

OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830

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(732) 283-1188

Email: info@oaktree-iselinpres.org

Sunday, October 26, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Rev. Donald Pitches, Guest Speaker

Liturgist: Elder Ron Stamboly

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music



“Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.” Isaiah 64:8

Gathering for Worship

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

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Centering Thought

Encountering The Living Lord Changes Us

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton Director of Music

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ron Stamboly

CHORAL INTROIT # 652 A Grateful Heart (all verses)

A Grateful Heart

652

(Psalm 111)

1 A grate - ful heart is what I bring, a song of
2 Your name is known in all the lands. You feed the
3 With sav - ing love you set us free, and still you

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in the key of D major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The treble staff contains a melody with eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

praise, my of - fer - ing. A - mong the saints I
poor with gen - tle hands. Your word is true, your
dwell in mys - ter - y with wis - dom none can

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It features the same treble and bass clef staves, maintaining the D major key and 3/4 time signature.

(Hymn continues next page)



lift my voice: in you, O God, I will re - joice.
works are just; in you, O God, the faith - ful trust.
com - pre - hend. Your praise, O God, will nev - er end.

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Ron Stamboly

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,

Bless God's Holy Name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

And do not forget God's benefits, who forgives all our iniquity, who heals all our diseases.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

who redeems our life, who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

who satisfies us with good as long as we live, so that our hope is renewed.

Bless the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison) *(Based on Psalm 150)

Ron Stamboly

Gracious God, with grateful hearts we gather to bring you praise. May your praises fill the whole earth. We are thankful for your mighty works and for the tender care you give us. We praise you with our voices, our bodies, our instruments, ourselves. We join all creation to give you praise. In the name of your Son, our Lord, amen.

***HYMN # 401 Here in this Place**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Ron Stamboly

Our God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Let us open ourselves in this time of prayer, being truthful in our confession as we humble ourselves before our God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Holy God, your truth is so often sharp and unsettling. We confess the ways we skirt the hard edges of your Word, turn up the volume on lesser noises, and lean into the comfort of our own certainty rather than submit to the discomfort of your challenge. You send us messengers, and we sidestep them; you challenge us, and we defend ourselves. Again and again, Holy God, we resist what we do not want to hear. And yet you keep calling. Have mercy on us. Interrupt our evasions. Soften what pride has hardened in us. Let us hear and receive your truth. Amen.

PERSONAL CONFESSION

Ron Stamboly

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

(Silence is kept.)

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Donald Pitches

(from the Book of Common Worship)

Hear the Good News! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. 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. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

***THE RESPONSE # 581 Glory Be to the Father**

(Hymn begins next page)

Glory Be to the Father

581

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

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef and the bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the'.

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

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are 'Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -'.

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

The third system of music continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are 'gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,'.

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The fourth system of music concludes the piece. The lyrics are 'world with - out end. A - men, a - men.' The piece ends with a double bar line.

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Ron Stamboly

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

Rev. Donald Pitches

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ron Stamboly

Holy God, as we read and hear your word,

may your Spirit speak through it that it may be for us words of life, words of wisdom, words of hope. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OT Exodus 34: 29-35

Ron Stamboly

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³² Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

SCRIPTURE READING (NT 2 Corinthians 3: 7-18) **Rev. Donald Pitches**

⁷ Now if the ministry of death, chiseled in letters on stone tablets, came in glory so that the people of Israel could not gaze at Moses' face because of the glory of his face, a glory now set aside, ⁸ how much more will the ministry of the Spirit come in glory? ⁹ For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, much more does the ministry of justification abound in glory! ¹⁰ Indeed, what once had glory has lost its glory because of the greater glory; ¹¹ for if what was set aside came through glory, much more has the permanent come in glory! ¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

THE MESSAGE **Bright, Shiny Faces** **Rev. Donald Pitches**

***HYMN # 666 O Splendor of God's Glory Bright**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** **Rev. Donald Pitches**

**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

Lord, in Your Mercy/Thanksgiving

Response: **Hear our prayer**

THE PASTORAL PRAYER and PRAYERS FOR 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 # 647

647 Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;

give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give

Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the

poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for

(Hymn continues next page)

us!" And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.

