

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN

March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday



*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.*

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Rev. Ekama Eni

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 118)

Cathy Carnavale

One: Open to us the gates of righteousness,
that we may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

All: This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

One: Let us thank the Lord who has answered us and become my salvation.

All: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord’s doing;

One: It is truly marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made;

All: let us rejoice and be glad in it!

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: We bless you from the house of the Lord.

One: You are our God, and we will give thanks to you;

All: you are my God; I will extol you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,

The Lord’s steadfast love will endure forever.

PALM PROCESSIONAL

(we will process around the driveway once as we sing and then into the sanctuary)

When the Saints Go Marching In

1. O when the saints go marching in,
O when the saints go marching in,
O Lord I want to be in that number,
when the saints go marching in.

2. And when the sun begins to shine,
and when the sun begins to shine,
O Lord I want to be in that number,
when the sun begins to shine.

3. O when that final trumpet calls,
O when that final trumpet calls,
O Lord I want, to be in that number,
when that final trumpet calls.

4. O when the saints go marching in,
O when the saints go marching in,
O Lord I want to be in that number,
when the saints go marching in

OPENING HYMN 88 *All Glory, Laud and Honor*

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!”

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.**

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:1-11

The Congregation

Narrator: When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,

Jesus: Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately.

Narrator: This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet

Prophet: Tell the daughter of Zion, look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Narrator: The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

All: Hosanna to the Son of David!

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"**

Narrator: When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking,

All: Who is this?

Narrator: The crowds [who had been following Jesus] were saying,

All: This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.

Narrator: This is the word of the Lord.

All: 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.

YOUTH SERMON

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.

ANTHEM

"Hosanna to the King"

SERMON

Rev. Ekama Eni

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

*HYMN 470 *O Day of Radiant Gladness*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN 90 *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!*

*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.

PRAYER CHAIN for 2026 - Email prayerchain1presbyterian@gmail.com with a prayer request or to be part of the prayer chain.

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

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's email: 1presbyterian@gmail.com

Philipstown Food Pantry email: ptfp2481f@gmail.com

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

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***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.