OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

Palm Sunday

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830
www.oaktree-iselinpres.org
(732) 283-1188
Email: info@oaktree-iselinpres.org

Sunday, March 29, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Rev. Linda Goeddel

Liturgist: Elder Len Mesonas 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

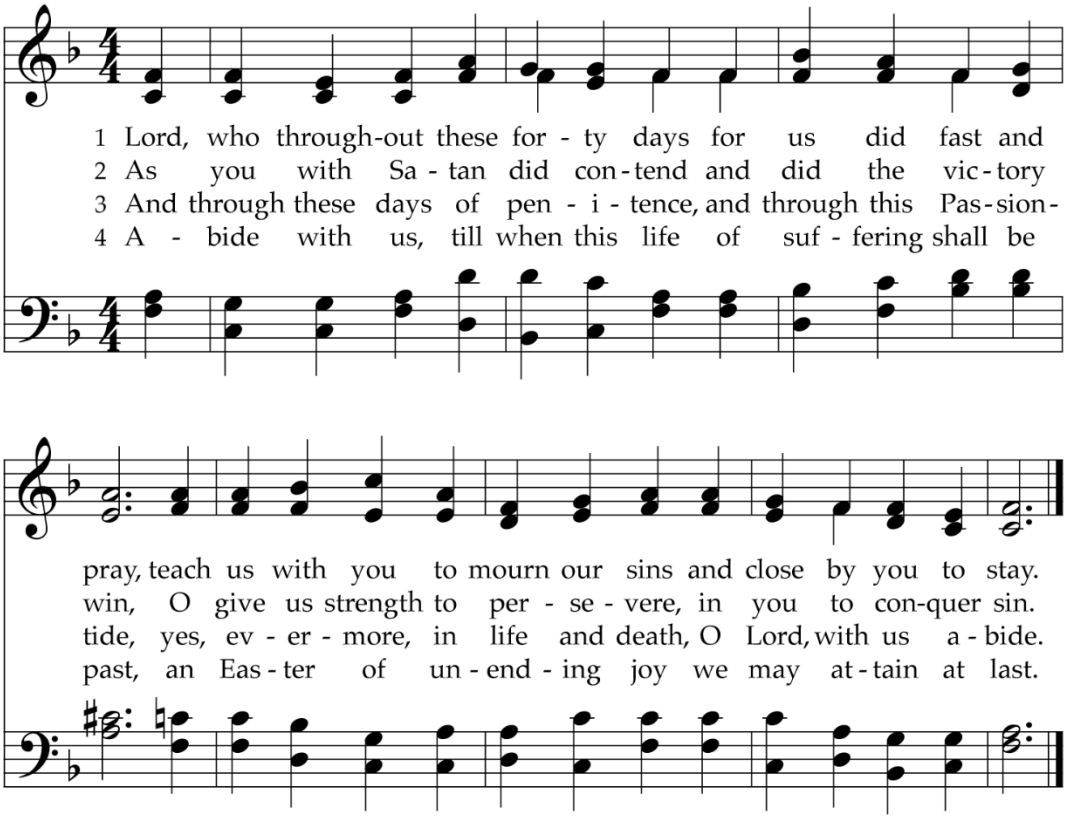
In my anguish I cried to the Lord, and he answered by setting me free. The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? – Psalm 118:5-6

PRELUDE **Alaine Bolton Director of Music**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **Len Mesonas**

CHORAL INTROIT # 166 *(all verses)*

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days 166



***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** **Len Mesonas**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble, and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
Let us worship our King together!

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

We praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ, who entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. May the palms we receive today be signs of his victory, and may we follow him in the way of the cross, that dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN # 196 All Glory, Laud, and Honor**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION **Len Mesonas**

Let us face this day of palms, recognizing that we could easily have been the people who cheered Jesus one day and called for his crucifixion the next. Let us confess our inconsistency together.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison) **Len Mesonas**

Holy God, we beg your mercy for the inconsistent way we follow Jesus. We have withheld from your people and from your creation the care and attention they deserve. We have complained of scarcity when an abundance of your gifts is all around us. We are led by fear and anger rather than by love. Forgive our failings. Heal what we have broken, nurture what we have neglected, and help us to follow your vision, so that we may know the peace of wholeness in you, in Jesus' name. Amen

