OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

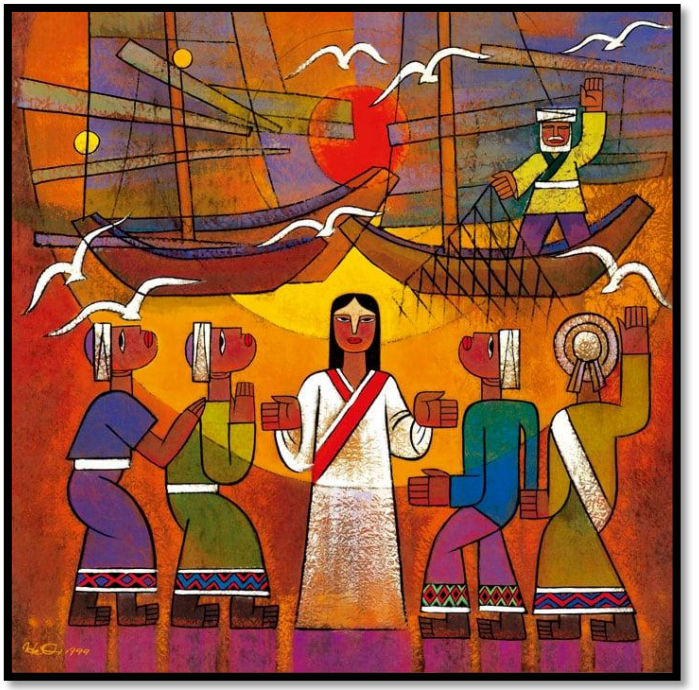
Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

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

Sunday, May 3, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez

Liturgist: Deacon Nancy Abel Alaine Bolton, Director of Music



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

Gathering for Worship

PRELUDE **Alaine Bolton Director of Music**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **Nancy Abel**

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)** **Nancy Abel**
We are coming to the Lord as to a living stone!
The people who believe in the Lord will never be shamed!
The stone the builders tossed aside has become the capstone
The people who believe in the Lord will never be shamed!
We have become people who are God's own possession
The people who believe in the Lord will never be shamed!
We are God's people! We have seen the light!
The people who believe in the Lord will never be shamed!
Come, let us worship God! **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)** **Nancy Abel**
Loving God, in the midst of our changing world, you continue to be the same. In the midst of our narrow minds, your heart remains wide. In the midst of us continuing to ask who you are and demanding evidence of your existence, you continue showing us mercy. Allow us to see you in all the parts of your creation. Allow us to believe in you in light and in darkness. Amen.

***HYMN # 624 I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION **Nancy Abel**

How many times do we, like Philip, ask Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father?" We tend to say we believe in you, oh God, but demand proof of your existence on a regular basis. Trusting in the power of our merciful God, let's confess our sins together:

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison) **Nancy Abel**

Merciful God, we come to you as we are in this wide world. We tend to say we believe in you as your children, but we undo it by going in different directions from your teachings. We tend to say we know you Lord, but when you remind us that you are the way, the truth and the life and that no one comes through the Father except through you, Lord, we doubt and demand evidence from you. Forgive us, God, for our constant failure in believing who you are for us. Help us to always discern through your light that in times of doubt and uncertainty, your presence accompanies us. Help us to discern that in times of stability and joy your presence fills us. Help us to discern that there is no evidence needed for your existence because of who and where we are in the world because of you. 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 **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**

God's love is unconditional. Because of that love, we are given countless opportunities to renew and restore our understanding of who God is. Through this love, we are shaped to become more Christlike, even as we wrestle with our human sinfulness. Hear the Good News: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

***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 **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**

ANTHEM **He Is There** *(Mary Kay Beall)* **The Chancel Choir**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **Nancy Abel**

God of our hearts, minds, and souls, we come before you seeking to hear your voice, to feel your presence, and to embody your will. Open our ears to what we need to hear and soften our hearts to what you are calling us to do—in word, in action, and in deed. Deepen our faith through your Word, that we may become more faithful servants of yours. In your holy name we pray. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Proverbs 4:10-18** **Nancy Abel**
Pew Bible pg. 653
Large Print Bible: pg. 989-990
(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 14:1-14** **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**
Pew Bible pg. 1099
Large Print Bible: pg. 1675-1676
(Guest Speaker, to create a unified experience for congregants, please ensure that everyone is on the same page before you begin reading.)

