eat in remembrance of me. This is the bread broken for you. This is the cup poured out for you. This new covenant is my life given for you. This is my body given for you. This is my blood poured out for you. Take and share with all who come in memory of me.

Prayer of Commitment

**Loving God, you graciously feed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. May we who have received this sacrament be strengthened in your service; may we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth; may we who have seen the greatness of your love see you face to face in your kingdom. For you have made us your own people by the death and resurrection of your Son, our Lord, and by the life-giving power of your Spirit. Amen.**

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\* Hymn 305

“Come Sing, O Church in Joy!”

*DARWALL'S 148<sup>TH</sup>*

\* Charge & Benediction

\* Postlude

“O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*Cathy Fortson*

*arr. Gilbert Martin*

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*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 (Interim Associate Pastor), Dr. Ronn Cummings (Director of Music and Fine Arts), and Cathy Fortson (Organist)

### HEARING ENHANCEMENT

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

### WIFI

Network: PalmsGuest | Password: oasiswifi

## SERMON SERIES

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In so many ways it feels today that the American church is not what it used to be: in terms of its visibility and influence, commitment and participation, attendance and activity. Many will experience this as a significant loss and describe it as "decline." But perhaps a better metaphor for the experience of the church today is *exile*. And

there are rich biblical resources for understanding the experience of God's people in exile. If we see this moment through the lens of decline, we can easily become disheartened; but if we understand ourselves as living through a kind of exile, then perhaps we can see this as an opportunity for meaningful growth and renewal.



## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

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### SUNDAY STUDY

ON SUMMER BREAK UNTIL SEPTEMBER

#### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**SUNDAY, MAY 10 AT 9:40, GYM**

The session has called a congregational meeting for the purpose of approving a call to an associate pastor. Please join us for a brief gathering.

### PALMS WORKDAY

**SATURDAY, MAY 16 AT 9 AM**

The property team is hosting the next workday. Tasks include clearing brush from the west playground, dead plantings, and installing playground screening. Stop by the signup table for additional information or to sign up.

### MUSIC SUNDAY

**SUNDAY, MAY 17 AT 8:30 & 11:00 AM**

Join us as we celebrate the gifts of music in worship! Featuring the Palms Choirs, organist Cathy Fortson, soloists Alli Luytjes and Gavin Andrews, and 24 members of The Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra conducted by Dr. Ronn Cummings. *This service will not be available on the livestream.*

### SUMMER SCHEDULE

**STARTS MAY 24, ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM**

Our summer schedule begins with one worship service at 10:00 a.m. through Labor Day.

### SEASONED SAINTS EVENT

**THURSDAY, MAY 28 AT 1:00 PM IN PATTEN HALL**

David and Diane Weisz Young, (the daughter of Ann and Howard Weisz) will be speaking to Seasoned Saints on Thursday, May 28 from 1 - 2 p.m. in Patten Hall. Together, they will share about their work in Africa during David's time with the US State Department and their recent visit to the Palms mission in Cape Town. Registration is not required.

### DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

Do you have trouble hearing during services or events at Palms? If so, the Palms Health Ministry would like to hear from you. Please complete the questionnaire by using the QR



code or stop by the welcome desk in Patten Hall to pick up a paper copy.

***Please submit or return by May 17.***

### DID YOU KNOW?

Each summer, Palms hosts Kids Kitchen, providing over 800 bags of food to children at Carver, Jordan, and Donner Centers so they have meals when school is out. Be on the lookout for an opportunity to volunteer!

## 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 will be returned to worship prior to the celebration of the Lord's Supper.**

**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*

#### 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAYS, 5:15-7 PM

All middle school students are invited to join us for youth group on the **second** and **fourth** Wednesdays of each month in the Youth Room. **Next gathering is Wednesday, May 13.**

*High School Youth*

All high school students are invited to the serve event on **Sunday, May 17 in RM 213 at 12 p.m.** **Get in touch with Taylor Brown for more information.**

### BIBLE ADVENTURE WEEK

JUNE 1-5, 9AM – 12PM

Save the date for Bible Adventure Week in Rainforest Falls! Just as plants release water into the air and it returns as life-giving rain, our Bible Adventure Week volunteers share God's love, letting it fall gently into the hearts of children and helping them grow. Come and explore the powerful nature of God. Sign up at [bit.ly/rainforestfalls](http://bit.ly/rainforestfalls) or use the QR code.



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# CALENDAR

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## SUNDAY, MAY 3

- 8:00 a.m. PW Craft Sale, Patten Hall
- 8:00 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
- 8:15 a.m. Praise & Play, RM 125
- 8:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. KidWorship, RM 126

## MONDAY, MAY 4

- 1:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study, Conference Room
- 5:30 p.m. Chancel Bells, Sanctuary

## TUESDAY, MAY 5

- 9:30 a.m. Ladies Small Group, RM 203
- 6:00 p.m. Outreach Meeting, RM 204/Hybrid
- 6:15 p.m. Men's 50+ Basketball, Gym

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

- 9:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study, RM 202
- 9:30 a.m. Lectio Divina, RM 203
- 12:00 p.m. Matthew 25 Meeting, RM 204
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Choir, Sanctuary

- 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Prayer, Chapel
- 7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball, Gym
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Sanctuary

## THURSDAY, MAY 7

- 11:00 a.m. Parkinson's Group, RM 202
- 12:00 p.m. Sack Lunch Theology, RM 204
- 1:00 p.m. PW Crafters, RM 202
- 4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer, RM 207

## FRIDAY, MAY 8

- 10:00 a.m. Mark Middlebrook Memorial Service, Sanctuary

## SATURDAY, MAY 9

- No Events Scheduled

## SUNDAY, MAY 10

- 8:15 a.m. Praise & Play, RM 125
- 8:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. KidWorship, RM 126

# WAYS TO GIVE

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TEXT PALMS TO 73256



RECURRING BANK GIFTS OR MAIL CHECKS



IN PERSON



ONLINE AT PALMSCHURCH.ORG



## **PRAYERS & CONCERNS**

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### **IN OUR PRAYERS**

Nancy Aves, Mary Frost, Sara Gordon, Joan Kemp, Penny Leonard, Faye Lightburn, Barbara Pickett, Helen Kleiber Rich, Betty Spielman, Malvina White

### **IN THE MILITARY**

John Arena, James McDuffie Brunson, 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. Samuel Rozfy, Evangelical Theological Seminary, Cairo (ETSC) and Rev. Mina Hanna, Evangelical 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 Seilhymer, 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 2028**  
 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 ..... Interim 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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