

OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830

www.oaktree-iselinpres.org

(732) 283-1188

Email: info@oaktree-iselinpres.org

Sunday, October 12, 2025

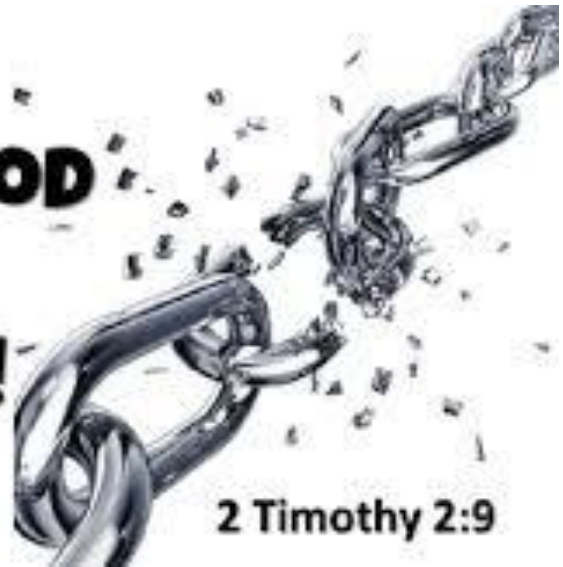
10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Elder Herb Williams, Guest Speaker

Liturgist: Elder Leonard Mesonas

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

**THE
WORD OF GOD
IS NOT
CHAINED!**



2 Timothy 2:9

Gathering for Worship

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

*Please rise in body or spirit.



***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leonard Mesonas

Shout for joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name. Make his praise glorious.

Almighty God, all the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing the praises of your name.

We gather in His house even as we are not worthy of His presence.

His eyes watch the nations – let not the rebellious rise up against him.

The Lord tests us; He has brought us to prison; He has laid burdens on our backs.

We will praise the Lord who brings us to a place of abundance.

Amen

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

Leonard Mesonas

Eternal God, we come before you with words of praise. We seek to worship you and draw closer to you. You are worthy of praise. You created the heavens and the earth and all that are contained within. Thank you for your mighty acts in creation.

We give you thanks for your son, Jesus Christ:

For His ministry of teaching and healing,

for showing us the way to a better life,

for providing us with a way to you

and for the promise of eternal life.

O God, you are so gracious. In your great mercy you provide us with all we need. We take joy in the abundance of your bounty, in the manner in which you care for creation, in the way even the greatest trials bring out

your glory. We pray that we will always follow your ways, that your presence will shelter us. For you are our rock and our redeemer, our hiding place and our strong tower. We glorify you O Lord as our loving, faithful and ever-living Father. Amen.

***HYMN # 610 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Leonard Mesonas

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses. But we have one who, in every respect, has been tested as we were, yet was without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison)

Leonard Mesonas

Wise and patient God, we confess that we often stray from your presence. You have offered us peace, yet our lives feel frustrating and unsettled in these times. You offer us compassion, yet we feel neglected and resentful amid life's challenges. You offer us a mission with meaning and purpose, but we become preoccupied with our own plans and desires. Forgive us, O God, and draw our attention back to you. Show us our sins so we may be purged and purified, joyfully follow your guidance, and trust you as our Shepherd. Amen

PERSONAL CONFESSION

Leonard Mesonas

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

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor His anger forever; He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. Hear the good news of the risen Christ: We are forgiven. **Hallelujah!**

*THE RESPONSE # 581

Glory Be to the Father 581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

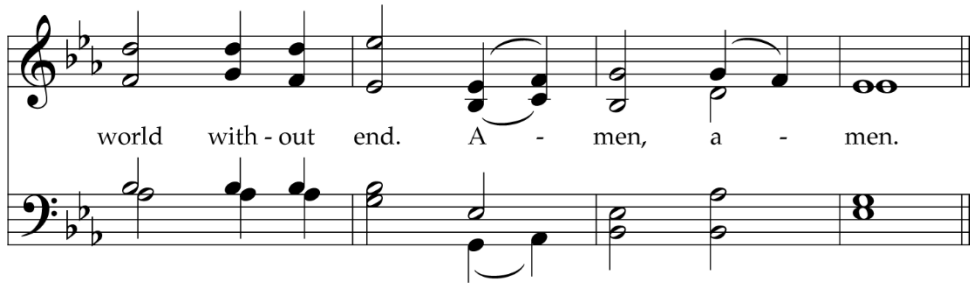
The first line of musical notation is in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a melody of quarter and eighth notes. The bass clef staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble clef staff features a melodic line with some rests. The bass clef staff continues the harmonic support.

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

The third line of musical notation concludes the phrase. The treble clef staff has a melodic line ending with a whole note. The bass clef staff provides a final harmonic accompaniment.



***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Len Mesonas

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

Herb Williams

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Leonard Mesonas

Heavenly Father, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom. Almighty God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened. Guide us, Eternal Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace, through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalms 66: 1-12

Leonard Mesonas

1 Shout for joy to God, all the earth! **2** Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious. **3** Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. **4** All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing the praises of your name."

5 Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind! 6 He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot. Come! Let us rejoice in him. 7 He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations—let not the rebellious rise up against him. 8 Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard; 9 he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. 10 For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver. 11 You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. 12 You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.