***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.

Most loving and gracious God, we are thankful. We are grateful for your grace to us in Jesus Christ, for your gift of the church in its global witness, and for the capacity for generosity. May these gifts help prepare the way of peace in our community, and around the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Empowered to Spread God's Love

***HYMN # 192 Lord, the Light of your Love is Shining**

***BENEDICTION**

Jesus Christ is the dawn that lights the way of peace. **Alleluia!**

Therefore, let us follow this path, making peace with all. **Amen.**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION # 616 (2X)**

Our God Is an Awesome God 616

Awesome God

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 3/2 time signature. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, with lyrics underneath. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, also with lyrics underneath. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: C, G, D, Em for the first line, and C, G, Am, Em, B7, Em for the second line.

Our God is an awe-some God who reigns from heav-en a-bove
with wis - dom, power, and love; our God is an awe-some God!

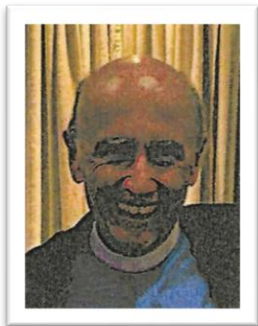
THE POSTLUDE

Liturgy Written by the Rev. Dr. Charles A. Wiley, III, Columbia Theological Seminary, adapted by Rev. Pitches.

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!



Rev. Donald Pitches

I was ordained by the Hudson River Presbytery in 1976 in the Dayspring PC in Yonkers, NY. My first church was the Immanuel PC in Amsterdam, NY, and The First Presbyterian Church of West Galway, from 1976-1984. Moving to New Jersey in 1984 I became a member of the Presbytery of the Palisades. In September 1984, I was an occasional Pulpit Supply at the First PC of Carlstadt, NJ

In January 1985, I became the part-time Stated Supply Pastor for the Frist presbyterian Church of Carlstadt, while also serving as a hospice chaplain in Montclair and as NJ State Correctional Chaplain. From 1991-2019, I served the Carlstadt church full-time, retiring at the end of December 2019. During my Pastorate I was active in many Borough, civic and community organizations, including the Bergen County Council of Churches, serving as President for four years. I was a Child Assault Prevention Educator with NJ-CAP for twenty years. I also participated in the Bergen County Brotherhood and Sisterhood Committee. I served the Carlstadt Fire Department as Chaplain from 1986 to 2019, and from 1998 until 2019 as a firefighter with Engine Company 1, rising to the rank of Captain.

Following retirement, my wife and I moved to Franklin Park, NJ to be near our daughter and her family in Kendall Park, NJ. Since then, my primary retirement occupation has been caring for two granddaughters, Beatrice, and Emily, before and after school. In addition, I served a term as session moderator and pulpit supply at Grace Presbyterian Church in Kendall Park, where I was privileged to work with the student minister, Rev. J. Warner. Since then, I have served as pulpit supply in numerous presbytery churches.

Friendly Reminders

Today through 12/7/2025	Donald Pitches, Guest Speaker	
Sunday 10/24/2025	Deadline for Front Porch/Door Decorating Contest	Send entries to info@oaktree- iselinpres.org
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 11/09/2025	Session	After worship
Sunday 11/09/2025	Deacons	After worship
Sunday 11/16/2025	Alaine & David's Wedding Reception	Fellowship Hall After worship
Sunday 11/23/2025	Thanksgiving Potluck	After worship
Thursday 11/27 & 11/28	Thanksgiving Day and Day After	Office Closed
Saturday 11/29/2025	Greening of the Church	5 pm
Sunday 11/30/2025	1 st Sunday in Advent Communion	

Per Capita

The per capita for 2025 is \$40.

OCTOBER MISSION FOCUS: Miles with Moonie. The Mission Committee is requesting donations to support Animal Lighthouse Rescue. The organization's goal is to find a forever home for homeless dogs from Puerto Rico. Please use a pew envelope and mark it 'ALR' with your name.

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	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.

A Message from The Ministry of Compassion: Thanksgiving and Christmas is a difficult time for many families in our community. We are requesting donations for the following items so that we can include them in the distribution packages for November 17th and December 15th:

Instant Potatoes	Stuffing Mix	Gravy
Yams	Cranberry Sauce	Frozen Turkeys
Turkey Breasts	Frozen Yams	Canned Yams
Frozen Chickens		

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, Chair
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,



Visit Scan QR code to website! Visit us on Facebook and Instagram, @oaktreeiselinpreschurchnj and YouTube @oaktreeiselinpresnj. Email us at: info@oaktree-iselinpres.org

Cover Photo: The Clay by Ron DiCianini
<https://www.tapestryproductions.com/product/the-clay-artwork-by-ron-dicianni-copy/>

The Offering: vector.com