

OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830

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Sunday, January 18, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Elder Herb Williams

Liturgist: Deacon Nancy Abel

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music



Gathering for Worship

We request that you silence all electronic devices before service begins.

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Centering Thought

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”
Psalm 51:10

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton Director of Music

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nancy Abel

CHORAL INTROIT # 399 God Welcomes All (2x)

God Welcomes All 399

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

The first system of musical notation is for the first line of the hymn. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time and the key of D major. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;"

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The second system of musical notation is for the second line of the hymn. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time and the key of D major. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "God's love is strong and it nev - er ends."

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

Nancy Abel

Before we were born the Lord called us;

From our mothers' wombs He has spoken our names.

Our labors are in vain; what is due us is in the Lord's hand;

Let us live to reveal His splendor.

We were formed in the womb to be His servants;

Let us live to reveal His splendor.

Let Christ's salvation reach the ends of the earth;

Let us live to reveal His splendor.

Praise God, the Holy One of Israel.

Amen

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)**

Nancy Abel

Our Father in Heaven,

This world is yours, planned in eternity, created in a moment of sheer exuberance, permeated with love, wonderfully made.

Father we bless You. This place is yours, in its simplicity, blue sky and countryside, pure creativity, painted with care, wonderfully made. Father we worship You. This day is yours, pure generosity, given for moments of gentle reflection, in the bustle of a day, wonderfully made.

Father we praise You. This moment is yours in its entirety, a drop of time in an ocean of history, gifted with joy, wonderfully made. Father we thank You. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

***HYMN # # 279 Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Nancy Abel

1 John 1:9 teaches us "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Let us now approach the Lord with contrite hearts and admit our faults that we may be forgiven.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison)

Nancy Abel

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and soul and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what

we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

PERSONAL CONFESSION

Nancy Abel

Merciful God, hear now our own personal confessions that we lift up to you in silence.

(Silence is kept)

In the strong name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Herb Williams

Hear the good news!

Christ died for us,

Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us,

Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

***THE RESPONSE # 583 Glory to God (2x)**

Glory to God

583

Gloria, gloria

Capo 3: (Bm)

(Em) (A)

(D)

Dm

Gm

C

F

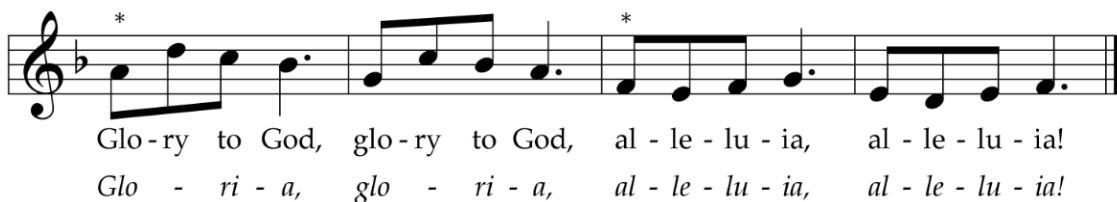
(chords continue)



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

(Hymn continues next page)



***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Nancy Abel

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please pass the peace with friends and loved-ones)

Hearing and Responding to the Word Proclaimed

TIME FOR CHILDREN OR THE YOUNG IN HEART

Herb Williams

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Nancy Abel

Holy God, Word made flesh, let us come to this word open to being surprised. Silence our agendas; banish our assumptions; cast out our casual detachment. Confound our expectations; clear the cobwebs from our ears; penetrate the corners of our hearts with this word. We know that you can, we pray that you will, and we wait with great anticipation.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 49:1-7

Nancy Abel

¹ Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name. ² He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. ³ He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor." ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God." ⁵ And now the LORD says— he who formed me in the womb to be his

servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength—⁶ he says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”⁷ This is what the LORD says— the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel—to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: “Kings will see you and stand up, princes will see and bow down, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

NEW TESTAMENT READING

John 1:29-42

Herb Williams

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”³² Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.”³³ And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’³⁴ I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?” They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”³⁹ “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

THE MESSAGE In Whom I Will Display My Splendor

Herb Williams

***HYMN # 688 Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostle's Creed**

Herb Williams

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, 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.

The Thanksgiving

THE OFFERING

With grateful hearts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to the God from whom they came.

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Praise God, from Whom
All Blessings Flow

608

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of music with lyrics 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all'. The second staff contains the second line of music with lyrics 'people here below; praise Holy Spirit ever-'. The third staff contains the third line of music with lyrics 'more; praise Tri-une God, whom we adore.' Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, C, Am7, Dsus, D, G, D, Am7, Dsus, D, Am7, D, G, Am7, G, Am7, D, G.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all
people here below; praise Holy Spirit ever-
more; praise Tri-une God, whom we adore.

***THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Guest speaker will share a prayer)

Empowered to Spread God's Love

*HYMN #451 Open My Eyes That I May See

BENEDICTION (Guest Speaker will share benediction)

*CHORAL BENEDICTION # 539

We Will Go Out with Joy 539

C F/C C G7 C

Leader



- 1 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.
- 2 Now an - y - one who's born of the Spir-it, sing a new song of joy.
- 3 We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.

C F/C C C/G G7 C

All *Fine*



We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.
Now an - y - one who's born of the Spir-it, sing a new song of joy.
We will go out with joy in the Spir-it; we will go out with God.

Refrain Fsus2 C F G C



Al - le - lu - ia! We will go out with joy.

Fsus2 C E^bsus2 Dm7 Gsus G

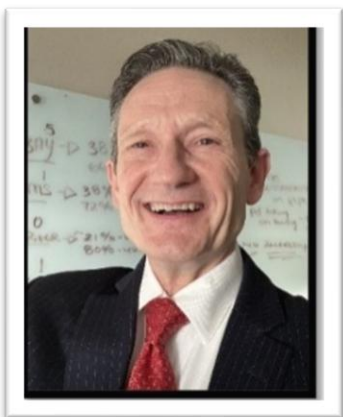
to Stanzas



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE POSTLUDE

OFFERING: Whether you are just passing through town and wanted to stop in for church, this is your first visit of many future ones, or you are with us every week, we certainly appreciate your desire to give anonymously, but if you would like to receive a record of giving for tax purposes, please fill out a pew envelope, check 'I am visiting', and add your name and address. Please make checks payable to: Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church. We appreciate every generous gift and want to make sure we have a proper record of it to say, Thank you!



This morning, we welcome Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church Elder Herb Williams, to our pulpit.

Herb grew up in Iselin and retired after a career in the Woodbridge Police Department. He attended Sunday school at the lower level of this church (formerly The First Presbyterian Church of Iselin). His mother, Ann Marie, served as an elder in the former Oak Tree Presbyterian Church, Edison, NJ, where she was a beloved member. Herb has two sons, one daughter, and three grandchildren.

Friendly Reminders

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Monday, 01/19/2026 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday | Office Closed |
| Sunday, 1/25/2026 | Congregational Meeting | After worship |
| Monday 2/9/2026 | Session | 7 pm |
| Monday 02/16/2026 | Presidents' Day | Office Closed |
| Tuesday 02/17/2026 | Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper | 6 pm |
| Wednesday, 02/18/2026 | Ash Wednesday: Joint worship service at Community Presbyterian Church | Time to be determined |

Session

Laura Reeves, Clerk of Session

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Betsy Christensen | Mission |
| Jim Durgana | Treasurer |
| Leonard Mesonas | Human Resources, Officer Nominating Committee |
| Leonard Mesonas | Finance Chair, President of Corporation |
| Heather Meyers | Christian Education |
| Sue Ramirez | Worship and Music |
| Jeff Reeves | Buildings and Grounds |
| Ron Stamboly | Financial Secretary |
| Herb Williams | Mission |

The Board of Deacons

Rose Anne Anthony, Moderator

Nikkie Hayase, Board Secretary

Kate Scott, Session Liaison

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Cards | Marion Feliks, Chair |
| Deacon's Assistance Fund | Joan Moscomagas, Chair |
| Deacon's Nominating Comm. | Joan Moscomagas, Chair |
| Flowers | Joanne Mesonas & Karen Wallner Co-Chairs |
| Hospitality | Rose Anne Anthony, Chair |
| Literature | Nikkie Hayase & Nandai Sookho, Co-Chairs |
| Ministry of Compassion | Nancy Abel / Sara Schweitzer (non-deacons) |
| Welfare | Joan Moscomagas, Chair |

Regular Activities

Church Office is open Monday - Friday, 9 am to 1 pm

Men's Breakfast & CLEF Ladies Breakfast meet 1st Saturday in Fellowship Hall.

Session meetings are held monthly (dates will be posted in the Friendly Reminders section).

Prayer Shawl Ministry, every other Thursday at 7 pm, Choir Room

Choir practice: Every Sunday at 9:30 am

Divine Worship: In the sanctuary
Sundays at 10:30 am

Our Mission Statement

We are a warm and welcoming community of faith, living the teachings of Jesus Christ and open to God's presence through the power of the Holy Spirit. We seek new pathways of ministry and service to fulfil God's purpose for our diverse community. - approved by the merger committee on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 and ratified by congregational vote, June 11, 2023.



Dear Members and Guests, if you'd like to know more information about the latest news,



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Cover Photo: Cerezo Barredo.