

EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith

Fall 2018

I've been thinking...

Seattle - Tacoma

The Kindlings Muse Podcast*

Walker-Ames Room,
Kane Hall, UW
Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 26

Morning Worship

First Presbyterian Church
of Tacoma

Two Virtues of Grace

Matthew 11:28-30

Sept. 16, 10:30 am

Bible Study Class:

The Book of Psalms and
New Testament Faith

Sept. 23, 30 & Oct. 7, 9:15 am

Dedication of the Palmer House

University Presbyterian
Evening of Oct. 21

**Looking Ahead to C.S. Lewis
Fellows**

University Presbyterian

Lecture

Feb. 9, 2019

Around the Country

**Bishops Retreat: Diocese
of Florida**

Witness to Truth and Grace
Dorothy Sayers and C.S.

Lewis

Jacksonville, FL

Sept. 7-9

**PTS/President's Forum with
Michael Gerson**

Princeton, NJ

Nov. 8

*** Watch for details at**

www.earlpalmer.org

info@earlpalmer.org OR

visit earlpalmer.org/

[events-2/](http://earlpalmer.org/events-2/)

Abraham Lincoln gave two speeches that served to bless the people of the United States of America during a hard time in our history. The listeners were suffering because of a brutal national conflict with loss of thousands of young soldiers and civilians, all victims of civil war. Both of these speeches are preserved for Americans and people of the world on the marble walls at the Lincoln Memorial, which faces the National Mall in Washington, DC. These speeches have words of vital importance for us today.

The first is Lincoln's Gettysburg Address given November 19, 1863 at a grave site of the conflict that polarized the country and led to the war. In his brief remarks, only three minutes long, the president dedicated the grave site on a battlefield of that war as a final resting place, a cemetery, of those who "gave their lives . . . the last full measure of devotion."

Then Abraham Lincoln called for a second dedication with the words, "It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work . . . to the great task remaining . . . that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Two years later, March 4, 1865, from the steps of the capital of the United States, President Lincoln gave his Second Inaugural address. He chose two words that became the most memorable: *malice* and *charity*. The first word, *malice*, gathers together the pain of injustice and despair of the "lash of the whip" by which he describes the cruelty and terror of slavery in America, an institution of oppression that dehumanized and diminished. In contrast, he adds the second word, *charity*. This is a word of hope for a just and lasting peace that through love is able to bind up the nation's wounds, both morally and physically and bring its people together and prevail over the evil of malice. President Abraham Lincoln dared to boldly choose charity over malice as the mandate for his country and ours. He stated clearly: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right."

President Lincoln thought it through. He makes use of texts from the Bible that tell of God's judgement against malice and because of the hope in God's love he prays for the nation: "Fondly do we hope – fervently do we pray – that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away." The power of charity is the basis from which every other imperative and promise gains its meaning. While to love God is the first and greatest commandment, the second derives from it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:34-40). Charity lays claim on the power of love to heal a people.

With his words, Abraham Lincoln challenged America to insist its citizens and those elected to lead our democracy are committed to the vision that we, the people, remain "dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal," (Gettysburg) and that we as a nation shall "achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace, among ourselves and with all nations." (Second Inaugural Address).

Two speeches by an American president given over one hundred years ago during a time of crisis continue to call us as a people and as a nation to remember that good and healing vision and to be doers of that good and healing vision, too.



Drew Palmer (grandson), Walter Hooper (secretary to C.S. Lewis) with Earl in Oxford

— Earl Palmer

Meet Tate Busby, Earl Palmer Ministries Study Assistant 2018-2019

I am thrilled to see what this year has in store and grow from Earl's wisdom and teaching. I grew up in Edmonds, Washington, and will be graduating from Seattle Pacific University in November with my bachelor of arts in business administration with a management concentration. Being an Eagle Scout, attending marine biology school, and performing on many stages in the Seattle area has given me countless opportunities to show my entrepreneurial spirit, and I hope to carry that into Earl Palmer Ministries. Through my work experience in many different hospitality roles at University Presbyterian Church, I feel a strong connection to this amazing community, and I'm glad to be staying close by. Exploring my faith and learning from Earl this year is an amazing opportunity that I am very grateful for. I hope to carry out the mission of this ministry in new and contemporary ways, while still serving to inspire teaching, writing, and mentoring through Earl's ventures this coming year. - *Tate Busby*



Join us this Fall . . .

