

# EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

*Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith*

**Spring 2017**

## In the Seattle Area

### **University Ministries Bible Study**

*A Theology of Encouragement*

Feb. 6 & 13

March 6 & 13

### **Word and Worship**

*John, the Beloved Book*

The Highlands Chapel

March 23, April 27, May 25

7:30 to 8:30 pm

### **The Kindlings Muse Podcast**

Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall, UW

September 18, October 16, November 20

7 to 8:30 pm

### **Theological Dialogue for Lay Teachers and Pastors**

September to December, Dates TBA

## Around the Country

### **New College of Berkeley**

*The Psalms*

Berkeley, CA

April 22: 9 am to 3 pm

### **Princeton Seminar**

*The Joy of Expository Preaching Part II*

Princeton, NJ

May 3-5, Wednesday - Friday

### **Diocese of Florida/Bishop's Institute**

*The Gospel of John*

Live Oak, FL

September 29 - October 1

Contact [jhodson@diocesefl.org](mailto:jhodson@diocesefl.org) for more information

Please email  
[info@earlpalmer.org](mailto:info@earlpalmer.org)  
for further information

I've been thinking . . . about two virtues of greatness that appear in the New Testament: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am meek and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11: 28, 29). Jesus here names two virtues with the words, *meek* and *humble* and then lives them by example.

The word humble is a directional word in most ancient languages. In Greek the key noun is *tapano*; its literal sense is "lowly." Also there is a connector word, *upo*, which means "under" or "behind." These two describe a humble or lowly vantage point from which to view the world around us. One of the important courage words in the New Testament is "steadfast," which is the word *meno*, "stay," and combined with *upo* gives *upomeno*. The literal meaning is "to stay behind when others leave" or "to stay under through thick or thin." Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote to friends just three months before his arrest and imprisonment in 1943. In this letter he describes the value of what he called "the view from below." "There remains an experience of incomparable value. We have for once learnt to see great events of world history from below . . ." (Letters and Papers from Prison p.17)

But there is an opposite possible vantage point than the way of humility and that is the human landscape seen not from below or at ground level but from above, a superior position I possess over others. In the Greek language this vantage point is described by the hyper words. For example, the word for pride in the New Testament is *hyperphanos* (to be seen from above looking down). Humility is a refreshing contrast for the hyper words. It is sometimes said of a man or woman, "How he, how she filled the room when she or he was present." Something different is said of a genuinely humble man or woman, "How she, how he enlarged the room when present." Jesus was lowly in heart; His servanthood made it possible for us to be in the room with Him.

The word *meek* is especially interesting in its own way. The Greek language uses the word *praus*, which in Classical Greek is used to describe a wild, even violent horse that is now calm and therefore teachable. This wild strength can now be trained, and the result is decidedly not a weakened or weak horse. The horse is now stronger and more skillful and is able to master hazards and sudden changes because of training and special relationship with its rider. They are both meek. Calm when calmness is right; extreme speed when speed is needed.

Jesus uses both words to describe himself. "Learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in heart . . ." Jesus is a listener. In fact, the word at the beginning of our text tells us, "I will give you rest." The word here is "pause, a space to stop." We notice in the gospel records that Jesus is a listener Rabbi, just as He is a teacher Rabbi. Jesus will also make use of this word "meek, teachable" as a word for us and in favor of all that surrounds us.

The Sermon on the Mount begins with nine Beatitudes, each of which includes a bidding and a promise. The third beatitude uses the word *meek*. "Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5) What a remarkable bidding and remarkable promise. Blessed are the teachable ones who listen and learn, and who then live out the truth they discovered when they were listening. For example, this beatitude tells of a key role that Jesus's disciples have to play in the destiny of the Earth itself. To be teachable benefits the whole of life, both in mind and heart, the learning in science, and in growing of character.

These two virtues stand together: humble and meek. Jesus taught and lived them both. He calls us to learn from Him.