PERSONAL CONFESSION **Len Mesonas**

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

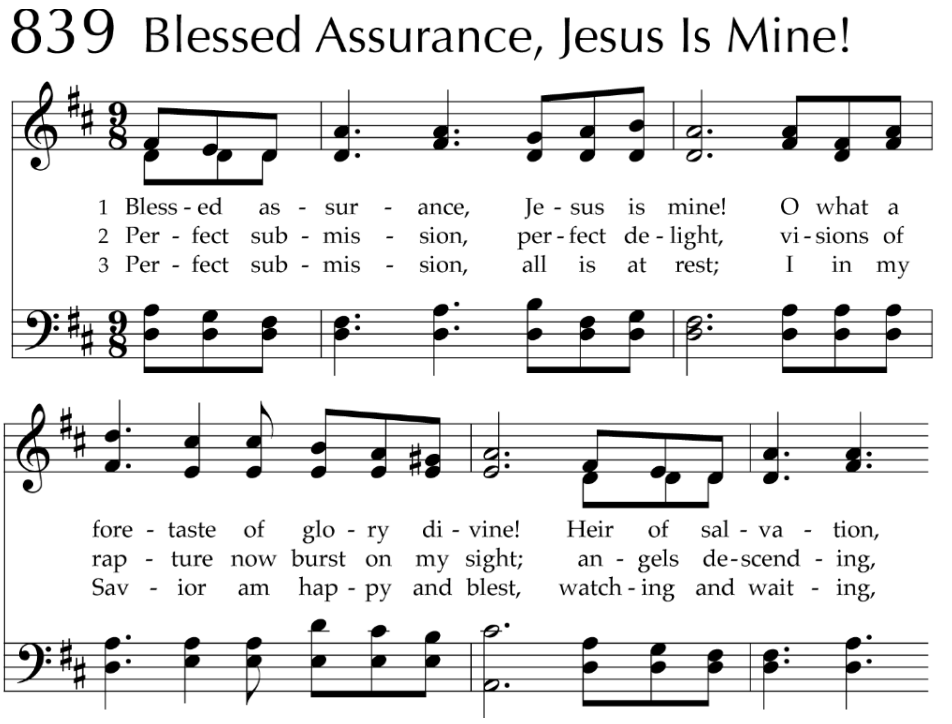
(Silence is kept)

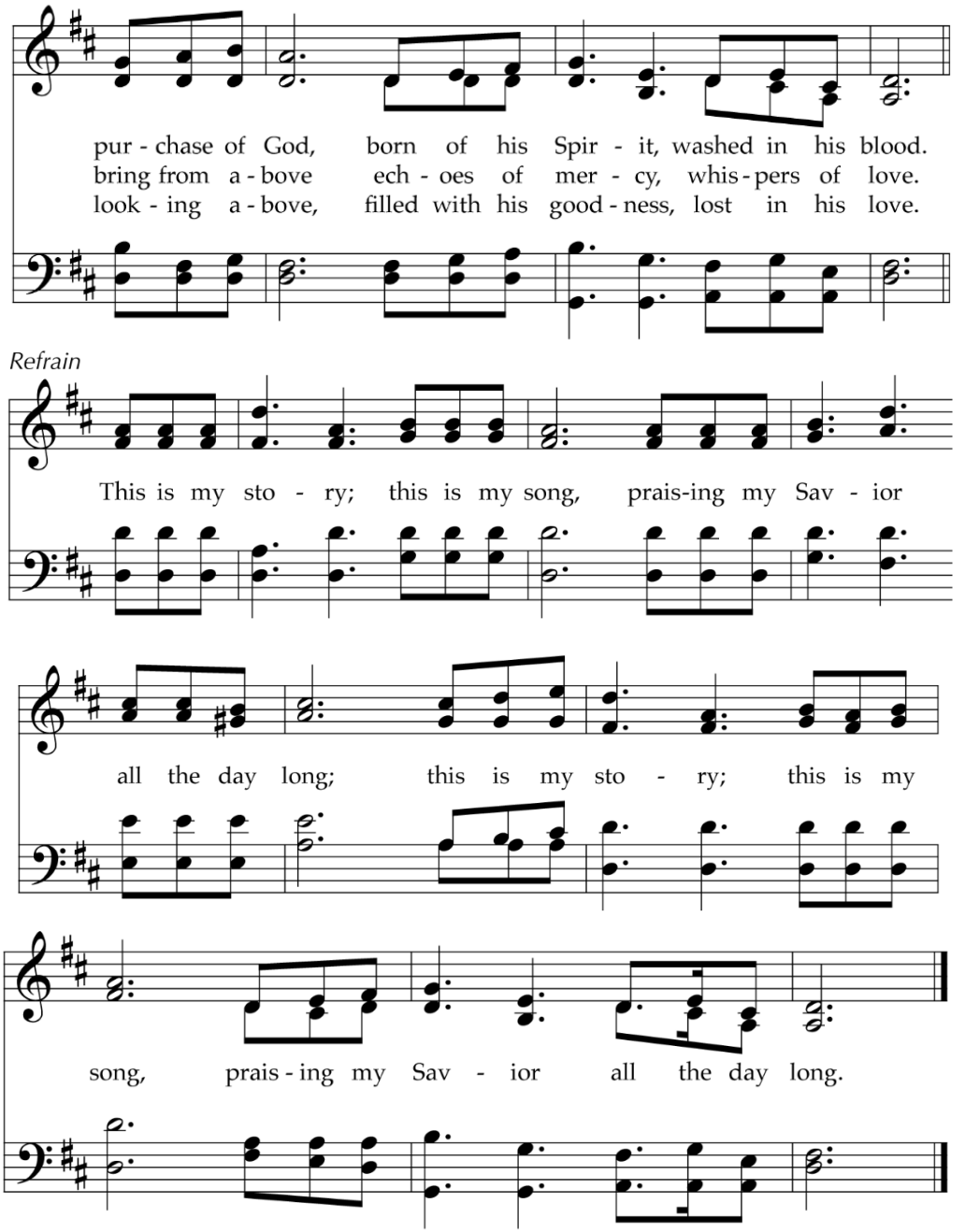
In the strong name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON **Rev. Linda Goeddel**

