

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN

December 21st, 2025  
4th Sunday in Advent  
Christmas Pageant



*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

Rev. Rachel Thompson

One: Prepare the way of the Lord!

**All: Lift every valley, lift every voice.**

One: Prepare the way of the Lord!

**All: And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

\*OPENING HYMN I Love to Tell the Story (insert)

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH: Love

The Llewellyn Family

One: Love is life force.

Love is an animating energy not bound by space or time.

Love hallows life, exactly as it is—so very precious, and yet so callously made precarious.

Love also haunts life, provoking dreams of what could yet be.

**All: As we light the candle of love, let it be the catalyst of hearing the story of love made flesh among us.**

ADVENT HYMN 9 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Rachel Thompson

In Jesus Christ, God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin. With humility and hope, let us make our confession.

CONFESSION

**Great God, as we behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory. Yet, we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things that matter little that we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Rachel Thompson

The angel tells Joseph that the child forming in Mary’s womb is to be named Jesus. “Call him Jesus,” the angel says, “For he will save the people from their sins.” From his birth through his resurrection, from age to age, Jesus is about salvation. This is good news!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**





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 22**

**Tuesday, December 23**

**Wednesday, December 24**

**Thursday, December 25**

**Friday, December 26**

**Saturday, December 27**

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

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

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

***Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 pm, sanctuary***

***Christmas Day***

***(no worship service; church offices closed)***

***Food Pantry Setup 12:30 – 2:00 pm***

***Food Pantry 8:30 – 10:00 am***

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***

***10 Academy Street***

***Cold Spring, NY 10516***

***Telephone (845) 265-3220***

***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: [1presbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:1presbyterian@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.***