I am very excited to welcome Earl back to First Presbyterian Church of Tacoma. to share with us his infectious love for God's word. This year we are focusing on what it means to be a "self-feeding disciple," someone who engages God's word for themselves by developing a regular habit for personally reading and studying/learning from the Bible in one's own life. From my own perspective, having Earl help with this initiative is appropriate because he has had a major impact on my own desire to be a "self-feeding disciple." Listening to Earl preach and teach is like a master class in how to study the Bible. Earl loves it when his audience figures something out for themselves before he says it. He is an expositional teacher because he believes that the best way for us as believers to grow in our understanding is to engage God's word for ourselves. I've heard Earl preach and teach on hundreds of occasions, and I continue to find his engagement with the Bible fresh and exciting every time. I invite you to come and enjoy Earl's preaching and teaching: — *Dr. Eric Jacobson, Senior Pastor*



"Two Virtues of Grace" (Matthew 11:28-30)

Oct. 16 at 10:30-11:45 for worship

Sept. 23, 30 and Oct. 7 at 9:15-10:15 in the South Chapel

"The Book of Psalms and New Testament Faith"

A School Year Begins with Earl's Talk . . .



Earl had the privilege of speaking to the faculty and staff of King's School at their annual Fall Kick-Off on August 28th. Earl has enjoyed being with these people in the past, and he was glad to be back. Pictured above: Earl with Superintendent Eric Rasmussen.

With this opener on the website, Princeton Theological Seminary Announces...

Earl Palmer Ministries Collection



The Princeton Theological Seminary Library is pleased to announce the expansion of the Earl F. Palmer Collection at Princeton Theological Seminary. The existing print-based collection is being augmented by a large addition of digitized lectures, sermons, correspondence, and other personal works of Earl F. Palmer that will be available on the library's Theological Commons website. The new digitized collection will be available on the front page of the Theological Commons under "Featured Collections." Check out: commons.ptsem.edu/ for more info.

— *Evelyn Frangakis, Managing Director of the PTS Library*

The Palmer House

In October, University Presbyterian Church will officially open **The Palmer House** for University Ministries and honor the life and ministry of Rev. Earl Palmer and Dr. Shirley Palmer. An open house for the broader community will take place early in the month. A special dedication ceremony that is scheduled for later in the month.

This celebration follows the vote on December 19, 2017 of the Session at University Presbyterian Church to name its new home for University Ministries in honor of the Palmers. The newly remodeled building, situated on the corner of NE 47th and 16th Ave, will be a gathering place and ministry hub for students from the University of Washington and other local area colleges/universities.

— *Jennifer Perrow, University Presbyterian Church*



Make sure to check out earlpalmer.org for recently digitized sermons and lectures

Reporting From Oxford . . .

As people shared their takeaway from a week with Earl at the Kilns, home of C.S. Lewis, and exploring the surrounds of Lewis's life, here's what they said . . .

"I feel like I know C.S. Lewis as a person, where he's coming from, and how he thinks. I am so delighted to learn about the way that he approached his apologetics." (the defense and explanation of the faith -EP).

— Phil Stillman

"I learned from Mere Christianity that there's a simplicity in keeping life simple."

— Nathan Taylor and his son, Joel, high-school student.

"I learned how significant a life can be, and how each moment in life through death, matters. God is working throughout and making himself real in many ways. C.S. Lewis became an advocate and voice for this, and gave space and room for people to find Christ."

— Nancy Branagh



Installation Service for Rev. Steve Ruetschle



It was an honor for Earl to preach at the installation of Steve Ruetschle at Sunset Presbyterian Church outside of Portland on August 12th. You may remember Steve from his time at University Presbyterian Church on staff or at First Presbyterian Bellevue. He has returned from Union Church of Manila to serve as teaching pastor in this new post. We join with many of you to welcome Steve, his wife Michelle and their three boys back to the United States. May the Lord bless their ministry.