Your God has come to you, humble, in the form of a servant, to free you from the weight of sin and death. Jesus' obedient suffering has released you. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the one who is exalted beyond what we can comprehend, Christ, our Savior and Lord.

***THE RESPONSE # 839** *(verse 1)*




pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.
Refrain
This is my sto - ry; this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior
all the day long; this is my sto - ry; this is my
song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

***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

ANTHEM **Perfect Peace**-*(Joe Zichterman)* **The Chancel Choir**

TIME FOR CHILDREN OR THE YOUNG AT HEART **Rev. Linda Goeddel**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **Len Mesonas**

Eternal God, whose word silences the shouts of the mighty: Quiet within us every voice but your own. Speak to us through Jesus' faithful entry into Jerusalem, knowing that the cross awaited him, that hearing your word proclaimed and taught we may receive grace to show Christ's love in lives given to your service. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29** **Len Mesonas**
Pew Bible pg. 630, 631
Large Print Bible: pg. 956, 957

(L*iturgist, to create a unified experience for congregants, please ensure that everyone is on the same page before you begin reading.)*

NEW TESTAMENT READING **Matthew 21:1-11** **Rev. Linda Goeddel**
Pew Bible pg. 1004-1005
Large Print Bible: pg. 1531-1532
(Guest Speaker, *to create a unified experience for congregants, please ensure that everyone is on the same page before you begin reading.)*

