ECO PALM SUNDAY

celebrate justice

They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!"

John 12:12-13



Today in celebration of Palm Sunday, our congregation has partnered with the Presbyterian Hunger Program to use Eco-Palms — a branch truly worthy of celebration.

Meet Anna Sentana. Anna lives in the town of Carmelita, Guatemala, where she and her community rely on the harvesting, processing, and selling of palms for their livelihood. Much of what Anna's community harvests will eventually be used in churches across the U.S. for Palm Sunday celebrations.



Program coordinator Anna Sentana oversees the collection, sorting, and packaging of palms in her community.

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Eco-Palms are harvested in a sustainable manner. Harvesters are trained to gather only quality palm fronds in a way that allows the plant to keep growing. The palms are then brought to a community processing building, where the palms are processed and packaged for export.

By contrast, in conventional harvesting, workers are paid based on volume. The more fronds they cut, the more income they generate, encouraging over-harvesting and threatening the rainforest. Middlemen then transport the palms out of communities for processing, where more than 50% of the palms are discarded because of poor quality.

Eco-Palm communities process the palms themselves, capturing more of the profits, improving local communities' standard of living, and ensuring that the money paid for the palms benefit those who labor. Anna's community has built a processing building to improve working conditions, provided scholarships to students, paid a teacher's salary, and supported elderly members of the community.



As we raise our branches in celebration today, we play an important role in protecting forests, local jobs, and sustainable livelihoods in harvesting communities.

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM
PC(USA)

To learn more, visit pcusa.org/ecopalms

The Presbyterian Hunger Program is a proud partner of the Eco-Palms project.

100 Witherspoon St. | Louisville, KY 40202 | pcusa.org/hunger | 502.569.5626



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