OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

We wish everyone a blessed Mother's Day!

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

Sunday, May 17, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Elder Herb Williams

Liturgist: Elder Chris Madsen 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

"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." – 1 Peter 5:8

PRELUDE **Alaine Bolton Director of Music**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **Chris Madsen**

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)** **Chris Madsen**
This is what the Lord says to His anointed: I will go before you and will level the mountains.
Our Lord is the Lord, the God of Israel.
I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places
Our Lord is the Lord, the God of Israel.
I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.
We raise our voices in praise, the God of Israel is the Lord, and there is no other. Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)** **Chris Madsen**
Heavenly Father, we worship You for Your majesty and glory. You are exalted above all, and Your greatness is beyond our understanding. We stand in awe of Your power, wisdom, and creativity, and we lift our hearts in praise. Lord, we worship You for Your faithfulness and unwavering promises. You are true to Your Word and constant in every season of our lives. Almighty God, we worship You for Your infinite wisdom. Thank you for guiding our steps and illuminating our paths. Let our thoughts, words, and actions honor Your name, acknowledging Your sovereign rule over all.

Let your loving faithfulness and your eternal wisdom teach us to glorify You in every aspect of our lives and to reflect Your majesty to others. May our souls delight in praising You, and may Your glory shine through us today and always. Amen.

***HYMN # 463 How Firm a Foundation**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION **Chris Madsen**

This is true repentance, sincerely turning to God and all good and earnestly turning away from the devil and all evil. Let us draw near to our Father and confess our sins to Him and to one another.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (Responsive) **Chris Madsen**

Holy Creator, we confess and acknowledge that you created us in your own image and likeness, so that in our whole nature no imperfection could be found.

From this dignity and perfection man and woman have fallen, both conspiring against your sovereign majesty.

We have shown ourselves hostile to you and have made ourselves servants to sin.

And thus everlasting death has power and dominion over us all, unless we are reborn from above.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, work this rebirth in us, creating in our hearts the confidence of chosen ones, with assured faith in your promise revealed to us in your Word;

by this faith we grasp Christ Jesus with the graces and blessings promised in him.

PERSONAL CONFESSION **Chris Madsen**

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**

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We are now justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. My Brothers and Sisters, hear the good news of the risen Christ: We are forgiven, we are forgiven, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to Jesus. Amen.

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

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE** **Chris Madsen**

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 (In Unison) **Chris Madsen**

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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Peter 4:12-14; 1 Peter 5:6-11 **Chris Madsen**

Pew Bible pg. 1234; 1235-1236

Large Print Bible: pg. 1891; 1892

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Isaiah 45:1-7** **Herb Williams**

Pew Bible pg. 747

Large Print Bible: pg. 1131

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

THE MESSAGE **Fighting Fire with Fire** **Herb Williams**

***HYMN # 258 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!**

***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 (RESPONSIVE)

Holy One, loving God in whom we live, and move, and have our being, we thank you that you teach us to come to you in prayer. That we may know that all that we carry, our burdens and wonderings, may be made lighter in sharing them with each other, and with you. Teach us, oh Gifting Creator, that our joys are multiplied in the sharing, too.

We thank you, God of Creation, for the green and leafy signs of spring! We thank you for this whole Earth that moves in cycles, that springs forth green shoots from dull ground, that even in cold and rain we remember: After this comes new life.

Let Spring's displays of stubborn persistence open in our fallow places opportunities for hope. Let them make room for new and growing awareness of your presence in our midst. Help us to be near to you and to your teachings, even when we cannot hear you, even when we feel far from your presence.

Trusting that you are a way maker, a bringer of peace, we ask you to be a balm in Gilead, oh loving Christ. Come and be a stilling presence for all whose hearts tremble today. Come and be a shield for all in the path of violence and war.

We thank you for teaching us how the lion will lay down with the lamb, that we are free from the terrors of what pursue us, that we need not fear what seems impossible, unthinkable in our days and in our world. Free us from the jaws of the lions in our lives, Lord, free us from fear or anxiety that stalks us, free us from the broken systems of this world that threaten our neighbor and oppress our loved ones. Free us from the suffering of unemployment and of eviction, from the suffering of silence and unknown next steps.

Give us strength on long journeys of healing, give us good partnership on every path we can't see the end of.

When it seems all are lions, circling, give us respite. Give us the comfort of your guiding shepherd, oh Lord. Give us the new life your resurrection promises. You alone are holy, and so we worship, praise and pray to you, using the prayer your Son Jesus taught us, saying…

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.

