

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN

April 20, 2025
Easter Sunday



The Three Marys at the Tomb by Karapet of Altama

“Remember Jesus of Nazareth, staggering on broken feet out of the tomb toward the Resurrection, bearing on his body the proud insignia of the defeat which is victory, the magnificent defeat of the human soul at the hands of God.”

— Frederick Buechner, The Magnificent Defeat

***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

“Rejouissance”

G. P. Telemann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Brian Merritt

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord for God is good;

People: His steadfast love endures forever.

*OPENING HYMN 123

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

CHORAL INTROIT

“Early in the Morning on Easter Day”

Lloyd Larson

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death.

We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death.

We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

Silent Confession

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: May a unifying Spirit bring you freedom.

People: May a unifying Spirit bring you freedom.

Leader: Let us reconcile with each other by passing peace.

ANTHEM

“I Will Not Leave You Comfortless”

Carlton Young

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 BLESSING

NEW TESTAMENT TEXT **Acts 10:34-43** (*Page 129*) **Rev. Rachel Thompson**

GOSPEL TEXT **Luke 24:1-12** (*Page 90*) **Rev. Rachel Thompson**

SERMON **Rev. Brian Merritt**

ANTHEM ***“Alleluia”*** ***William Boyce***

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***HYMN 114** **Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS ***“The Beatitudes”*** ***Martynov***
Instrumental Ensemble

***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 THE OFFERING**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER

***CLOSING HYMN 104** **Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE ***“Hallelujah” Chorus from Messiah*** ***G.F. Handel***

We are grateful for our guest musicians joining us today:
Gwen Laster and Cynthia Ligenza, violins, Gina Stevens, viola, Susan Seligman, cello,
Damon Banks, Bass, Lynn Brown, flute, Robert Freimark, clarinet,
Richard Charney, saxophone, and Tom McCoy, piano and Director of Music

Following this morning’s service, children are invited to gather for an Easter Egg Hunt!

*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.*



Our QR code is 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, April 21

*CNS Resumes after Spring Recess
Greg Smith music lessons 3:15 – 6:00 pm
Inner Work of Age Book Group, 4:00 – 5:30 pm. library*

Tuesday, April 22

*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, April 23

*Prayer Group, 7:00 am, on zoom
Tom McCoy music lessons 3:00 – 6:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 pm, sanctuary*

Thursday, April 24

No Yoga Class

Friday, April 25

*Food Pantry Setup 12:30 – 2:00 pm
Greg Smith music lessons 2:15 – 5:00 pm*

Saturday, April 26

Food Pantry 9:00 – 10:00 am

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

PRAYER CHAIN for 2025 - Email prayerchain1presbyterian@gmail.com with a prayer request or to be part of the prayer chain to receive prayer requests.

FPCP has ONLINE GIVING! You may visit our website at
www.presbychurchcoldspring.org to make donations using PayPal or credit card.

*The First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown
10 Academy Street
Cold Spring, NY 10516
Telephone (845) 265-3220*

*The Reverend Brian Merritt, Pastor
The Reverend Rachel Thompson, Parish Associate
Thomas E. McCoy, Director of Music
Diane Phillips, Office Administrator
Thomas Corless, Building Manager/Groundskeeper
Kirsti 'Kiko' Lattu, Philipstown Food Pantry Coordinator
Julianna Lombardo, Director of Community Nursery School*

*Brian's email: cotodpastor@gmail.com
Brian's cell phone (703) 801-7643
Office Administrator email: lpresbyterian@gmail.com*

*Philipstown Food Pantry email: ptfp2481f@gmail.com
Philipstown Food Pantry cell phone (845) 612-2040
Community Nursery School email: Communitynurseryschoolcs50@gmail.com
Community Nursery School cell phone (845) 390-1627*

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