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, April 12, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Elder Herb Williams

Liturgist: Elder Whitney Gilzean Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

"I have seen the risen Lord!" But when she (Mary Magdalene) told them that Jesus was alive and she had seen him, they didn't believe her. (Mark 16:10-22)

"Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." (John 20:25)

Gathering for Worship

We request that you silence all electronic devices before service begins.
*Please rise in body or spirit.

Centering Thought

You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence. - Acts 2:28

PRELUDE **Alaine Bolton Director of Music**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **Whitney Gilzean**

CHORAL INTROIT He Is Lord (2x)
He is Lord, He is Lord.
He is risen from the dead and He is Lord.
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)** **Whitney Gilzean**
Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.
You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.
Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.
You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.
I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.
Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.
You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

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

O Lord, how we adore you. How we marvel at the depth of your love. How we wonder at the waves of your grace. How we are astounded by the glorious balance of the earth. We are in awe of the vastness of the universe. We are so privileged to be called your children. We are accepted and forgiven and embraced. You are almighty, above and beyond everything. You are victorious. Darkness, sin and death are under your feet. You are holy, beautiful and full of love. O Lord, how we adore you. Amen

***HYMN # 234 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION **Whitney Gilzean**

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Let us bring contrite hearts before the Lord and confess our sins together.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison) **Whitney Gilzean**

Heavenly Father, we confess that we get carried away in the busy-ness of every day, never stopping to dwell in your love. We confess that we allow the stresses and demands of work and family to erode our hope. We confess that we are caught up in conflict and frustration, and harbor resentment instead of giving out forgiveness. We confess that we fail to feast on your truth. We confess that we desire wrong things, get blinded by media, and forget to engage with the real treasures of love and justice. Father, you are all love, all hope, and all we really need. Lord, forgive us our sins.

PERSONAL CONFESSION **Whitney Gilzean**

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**

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven, you are forgiven, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

***THE RESPONSE # 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me**

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE** **Whitney Gilzean**

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 **Herb Williams**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **Whitney Gilzean**

Eternal God, your Spirit inspired those who wrote the Bible and enlightens us to hear your Word fresh each day.

Holy and gracious God, may your Holy Spirit give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that, with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may know the hope to which Christ has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance among us, and the greatness of his power for those who believe. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 111 Whitney Gilzean

Pew Bible pg. 628

Large Print Bible: pg. 952

(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 John 20:19-31 Herb Williams

Pew Bible pg. 1106-1107

Large Print Bible: pg. 1686-1687

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

THE MESSAGE From Doubt to Certainty, Believing is Seeing Herb Williams

***HYMN # 817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**

***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

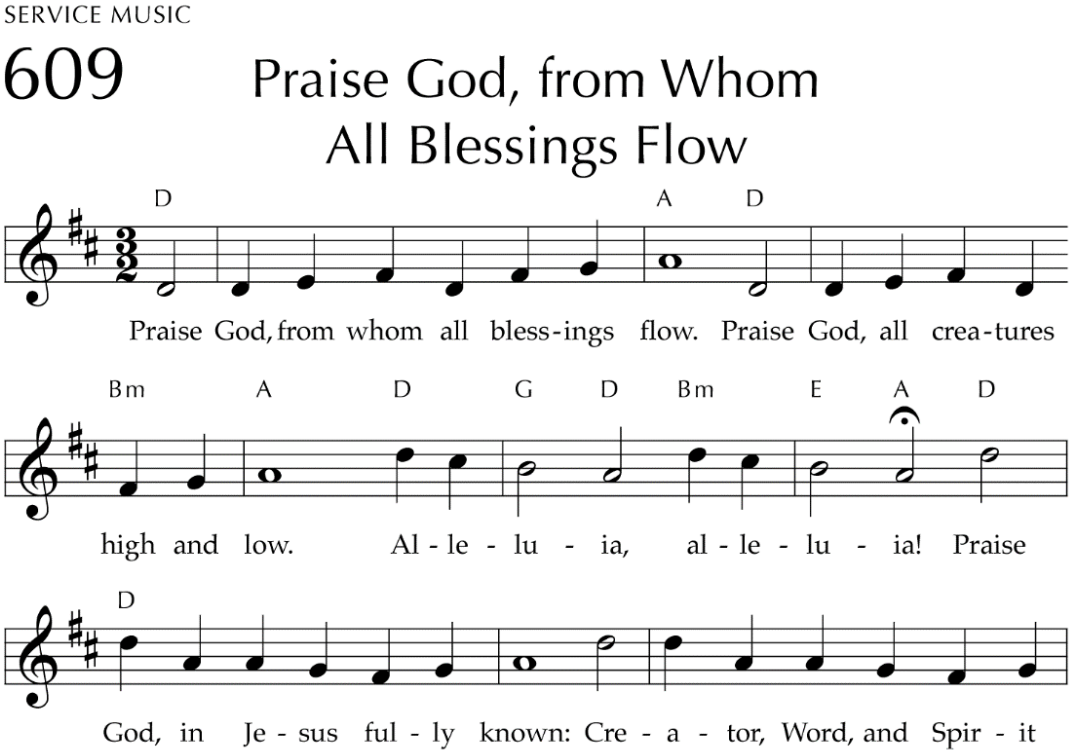
THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

