OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ

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Sunday, July 12, 2026 10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez

Liturgist: Elder Lilliam Colon-Gilzean 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.

PRELUDE **Alaine Bolton Director of Music**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **Lilliam Colon-Gilzean**

CHORAL INTROIT # 276 Sing a New Song unto the Lord *(vs 1)*

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)** **Lilliam Colon-Gilzean**

(Based on Psalm 119)

Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.
Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.
Accept, Lord, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws.
Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.
Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law.
Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.
My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.
Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.
Come, let us worship God! **Amen**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)** **Lilliam Colon-Gilzean**

God of light and truth, open our eyes to the countless possibilities that emerge through the power of your Word. Your Word never returns empty; it is filled with wisdom, truth, and light that guides our path. Root us ever more deeply in your Word, so that our faith may grow, our lives may bear fruit, and we may continue to mature as your beloved children. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN # 367 Come, Ye thankful People, Come**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION **Lilliam Colon-Gilzean**

In a world filled with so many voices, help us to hear your voice clearly and faithfully, so that our hearts may remain centered on you. Here we are, your people, gathered in your presence to confess together the ways we have fallen short by neglecting your Word:

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison) **Lilliam Colon-Gilzean**

Merciful God, forgive us for the many times we fail to take your Word seriously. We confess that although we say we listen to your Word, and at times even strive

to live by it, we too often make decisions and speak words shaped by our own human nature rather than by your will.
Forgive us when we rely on our own understanding instead of seeking your wisdom. Remind us that you alone are the true source of guidance, truth, and light. Root us firmly in your Word, that our thoughts, our words, and our actions may reflect your love and your purpose. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, our sure foundation. Amen.

PERSONAL CONFESSION **Lilliam Colon-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 **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**
Even though we often fail to pay attention to God's Word, God's love for us never fails. With a heart full of mercy and grace, God continually welcomes us back, even when we stumble and make mistakes. 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** **Lilliam Colon-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 AND THE YOUNG AT HEART Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **Lilliam Colon-Gilzean**

God of light, we come before you at this moment to hear your voice and to experience the presence of your Holy Spirit as we seek to discern your Word. Open our ears to listen deeply to the message you have prepared for us today. Open our hearts to receive it with faith, and open our minds to understand it with wisdom, that we may faithfully live it out in our daily lives. In your holy name we pray. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Genesis 25:19-34** **Lilliam Colon-Gilzean**

Pew Bible pg. 25-26

Large Print Bible: pg. 38

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

MUSICAL INTERLUDE **Follow Him Medley** *(arr. Nelson)*

NEW TESTAMENT READING **Matthew 13:1-9,18-23** **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**

Pew Bible pg. 994-995

Large Print Bible: pg. 1516-1517

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

THE MESSAGE **Who is coming incognito?** **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**

*** HYMN # 29 O God, You Search Me**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** **Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez**

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 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

***THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious God, you bless us with countless gifts each and every day, yet we often take them for granted. You have entrusted us with abundant blessings, and at times we hide or fail to use the gifts you have placed in our lives. Today we bring these offerings before you with open hearts. Bless and transform them, that they may be used to proclaim your Word, put your love into action, and further your mission in the world. Use both these gifts and our lives for your glory and the building of your kingdom. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Empowered to Spread God's Love

***HYMN # 65 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

***BENEDICTION**

God is Good! **All the Time!** All the Time! **God is Good!**

Let us continue to be reminded of the call to discipleship that defines this congregation: to have minds, hearts, hands, and voices rooted in Christ. May we faithfully live out this calling each day. **Amen.**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION # 192 Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining** *(vs 1)*

THE POSTLUDE

About Our Pastor

Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez, originally from the Dominican Republic, 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). Rev. Jeniffer and her husband, Kyle Craig, are the parents of Emma Sophia and Eric Gabriel.

Friendly Reminders

Today!	Session	After Worship

Session

Rev. Jeniffer Rodriguez, Moderator
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 (except July and August)

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: Woman Sowing Seeds: shutterstock.com; Child and Man sowing seeds: dreamstime.com.