

# OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ*

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830

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Sunday, September 21, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Rev. Donald Pitches, Guest Speaker

Liturgist: Deacon 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.

## Centering Thought

We are the Body of Christ: hands, feet, heart, lungs. We breathe, we move, we act. In this world, we bear witness—to mercy, to love, to the persistent hope of God.

**PRELUDE**

**Alaine Bolton Director of Music**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Lilliam Colon-Gilzean**

**CHORAL INTROIT # 288 Spirit of the Living God**

## Spirit of the Living God 288

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a half note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, a quarter note G5, a quarter note A5, a quarter note Bb5, a quarter note C6, a quarter note Bb5, a quarter note A5, a quarter note G5, a quarter note F5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note C5, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a whole rest. The piano accompaniment consists of a bass line with a whole rest, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note Bb2, a half note C3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note F3, a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note Bb3, a quarter note C4, a quarter note Bb3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note G3, a quarter note F3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note C3, a quarter note Bb2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note G2, and a whole rest.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

The second system of music is identical to the first system, featuring the same vocal and piano parts.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

The third system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a half note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, a quarter note G5, a quarter note A5, a quarter note Bb5, a quarter note C6, a quarter note Bb5, a quarter note A5, a quarter note G5, a quarter note F5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note C5, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a whole rest. The piano accompaniment consists of a bass line with a whole rest, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note Bb2, a half note C3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note F3, a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note Bb3, a quarter note C4, a quarter note Bb3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note G3, a quarter note F3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note C3, a quarter note Bb2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note G2, and a whole rest.

*(Hymn continues next page)*



**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Lilliam Colon-Gilzean**

Turn us, O God,  
**away from the world's temptations and distractions**  
Return us, O God,  
**to the quiet calm of your presence**  
Restore us, O God,  
**to the path you call us to follow**  
Orient us, O God,  
**to the hope of all that is possible through you**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)**

**Lilliam Colon-Gilzean**

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life-giving Word. Quiet the voices within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us, so we may faithfully discern your way. Amen**

**\*HYMN # 291 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**Lilliam Colon-Gilzean**

*Let us honestly acknowledge how we have gone astray and confess our sins to God.*

**PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison)**

**Lilliam Colon-Gilzean**

**God, our refuge, you lift up the lowly and hold out hope to the hopeless. Yet we who receive your grace so freely do not follow your example. We**

are quick to judge, eager to criticize, slow to show mercy. We gather and keep for ourselves what was meant to be shared. We diminish and dehumanize those around us. God of us all, hear this confession. Receive it. We ask for your forgiveness. 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**

**Donald Pitches**

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. Do not fear. Be strong and courageous! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

**\*THE RESPONSE # 581 Glory to God (2x)**

Glory Be to the Father 581

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Glory Be to the Father'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the' are written below the treble staff. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

*(Hymn continues next page)*

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

## *Hearing and Responding to the Word Proclaimed*

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**Rev. Donald Pitches**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Lilliam Colon-Gilzean**

Eternal God, we gather in your presence to worship, to listen to your Word read and proclaimed, to discern your will. God our Rock, we question what we once assumed to be sturdy and stable.

Our economy feels fragile.

Our democracy, vulnerable.

Our nation, angrily divided.

Change is accelerating; our options seem few. We confess that we do not know what to do, or how to help. Life is overwhelming.

**We, your people, need your help, speak to us in scripture, music, hymns and prayers. Amen**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**      *OT Exodus 33: 7-11*      **Lilliam Colon-Gilzean**

<sup>7</sup> Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the “tent of meeting.” Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. <sup>8</sup> And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent. <sup>9</sup> As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses. <sup>10</sup> Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to their tent. <sup>11</sup> The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.