THE MESSAGE **Show me the Evidence!** **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**

***HYMN # 724 O Jesus, I Have Promised**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—Nicene Creed**
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

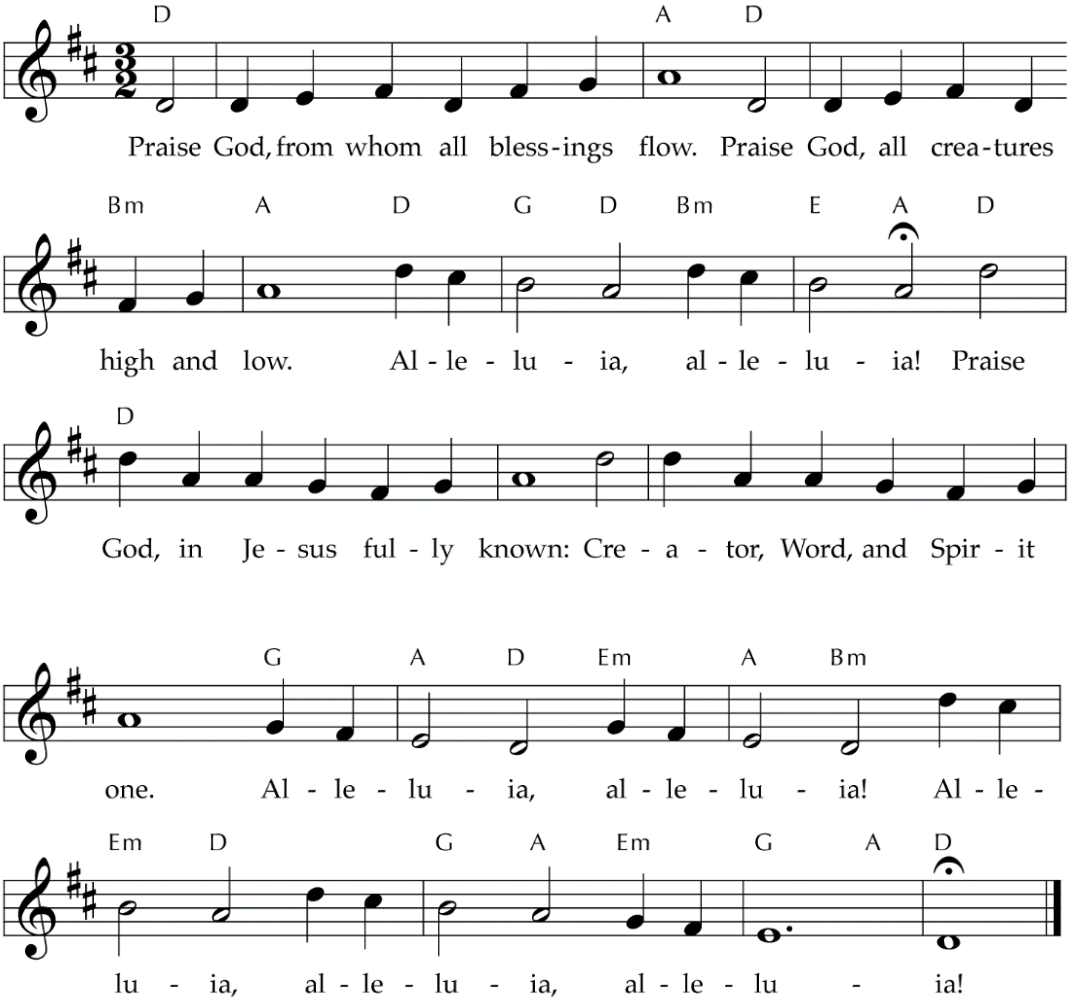
THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

***THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)**
Gracious God, we give you thanks for the many gifts you provide each day—gifts we so often take for granted. Even when we ask for more, you continue to bless us far beyond what we deserve, in your unconditional love. Receive these offerings and bless them, that they may further the mission of your church in this community and throughout the world. Amen.

The Eucharist

***COMMUNION HYMN # 526 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

It is truly right and our great joy… who forever sing to the glory of your name.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty… that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.
Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died,
Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.
Gracious God… now and forever. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER
As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:
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

BREAKING OF THE BREAD
Because there is one loaf, we, many as we are, are one body; for it is one loaf of which we partake.
When we break the bread, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?
When we give thanks over the cup, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?
Friends, these are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER SUPPER
(Guest Speaker will share a prayer)

Empowered to Spread God's Love

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

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

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

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!

Rev. Jeniffer Rodríguez Michel, originally from the Dominican Republic, is the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Ossining. Prior to this call, she served as associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth, NJ. With a background in communications, she earned her Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL. She has been involved in intercultural and cross-cultural ministries since the beginning of her career. At the national level, Pastor Jeniffer serves as a minister of diversity, equity, and inclusion with the Presbyterian Foundation. She is also a member of the special committee responsible for drafting a confession to be considered for inclusion in the Book of Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Her passion for social justice is an ongoing commitment and dedication in many areas, such as human rights and the

environment. Pastor Jeniffer Rodríguez and her husband, Kyle Craig, are the parents of Emma Sophia and Eric Gabriel. She enjoys spending time with her family, as well as engaging in meaningful conversations over coffee or tea. She also enjoys creative expression through art, both in worship and in her personal life. Additionally, she serves as chaplain of the New York City–based Ecumenical Choir Cántico Nuevo (New Song), where she helps inspire hope and call others to action through music.

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	Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez leads worship	
Sunday 05/10/2026	Mother's Day & Blanket Sunday	
Monday 05/25/2026	Memorial Day	Office Closed

Scheduled Liturgists!

May 2026	
05/03/26	Nancy Abel
05/10/26	Leonard Mesonas
05/17/26	Chris Madsen
05/24/26	
05/31/26	Ron Stamboly

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

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

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