

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, February 8, 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

“Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise,”
says the LORD. (Psalm 12:5)

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, stran - ers and friends;

The first system of musical notation is for the first line of the hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "God wel - comes all, stran - 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 two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. 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**

Nancy Abel

People of God, praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Happy are those who fear the Lord, those who greatly delight in his
commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

We who gather are broken yet holy; sinners at heart, yet fully redeemed. We are God's very own, called together here this day.

Let us sing. Let us pray. Let us join together in worship. Praise the Lord!

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

Nancy Abel

God of grace, you created our minds to grow in wisdom. You created our hearts to expand with love for you and your world. You created our voices to sing your praises forever. Fill us to overflowing with your Holy Spirit, that we may worship you in spirit and in truth, bold and unafraid to follow Jesus, even when challenges confront us. In this time of worship, assure us of your presence with us and reveal to us the path you open before us, for we live to serve as your people wherever you lead. Amen.

***HYMN # 314 Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Nancy Abel

The more we know God's holiness, the more we can sense our distance from our creator. The more we seek justice and faithful living, the more we understand our complicity in systems that oppress. With humble hearts, let us confess our brokenness, our selfishness and our sin.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison)

Nancy Abel

Gracious God, we confess that it is harder to do than we expected, this life of faith. You call us to be salt of the earth and to live lives of justice and righteousness and love. But our lives become busy. Following what others do is just easier. And sometimes the cost for doing what is right seems too high. One day, perhaps, we will commit more fully, but the status quo works better for us right now. Forgive us, we pray. Startle our senses and

disrupt our routines. Renew in us the passion for doing what is right in your eyes, and inspire us to be sources of your light in the world. May we, like the prophets and the saints, act by faith no matter how high the cost. 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

(Isaiah 58:6-9)

Herb Williams

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, 'Here I am.'"

We are blessed to know that very light which breaks forth. We know God's love and grace through Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we know new life. Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

(Hymn begins next page)

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)



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

***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 AT HEART

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Nancy Abel

Gracious God, the words we read are ancient and true. On this day, may we hear them anew. Grant us hearts to discern your Spirit within them, and grant us courage to follow them in our lives this day. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING**Psalm 12****Nancy Abel**

¹ Help, LORD, for no one is faithful anymore; those who are loyal have vanished from the human race. ² Everyone lies to their neighbor; they flatter with their lips but harbor deception in their hearts. ³ May the LORD silence all flattering lips and every boastful tongue—⁴ those who say, “By our tongues we will prevail; our own lips will defend us—who is lord over us?” ⁵ “Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise,” says the LORD. “I will protect them from those who malign them.” ⁶ And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times. ⁷ You, LORD, will keep the needy safe and will protect us forever from the wicked, ⁸ who freely strut about when what is vile is honored by the human race.

NEW TESTAMENT READING**Matthew 5:13-20****Herb Williams**

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. ¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

THE MESSAGE**Who Will Keep the Needy Safe?****Herb Williams**

***HYMN # 69 Here I Am, 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

Let us pray. Gracious God, in this season, we come to you with joy. Joy, for the blessings of friends, and family, and loved ones near and far. Joy, for the relationships in all corners of our lives. Joy, for the blessing of shelter and food and safety. We lift up to you those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. May healing and wholeness find them. May peace and comfort find those who need them as well. We come with joy for the communities of faith we call home, and the many gifts that faith grants us. We lift those who are burdened by brokenness of relationships and estrangement from those they love. We come with joy for those who do your work — those we know who are near us, and those we will never meet. We lift up those who suffer injustice: From unjust rulers to unjust systems to unjust communities. We come with joy for the promise of resurrection and the ways that light and love work wonders in our world. We lift up those affected by violence and war; those who flee as refugees, and those who seek new lands as immigrants. We lift up all those other joys and concerns which are on our heart this day: These things we pray in the name of Jesus, who was the one who first taught us true joy, true love, and the prayer:



more; praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

***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 # 658 God Is So Good**

BENEDICTION *(Guest Speaker will share benediction)*

***CHORAL BENEDICTION # 539** *(verse 1 and refrain)*


We Will Go Out with Joy 539



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.

(Hymn continues next page)

C *All* F/C C C/G G7 C *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 F#sus2 C F G C



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

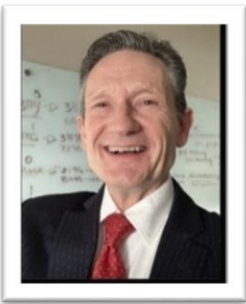
F#sus2 C E^bsus2 Dm7 G#sus G *to Stanzas*



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.

Session

Laura Reeves, Clerk of Session

	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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