With his grandsons, Drew and Tommy, after Earl preached at worship on January 8, 2017



Earl catches up with former Study Assistant Daniel Triller and his wife, Callie



Earl chats with Mathambo, who always brings greetings from his grandfather

# I Know A House...

"I know a house that took me in to send me out"

This first line of Earl's poem describes the church as a fellowship that invites us in to meet the people of the house and, best of all, its Owner. Greeting Earl are people who embody this idea. Pictured are: Daniel Triller, now Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue; Rev. Mansour Khajehpour from Iran whose ministry focuses on the Persian community in Seattle; Mathambo Chibambo who shares news of his grandfather, a pastor in Africa; and Art Beals, former Pastor of Global Ministry at UPC.



The Rev. Mansour Khajehpour family



Earl and Art Beals, former colleagues, catch up with each other



## What People Are Saying About A Morning with Bonhoeffer...

"I've heard Earl talk about Dietrich Bonhoeffer many times, but this was the first in-depth discussion of his biography I have ever heard. I left the seminar with a deeper appreciation of the man . . . and nine pages of notes!"

— Alex Berezow

"This was a wonderful exposition on Dietrich Bonhoeffer . . . what a privilege to be able to hear Earl's insights on the impact Bonhoeffer has made on his faith!"

— Shawn Kenyon

"The Bonhoeffer event was a wonderful success. The first half was a masterful historical narrative by Earl on Bonhoeffer's Germany; the second half turned into a vintage sermon by Earl on Bonhoeffer's writings, ending with his memorable poem "Who Am I?" Three-and-a-half hours went by quickly. Anne's reaction, "What a morning!" tells it all."

— Ken Pyle

### Coffee and Conversation

Four times this fall and winter, a group of pastors and lay leaders met with Earl in his home to discuss *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan. The early mornings were topped off with fresh coffee and homemade pastries fresh from the kitchen.



### Words of Encouragement

Interns for University Ministries at UPC begin a four-part Bible study in February and March with Earl on biblical words of encouragement. Participating will be, from left: Cameron Simons, a UW graduate; Hannah Sasaki, also of UW; Kelly Robinson from UC-Irvine; and Kaitlyn Katai from UW.



Come join us in the Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall, University of Washington  
7 to 8:30 pm

### Mark Your Calendar for Kindlings Muse!

Each event is podcast and made available to download at:

[www.thekindlings.com](http://www.thekindlings.com)

To attend an event, please register at:

[www.thekindlings.com/events](http://www.thekindlings.com/events)

Please visit The Kindlings Muse page at [www.earlpalmer.org](http://www.earlpalmer.org) for detailed directions and instructions on parking, or email [info@earlpalmer.org](mailto:info@earlpalmer.org).

9/18/17 **A Patriot and a Christian: Alexander Hamilton**  
*Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow

10/16/17 **Explaining Her Faith: Joy Davidman**  
(Wife of C.S. Lewis)  
*Smoke on the Mountain: An Interpretation of the 10 Commandments* by Joy Davidman

11/20/17 **Christian Reflections on An Epic Story**  
*The Return of the King*  
by J. R. R. Tolkien

**JOIN US FOR THE PSALMS:  
A Sourcebook for Faith and Living**

The Old Testament Psalms are memorable poems. Spend a day with Earl reflecting together on the key role that the Psalms play in our discipleship as followers of Jesus Christ.

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 22, 9 am-3 pm

**WHERE:** First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, 2407 Dana St., Berkeley

**COST:** \$50/person (\$90 per couple; \$25 student). Includes lunch.

**REGISTER HERE:** [newcollegeberkeley.org/spring2017registration.asp](http://newcollegeberkeley.org/spring2017registration.asp)



**Keeping in Touch**

Whenever Earl travels to Princeton, he meets with young seminarians from the West Coast. This year he spent time with (left to right): Zac Calvo of Seattle; former study assistant Gray Segars; Joel Moody of Berkeley; and Ryan Pearce of Seattle.