**SCRIPTURE READING**      *NT: 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11*      **Donald Pitches**

<sup>15</sup> Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that

was with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

## **THE MESSAGE**

**Name It! Claim It! It's Yours!**

**Donald Pitches**

**\*HYMN # 299 You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim**

## **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**Donald Pitches**

*(from a Brief Statement of Faith, PC-USA Book of Confessions)*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS:**

**Pastor:** Lord in Your Mercy, or, Lord in Thanksgiving;

**Response:** Hear Our Prayer

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Merciful God, we are not without help or hope. Acts of compassion persist, even in the face of all that is hard and harsh. Communities are collaborating, meeting needs in new ways. People long silenced are finding their voices. We are newly aware of what we can accomplish, together, for the flourishing of your kingdom. Holy God, the greatest threats are those that lock us down, close our minds, build barriers. May your Spirit encourage our faith. Keep us open-hearted, praying, believing in your

endless mercy. Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer. Now, as the Body of Christ and your covenant community, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us, saying, “Our Father...”

### 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.

## *The Thanksgiving*

### THE OFFERING

God’s abundance cannot be matched. Still, we are inspired to be generous by a generous God. We are inspired to give by the greatest of givers. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings.

### \*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 606

# 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. Both staves are in the key of D major, indicated by a sharp sign (#) on the F line. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is written in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff: 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise \*him, all creatures'. The asterisk is placed above the word 'him'.

*(Hymn continues next page)*

here be - low; praise \*him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

### **\*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.**

Generous God, what we place before you is but a fraction of all you have entrusted to us. Receive these gifts, we ask, and multiply them for your purpose. Let our offerings become a source of blessing for the most vulnerable, for those in greatest need. May the act of giving, rooted in generosity, loosen our grip on what we possess, and kindle in us a deeper desire to share. Amen.

# Sending Us into the World



18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.— Matthew 28:18-20

## \*HYMN # 66 Every Time I Feel the Spirit

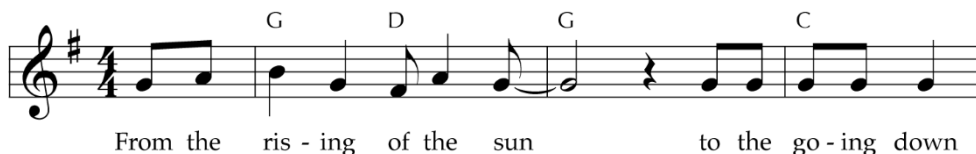
### \*BENEDICTION

May the nourishment of God’s Word, the accountability of Christian community, and the guidance of God’s Holy Spirit fortify us, day by day, for faithfulness. **Amen.**

### \*CHORAL BENEDICTION # 670

## From the Rising of the Sun 670

(Psalm 113)



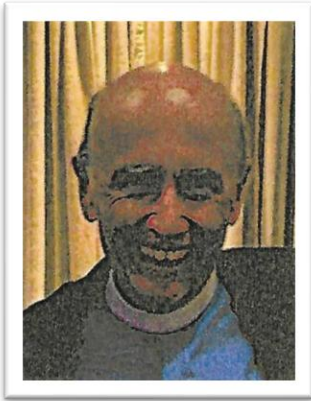
(Hymn continues next page)

D G Am7 D  
 of the same, the name of the Lord shall be  
 G D G D Em7 G  
 praised. From the ris-ing of the sun to the  
 C D Bm7 Em7 Am7 D  
 go-ing down of the same, the name of the Lord shall be  
 C G G C G  
 praised. So praise ye the Lord.  
 D D7 G C Dsus D7  
 Praise ye the Lord. From the  
 G D G C  
 ris - ing of the sun to the go-ing down of the same,  
 G Em7 Am7 D C G  
 the name of the Lord shall be praised.