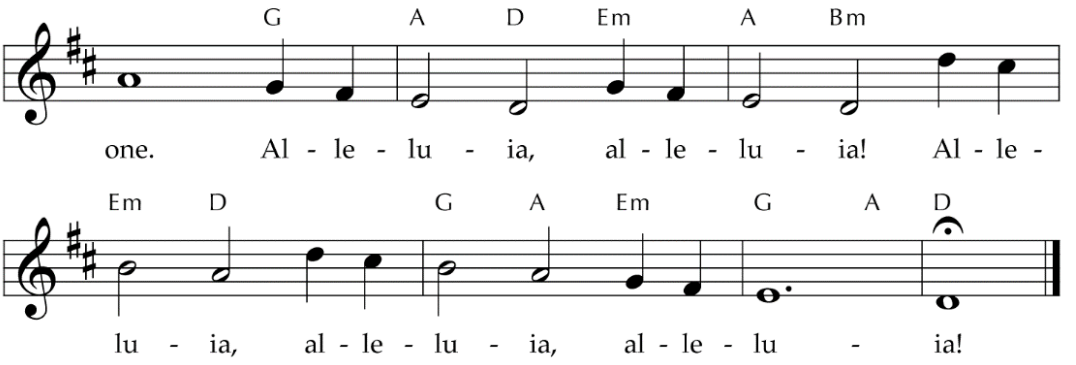
We Give, in Appreciation for God's Gifts

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

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 609**



(Hymn continues next page)



***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 # 238 Thine Is the Glory**

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

***CHORAL BENEDICTION Lord, I Lift Your Name on High** *(2X)*

(Hymn begins next page)

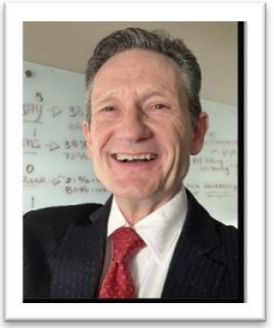
Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

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!



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.

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 04/12/2026 and throughout April	Elder Herb Williams will lead worship	

A Message from your Mission Committee

What does the Lord require of you? "… to do justice, and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)

"This year's One Great Hour of Sharing theme is 'Give with a Purpose.' By participating, we provide hope to those facing disaster, hunger, and displacement—empowering families to rebuild their lives and secure a better future. You have a chance to make a real impact! Please join this effort by giving today or next Sunday. Kindly write 'One Great Hour of Sharing' on your envelope."

Thank you, Elder Herb Williams, Chair
The Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church Mission Committee

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.

April 2026	
Today	Whitney Gilzean
04/19/26	Nancy Abel
04/26/26	Ron Stamboly

May 2026	
05/03/26	Sara Schweitzer
05/10/26	Nancy Abel
05/17/26	Chris Madsen
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.

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: Disciples Disbelief and Doubting Thomas – He Qi