Listen to Part I on our website.



2015 Seminar

**Princeton in the Spring**

***The Joy of Preaching Through Exposition of the Bible Part II*  
May 3, 4 & 5, 2017**

Because of overwhelming response to Part I in November 2015, The Center for Continuing Education at Princeton Theological Seminary will host another session to continue the discussion.

Topics to be covered are: the practical steps of study; sermon preparation; and yearlong planning for relevant, cross-generational teaching of the Bible joined together with the design of worship, which in itself is an expositional surround of the wholeness of biblical texts.

Along with Earl, presenters will be: Kay Broweleit, longtime Pastor of Children and Family Ministry at UPC and other churches in the Seattle area; Mark DeVries, Associate Pastor of New Projects, First Presbyterian Church and President of Ministry Architects, both in Nashville, Tennessee; and Michael Denham, Director of Worship at The National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. Registration will open soon at [coned.ptsem.edu](http://coned.ptsem.edu).

Space is limited, so early registration is recommended.



**You're Invited . . .  
Word and Worship**

An evening hour (7:30 to 8:30) set apart for worship and personal reflection through music, prayer, and exposition of texts in the Bible. Spring 2017 will focus on the book of John.

Location is Henry Memorial Chapel in the Highlands, Shoreline, Washington.

**March 23**  
**Jesus, the Source**  
**of Living Water**  
John 7 and 8

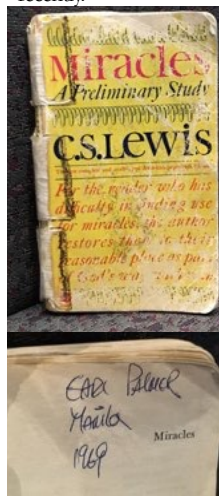
**April 27**  
**Jesus, the One**  
**Who Loved Us**  
John 15

**May 25**  
**Jesus, Thomas, and**  
**Mary**  
John 20

**Directions:** The chapel is located in the Highlands in Shoreline. Enter at the corner of 3rd Ave. NW and N 145th St. Keep left, where you will be asked to give your name to the guard. Follow the signs to the chapel.

**Take a Look**

Kris Bennett spotted Earl's well-used copy of *Miracles* by C.S. Lewis when he preached recently.



In January Earl spoke on C.S. Lewis at the Community Church of the Verdes in Arizona. You can listen to his talk at [earlpalmer.org](http://earlpalmer.org).



Earl with Landon and his parents, Steve and Kris

**On the Road with EPM** The past few months with Earl have been very busy, highlighted by A Morning with Bonhoeffer on January 14, 2017.

At this event, Earl let the words and deeds of Bonhoeffer enlighten and encourage the people. The UPC staff, Earl's wife, Shirley, and I planned the event's logistics. I was also privileged to act as moderator for the morning. Shirley helped me prep for my part, but I still felt very nervous stepping to the stage. It was a completely new challenge, and I learned a lot from it. As I looked out on the crowd of 200, I was struck by how many people had shown up to hear from Earl and learn from Bonhoeffer's example in following and serving Jesus. Included were current University of Washington students sitting next to Husky grads from the '60s.

What I've been struck by most in watching Earl is the sincere passion he has for the things he speaks about. He doesn't "turn it on" when he gets on stage; he is simply and genuinely excited about the people and scripture. He can't wait to share it with whomever he happens to be around, whether he's with a crowd at an event or with me sitting at his table. That vigor for life with Jesus is inspiring and something I will take with me for the rest of my life.

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*Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith*

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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](http://www.earlpalmer.org) or email us at [info@earlpalmer.org](mailto: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 Landon at [landon@earlpalmer.org](mailto:landon@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 regular 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 primarily on encouraging pastors and giving a case for expositional worship.

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

On behalf of the EPM team, I thank you.

*Earl F. Palmer*