THE MESSAGE **Who Is This?** **Rev. Linda Goeddel**

***HYMN # 197 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** **Rev. Linda Goeddel**

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

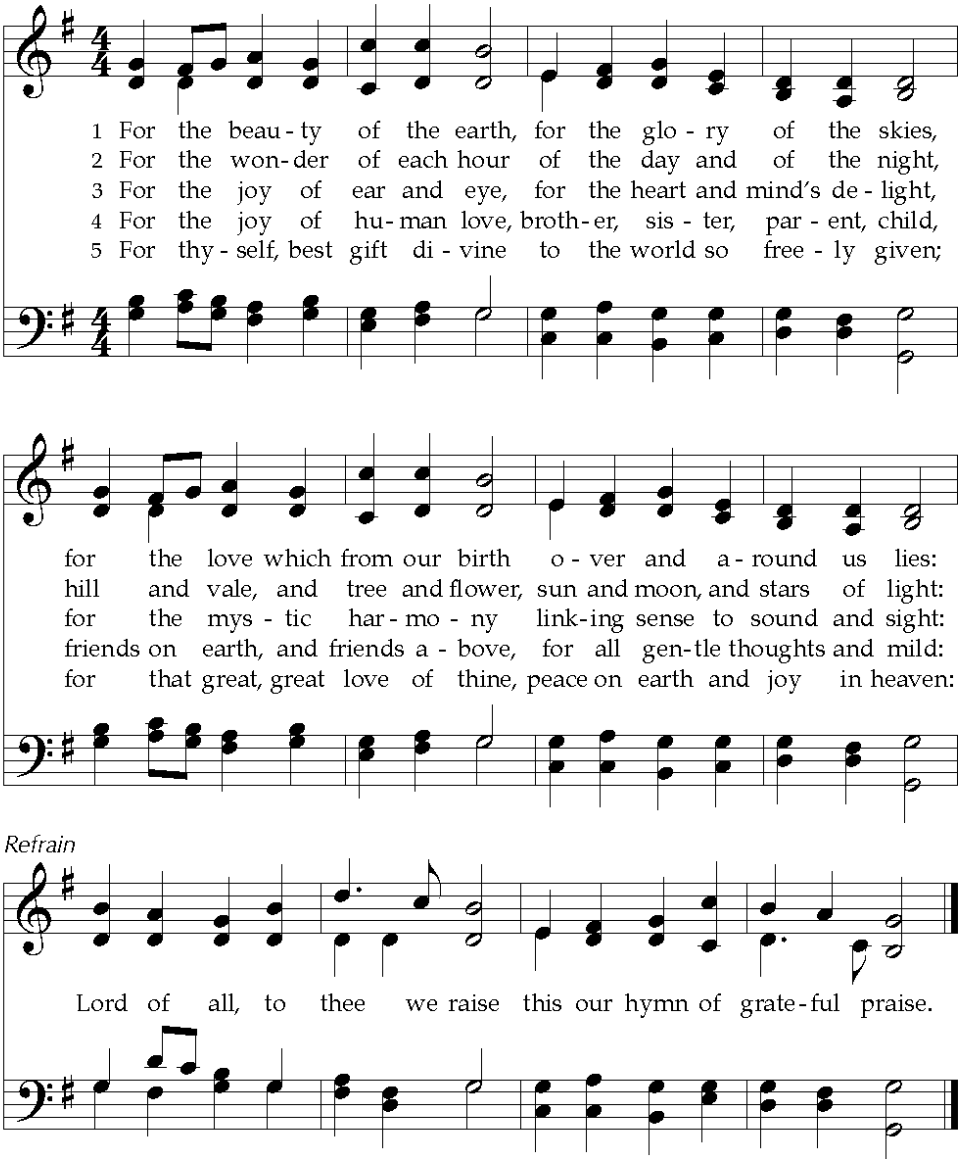
THE LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

We Give, in Appreciation for God's Gifts

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

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 14** *(verse 1)*

For the Beauty of the Earth 14



***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.

God of all good gifts, we thank you for showing us how to care for each other. May these gifts lead to great feasting for those who have no banquets set before them. May these gifts build shelters and places of prayer for those who are homeless. May these gifts proclaim your desire that all your creation live in peace. Give us grateful hearts, O God, in the name of the one who came to draw all people to himself, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Empowered to Spread God's Love