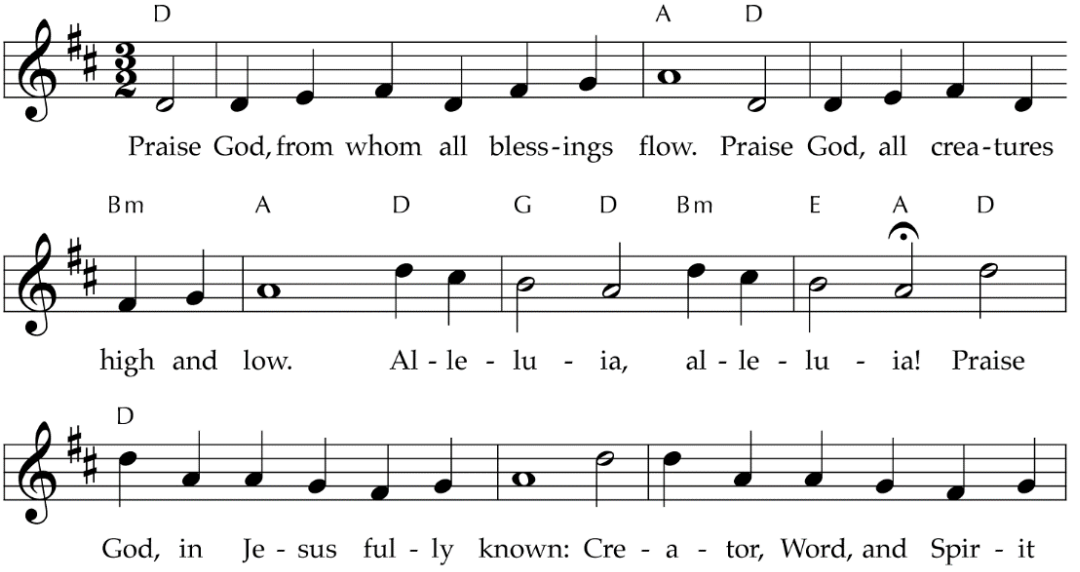
We Give, in Appreciation for God's Gifts

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

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 609**

SERVICE MUSIC

609 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



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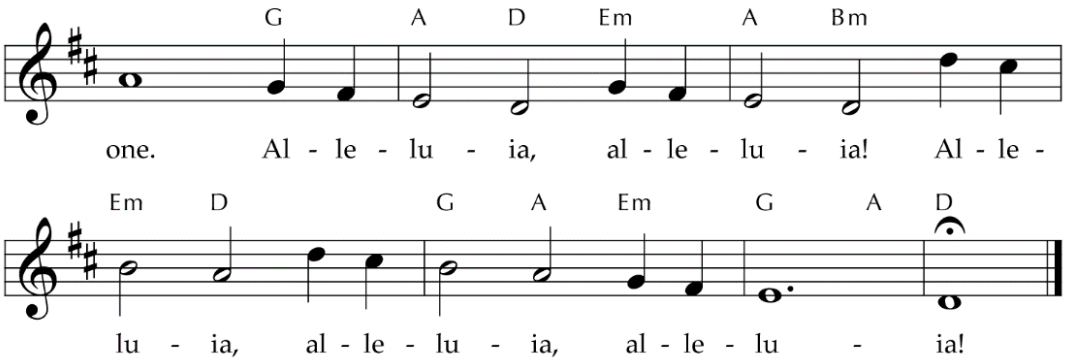


***THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Guest speaker will share a prayer)

Empowered to Spread God's Love

***HYMN # 846 Fight the Good Fight**

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

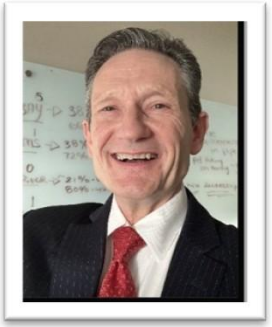
***CHORAL BENEDICTION # 541 God Be with You Till We Meet Again**
(all verses)

THE POSTLUDE

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING! Please remain seated.

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	Elder Herb Williams will lead worship through the end of May 2026.	
	Special Congregational Meeting	After Worship
	Session Meeting	After Worship
Monday 05/25/2026	Memorial Day	Office Closed
Saturday 06/06/2026	Men's Breakfast and CLEF Ladies' Breakfast	9 am at Meline Doodnauth's house 17 Vallata Place Edison, NJ 08820

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.

May 2026	
Today	Chris Madsen
05/24/26 (Pentecost Sunday)	Sue Ramirez
05/31/26	Ron Stamboly

June 2026	
06/07/26	
06/14/26	Len Mesonas
06/21/26	Jim Durgana
06/28/26	Ron Stamboly

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: In the Wilderness: Artwork by Ron DiCianni; www.tapestryproductions.com