

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN

December 7th, 2025

2nd Sunday in Advent

Happy 197th Birthday FPCP!!



*Knowing that all community is a gift of God,  
we affirm there can be no exclusiveness about the body of Christ.  
We welcome into our community and membership all people of God,  
regardless of ethnic heritage, national origin, age, gender,  
marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing;  
and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.*

*Adopted by the session, March 9, 1995*

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN

*“The Church of the Open Door”, where  
All Are Welcome  
– We seek to live out the truth of God’s love  
- Worship is inclusive and inventive  
- Joy is found in nurturing one another  
- We seek to bring comfort to all people*

## WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Ekama Eni

CHORAL INTROIT

*“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ron Sopyla

One: A shoot shall come forth from Jesse’s stump,

**All: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.**

One: He will judge the poor with righteousness, and the meek with equity;

**All: He will be clothed with righteousness and faithfulness.**

One: The wolf and the lamb will live peacefully together,

**All: The leopard and the kid will lie down side by side.**

One: The cow and the bear will graze together; the lion will eat straw like the ox,

**All: And a little child will lead them all.**

One: They will neither hurt nor destroy on God’s holy mountain,

**All: For the earth will be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters fill the sea.**

\*OPENING HYMN 48      Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH: Peace

Annie & Wally Becker

One: Mystic and pastor Howard Thurman reminds us that part of the problem of peace, and that is that we are, part of an encompassing whole. We are a part of a whole world of nature as well as history. Peace is hard, and it requires us all to come together. Jesus’ birth story isn’t an easy one. But look at who it brought together.

**All: In his coming, may welcome in the sweet taste of the peace that Christ will bring to us all.**

ADVENT HYMN 9      O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 1 & 2)

CALL TO CONFESSION

We hear the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord and make God’s paths straight.” Let us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ as we confess our sin together:

CONFESSION

**God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully reliant on your grace, we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into to bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully reliant on your grace, we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another. Amen.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

\*RESPONSIVE HYMN      Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all      **All: And also with you!**

ANTHEM

*“A Call for Peace”*

**WE HEAR THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

\*WE LIMIT NOT THE TRUTH OF GOD

Anglo-German Psalter 1556

**We limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,  
by notions of our day and sect, crude, partial, and confined.  
No, let a new and better hope within our hearts be stirred,  
the Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from the word.**

YOUTH SERMON AND QUARTER COLLECTION

*Every Sunday, our children collect quarters from the congregation and place them in a tube. When full, it equals the amount necessary to purchase a goat for a needy family through Heifer International.*

HEBREW SCRIPTURE      Isaiah 11:1-10      (Pg. 640)      Ron Sopyla

GOSPEL      Matthew 3:1-12      (Pg. 2)

SERMON      Sensing Our Way Through Advent: Taste      Rev. Ekama Eni

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

CELEBRATING OUR CHURCH

\*HYMN 10      On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

OFFERING

\*THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen**

\*PRAYER OVER GOD’S GIFTS

COMMUNION HYMN 2267 STF      Taste and See (sing 2x)

LORD’S SUPPER (see insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our God, 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.**

\*CLOSING HYMN 450 O Day of Peace

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Ekama Eni

POSTLUDE

*“The Church of the Open Door” makes every effort to use inclusive language. Realizing that words have power, we encourage substitution of words/images that are most comfortable for you during this time of worship.*



Please note our new QR code: a direct way to donate to the church, pay your pledge, or make any other church-related payments. Thank you for contributing to our church and surrounding community!

***THIS WEEK:***

**Monday, December 8**

*Inner Work of Age Book Group, 4:00 – 5:30 pm, library*

**Tuesday, December 9**

*Joining Forces Group Meeting, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, library*

*Greg Smith Music Lessons 2:15 – 4:00 pm*

*Tom McCoy Music Lessons 3:00 – 6:00 pm*

*AA Women’s Group Meeting, 7:30 pm, library*

**Wednesday, December 10**

*Prayer Group, 7:00 am, in person, library*

*Tom McCoy Music Lessons 3:00 – 6:00 pm*

*Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 pm, sanctuary*

**Friday, December 12**

*Food Pantry Setup 12:30 – 2:00 pm*

*Greg Smith Music Lessons 2:20 – 4:00 pm*

**Saturday, December 13**

*Food Pantry 8:30 – 10:00 am*

*The Dream Choir rehearsal, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, sanctuary*

**WANT TO DONATE FLOWERS FOR A SUNDAY SERVICE?** Please email or call the church.

**PRAYER CHAIN** for 2025 - Email [prayerchain1presbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:prayerchain1presbyterian@gmail.com) with a prayer request or to be part of the prayer chain to receive prayer requests.

*The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown*

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*The Reverend Ekama Eni, Pastor*

*Thomas E. McCoy, Director of Music*

*Diane Phillips, Office Administrator*

*Thomas Corless, Building Manager/Groundskeeper*

*Kirsti (Kiko) Lattu, Philipstown Food Pantry Coordinator*

*Pastor’s email: [ekama@presbychurchcoldspring.org](mailto:ekama@presbychurchcoldspring.org)*

*Pastor’s cell phone: (240) 899-8386*

*Pastor’s Office Hours:*

*Tuesday 1:30 – 4:00 pm*

*Wednesday 10:00 am – 12:30 pm (or by appointment)*

*Office Administrator email: [lpresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:lpresbyterian@gmail.com)*

*Philipstown Food Pantry email: [ptfp2481f@gmail.com](mailto:ptfp2481f@gmail.com)*

*Philipstown Food Pantry cell phone (845) 612-2040*

*Visit us online for updates: [www.presbychurchcoldspring.org](http://www.presbychurchcoldspring.org)*

*Like and follow us on Facebook:*

*[www.facebook.com/ChurchOfTheOpenDoorColdSpring/](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchOfTheOpenDoorColdSpring/)*

*Follow us on Instagram at [first\\_presbyterian\\_philipstown](https://www.instagram.com/first_presbyterian_philipstown)*

*First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown operates on the ancestral homelands of the Lenape, Munsee, and Wappinger people.*

*We gratefully acknowledge their stewardship of this land, past and present.*