NEW TESTAMENT READING **2 Timothy 2:8-15** **Herb Williams**

8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. 11 Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself. 14 Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

THE MESSAGE **Through Fire and Water** **Herb Williams**

***HYMN # 432** **How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** **Herb Williams**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day

he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again 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 # 606**

(Hymn begins next page)

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise *him, all creatures

here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; praise

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

***THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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 # 772 Live into Hope

*BENEDICTION (Guest Speaker will share benediction prayer)

*CHORAL BENEDICTION # 670

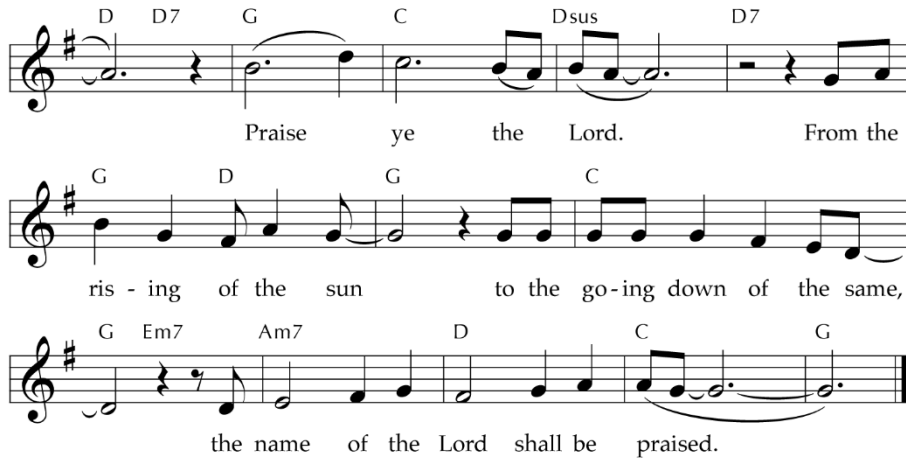
From the Rising of the Sun 670

(Psalm 113)

From the ris - ing of the sun to the go - ing down
of the same, the name of the Lord shall be
praised. From the ris - ing of the sun to the
go - ing down of the same, the name of the Lord shall be
praised. So praise ye the Lord.

Chords: G, D, G, C, D, G, Am7, D, G, D, Em7, G, C, D, Bm7, Em7, Am7, D, C, G, G, C, G

(Hymn continues next page)

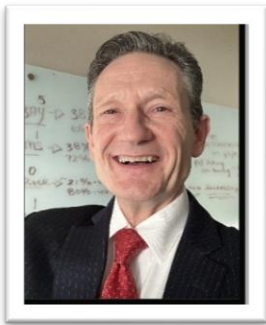


Praise ye the Lord. From the
ris - ing of the sun to the go - ing down of the same,
the name of the Lord shall be praised.

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!

Welcome!



Today 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

Today & 10/19	Herb Williams, Guest Speaker	
Thursday 10/16/2025	Prayer Shawl – Choir Room	7 pm
Sunday 10/24/2025	Deadline for Front Porch/Door Decorating Contest	Send entries to info@oaktree- iselinpres.org
Sunday 10/26 – 12/7	Donald Pitches, Guest Speaker	
Saturday 11/1/2025	Men’s Breakfast & CLEF Ladies’ Breakfast	Fellowship Hall 9 am
Saturday 11/1/2025	Daylight Savings Time Ends 11/2/2025	Move all time devices back an hour before bedtime.
Sunday 11/16/2025	Alaine & David’s Wedding Reception	Fellowship Hall After worship
Thursday 11/27 & 11/28	Thanksgiving Day and Day After	Office Closed

Per Capita

The per capita for 2025 is \$40.

Scheduled Liturgists!

In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) context, a liturgist sets the tone for worship. They welcome everyone, lead and guide both the congregation and guests through the various parts of worship and assists the pastor throughout the worship service to create an atmosphere of peace, cohesiveness and unity. (www.pcusa.org)

October 2025	
Today	Leonard Mesonas
10/19/25	Betsy Christensen
10/26/25	Ron Stamboly

November 2025	
11/02/25	Sue Ramirez
11/09/25	Herb Williams
11/16/25	Betsy Christensen
11/23/25	Len Mesonas
11/30/25 (1 st Day of Advent)	Ron Stamboly

December 2025	
12/07/25	Sue Ramirez
12/14/25	Herb Williams
12/21/25	Betsy Christensen
12/24/25	Len Mesonas
12/28/25	Ron Stamboly

To all who answered the call to serve as liturgists, Thank you!
Please email Margarita Estrada at info@oaktree-iselinpres.org or call her at (732) 283-1188, if you'd like further opportunities to serve as liturgists.

October Mission Focus...

Miles with Moonie

in support of



ANIMAL
LIGHTHOUSE
RESCUE

Saving One Sato at a Time

The Mission Committee is requesting donations to support Animal Lighthouse Rescue and Andrea Lamberton (Ron's daughter) to rescue and find loving homes for homeless dogs from Puerto Rico. Please use the pew envelopes and mark it 'ALR' with your name.

From the Deacons

Ministry of Compassion

A receptacle has been placed in the foyer for donations to the food pantry. Items needed are:

**Canned: vegetables, beans, fruit, tuna fish, pasta sauce, soups and broth, gravy
Mac'n'Cheese, Cereal, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Pasta, Rice**



**And for the
Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets:
Instant potatoes, Stuffing mix, Gravy,
Yams, Cranberry Sauce
Frozen Turkeys or Turkey breast,
Frozen or canned Hams, Frozen Chickens**



Also accepted: feminine products and personal hygiene products.

**The next distribution will be on
Monday, October 13th.**

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 / Susan Sendelsky, Co-Chairs
Hospitality	Rose Anne Anthony, Chair
Literature	Nikkie Hayase, Chair
Ministry of Compassion	Nancy Abel / Sara Schweitzer (non-deacons)
Prayer Partners	Nikkie Hayase, Chair
Welfare	Joan Moscomagas, Chair
Nandai Sookhoo	TBD
Karen Wallner	TBD

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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