## 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. Donald Pitches

I was ordained by the Hudson River Presbytery in 1976 in the Dayspring PC in Yonkers, NY. My first church was the Immanuel PC in Amsterdam, NY, and The First Presbyterian Church of West Galway, from 1976-1984. Moving to New Jersey in 1984 I became a member of the Presbytery of the Palisades. In September 1984, I was an occasional

Pulpit Supply at the First PC of Carlstadt, NJ

In January 1985, I became the part-time Stated Supply Pastor for the Frist presbyterian Church of Carlstadt, while also serving as a hospice chaplain in Montclair and as NJ State Correctional Chaplain. From 1991-2019, I served the Carlstadt church full-time, retiring at the end of December 2019. During my Pastorate I was active in many Borough, civic and community organizations, including the Bergen County Council of Churches, serving as President for four years. I was a Child Assault Prevention Educator with NJ-CAP for twenty years. I also participated in the Bergen County Brotherhood and Sisterhood Committee. I served the Carlstadt Fire Department as Chaplain from 1986 to 2019, and from 1998 until 2019 as a firefighter with Engine Company 1, rising to the rank of Captain.

Following retirement, my wife and I moved to Franklin Park, NJ to be near our daughter and her family in Kendall Park, NJ. Since then, my primary retirement occupation has been caring for two granddaughters, Beatrice, and Emily, before and after school. In addition, I served a term as session moderator and pulpit supply at Grace Presbyterian Church in Kendall Park, where I was privileged to work with the student minister, Rev. J. Warner.

Since then, I have served as pulpit supply in numerous presbytery churches.

*Friendly Reminders*

<b>Today &amp; 9/28</b>	Rev. Donald Pitches, Guest Speaker	
<b>Today</b>	Choir Practice	Every Sunday at 9:30 am
<b>Sunday 09/28/2025</b>	Special Congregational Meeting	During Worship
<b>Saturday 10/04/2025</b>	Men’s Breakfast and CLEF Ladies’ Breakfast	9:00 am in Fellowship Hall.
<b>Sunday 10/05/2025</b>	Worship will be at First Pres. Church Avenel, 621 E. Woodbridge Ave., Avenel, NJ	Time: 10:00 am

*Special Congregational Meeting*

A special meeting of the Congregation of the Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church, Iselin, NJ, has been called for Sunday, September 28, 2025, for the purpose of electing the following members to serve as:

**Elder:** Herb Williams

**Deacon:** Nandai Sookhoo and Karen Wallner

*All are encouraged to attend. G-7.0301 All ACTIVE Members who are present are eligible to vote.*

*Per Capita*

**The per capita for 2025 is \$40.**

## 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. ([www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org))

<b>September 2025</b>	
<b>Today</b>	Lilliam Colon-Gilzean
09/28/25	Ron Stamboly

<b>October 2025</b>	
10/05/25	Worship at FPresAvenel
10/12/25	Leonard Mesonas
10/19/25	Betsy Christensen
10/26/25	Ron Stamboly

<b>November 2025</b>	
11/02/25	
11/09/25	Herb Williams
11/16/25	Betsy Christensen
11/23/25	Len Mesonas
11/30/25 (1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Advent)	Ron Stamboly

<b>December 2025</b>	
12/07/25	
12/14/25	Herb Williams
12/21/25	Betsy Christensen
12/24/25	Len Mesonas
12/28/25	Ron Stamboly

To all who answered the call to serve as liturgists, Thank you!  
Please email Margarita Estrada at [info@oaktree-iselinpres.org](mailto: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

Betsy Christensen	Mission
Jim Durgana	Treasurer
Leonard Mesonas	Human Resources, Officer Nominating Committee
Leonard Mesonas	Finance Chair, President of Corporation
Heather Meyers	Christian Education
Sue Ramirez	Worship and Music
Jeff Reeves	Buildings and Grounds
Ron Stamboly	Financial Secretary

## *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 / Susan Sendelsky, Co- Chairs
Hospitality	Rose Anne Anthony, Chair
Literature	Nikkie Hayase, Chair
Ministry of Compassion	Nancy Abel / Sara Schweitzer (non-deacons)
Prayer Partners	Nikkie Hayase, Chair
Welfare	Joan Moscomagas, Chair

## Regular Activities

Church Office is open Monday - Friday, 9 am to 1 pm

Men's Breakfast & CLEF Ladies Breakfast meet 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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,*



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