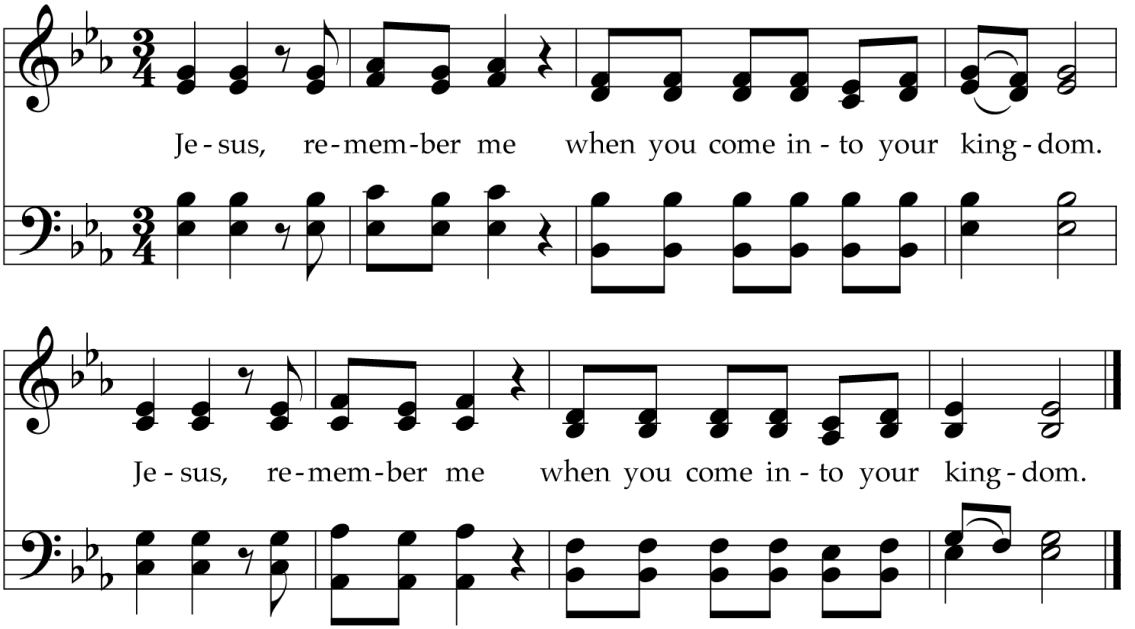
***HYMN # 200 A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd**

***BENEDICTION**
(Guest speaker will share benediction)

***CHORAL BENEDICTION # 227 Jesus, Remember Me** *(2x)*

(Hymn begins next page)

Jesus, Remember Me 227



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 Rev. Linda Goeddel to our pulpit: Rev. Linda Goeddel is retired after serving 11 years as a Christian Educator and 11 years as a chaplain in a senior community. She and her husband, Tom, have two adult children, one granddaughter, and one grandson! Linda serves on the Presbytery Council and on the newly formed Ministry Resources Committee. In her retirement, she enjoys having more time to read and knit and go birding with her husband.

It's Her Day!

It's Kay Pintak's 98th birthday!
Join us in Fellowship Hall after worship to celebrate her day!

2026 Per Capita - $42.00

Per Capita is the annual $42 per-member contribution that connects and supports the shared ministry of the Presbytery of the Coastlands, the Synod of the Northeast, and the national PCUSA church. $26.49 supports the operations, mission, and ministry of Coastlands. We remit $4.25 per church member to the Synod and $11.26 to the General Assembly.

Friendly Reminders

Today 03/29/2026	Rev. Linda Goeddel will lead worship	Palm Sunday
Thursday 04/02/2026	FPresWoodbridge at 7:30 pm	Maundy Thursday
Friday 04/03/2026	Rev. Jeremy Campbell will lead worship	Good Friday Time 3 pm
Sunday 04/05/2026	Rev. Donald Pitches will lead worship	Easter Sunday
Saturday 04/11/2026	Men's and Ladies' Breakfast	9 am Fellowship Hall

Changes to Church Directory

Address change:
Please change Herb Williams' address in your church directories to:
1118 New Brunswick Avenue, Apt 9-A, Rahway, NJ 07065

Alaine Bolton's email should be:
amp**b**musik@msn.com

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. Please email Margarita at info@oaktree-iselinprs.org if you'd like an opportunity to serve as a liturgist.

March 2026	
Today (Palm Sunday)	Len Mesonas

April 2026	
04/03/26 (Good Friday)	Sara Schweitzer
04/05/26 (Easter Sunday)	Sue Ramirez
04/12/26	Whitney Gilzean
04/19/26	Nancy Abel
04/26/26	Ron Stamboly

May 2026	
05/03/26	
05/10/26	
05/17/26	
05/24/26	
05/31/26	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.

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026, 7:30 pm at
First Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge
600 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, NJ

Good Friday

April 3, 2026, 3 pm at
Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026 10:30 am at
Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church

Session

Laura Reeves, Clerk of Session

Jim Durgana	Treasurer
Grace Rozger	Human Resources
Leonard Mesonas	Finance Chair, President of Corporation; Officer Nomination Committee
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 & Nancy Abel, Co-Chairs
Literature	Nikkie Hayase & Nandai Sookho, Co-Chairs
Ministry of Compassion	Nancy Abel, Chair / Sara Schweitzer, Co-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
(see Sue Ramirez for confirmation)

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: www.kirkharmononline.com; the great commission by He Qi.