**WATCH FOR EARL AT NEW COLLEGE BERKELEY
MARCH 16TH ON THE BOOK OF ROMANS**

Something new is being added!

As an advocate for expositional preaching, Tony Whatley, Chair of Earl Palmer Ministries, is pleased to announce our support of *Christianity Today* in its outreach and encouragement to pastors. Starting this fall, Earl's voice will be featured on the website preachingtoday.com as a pastoral contributor and "expository teaching/preaching specialist." Harold Smith, president and CEO of CT said: "In this role, Earl will interact with PT editors to develop "Skill Builders," designed to bring practical and proven guidelines to today's pastor-teacher. In addition, Earl will be offering the back story on some of his own favorite sermons in PT's popular "Sermon Commentary" section. Here, he will be discussing why he took a certain approach to a particular text, what resources he used in the sermon's preparation, and why and where he found effective illustrations to powerfully communicate

the truth of the Gospel. Richard Clark, editor of the popular site adds, "Like all of us here at CT, Earl's committed, and has been for over six decades, to engage, encourage, and equip pastors for the effective preaching of the Word." Earl's contributions will start appearing this fall.

— Harold Smith, President and CEO of
Christianity Today



9/24/18 **Great Speeches by Abraham Lincoln**
Gettysburg and 2nd Inaugural Address

10/22/18 **Sin and Its Cure**
The Forgiveness of Sins
by Charles Williams

11/26/18 **From the Center to the Edges**
The Man Born to Be King
by Dorothy L. Sayers

Join Dick Staub and Earl Palmer for an evening of teaching and discussion on a great work of literature. Kindlings Muse is held at the Walker-Ames Room in Kane Hall at the University of Washington from 7 to 8:30 p.m. No cost to attend. Registration and more information and all podcasts are available at thekindlingsmuse.com

Put on Your Calendar for Fall!

On the Road with Earl

Arriving at Camp Weed in Live Oak Florida, we were greeted by Bishop John Howard and Rev. Dr. Douglas Dupree with many members of the Episcopal Diocese. I realized very quickly we were in for a fantastic weekend. Over 150 curious Christian learners from many denominations attended the sessions of "A Weekend with C.S. Lewis and Dorothy L. Sayers: Witness to Truth and Grace in a Time of War" hosted by **The Bishop's Institute for Ministry and Leadership**. I was amazed to see how Earl spoke on topical current events while simultaneously sharing his wealth of knowledge in the small details of WWII and C.S. Lewis' legacy. Not to mention a new favorite author of mine, Dorothy Sayers. It was a weekend of theology, history and laughter. My takeaway: "Beware of savage tribal patriotism . . . but discover goodness, by searching upstream to find the source." — Tate

Featured Right: Earl with Tate Busby (Study Assistant) and Rev. Dr. Douglas Dupree (Director of Bishop's Institute)



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If you have any questions regarding Earl Palmer Ministries and its events, or to schedule an event, visit us at www.earlpalmer.org or email us at info@earlpalmer.org.

If you know of others who would like to receive this newsletter, or if you would prefer not to receive this mailing, email Tate at info@earlpalmer.org.

Mission Statement

EPM's mission statement comes from 1 Thessalonians 5:11: Serving to encourage and build up in Christian faith. These words from the Apostle Paul inspire our ministry of teaching, writing, and mentoring. First, we seek to mentor young theologians through our internship program and theological dialogues. Live podcasts through The Kindlings Muse offer regular teaching and conversation for all ages to consider major Christian themes. Word and Worship provides a setting for expositional teaching of the Bible and inspirational music. EPM's wider ministry focuses on encouraging pastors and giving a case for expositional worship.

Your support makes this ministry happen. As we continue in this eleventh year of ministry, we invite you to share in this outreach again with your prayers and your financial investment. To make a tax deductible contribute, please send a check made out to Earl Palmer Ministries, PO Box 85117, Seattle, WA 98145, or via PayPal electronically or by credit card at www.earlpalmer.org.

On behalf of the EPM team, I thank you. *Earl F. Palmer*