

# 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 28, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Rev. Donald Pitches, Guest Speaker

Liturgist: Elder Ron Stamboly

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

Do not, therefore, abandon that boldness of yours; it brings a great reward, for you need endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. (Hebrews 10:35, 36)

PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton Director of Music

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ron Stamboly

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 features a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The vocal line begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a quarter note C5. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady bass line of quarter notes: G2, Bb2, D3, and F3.

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

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The vocal line has a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a quarter note C5. The piano accompaniment continues with the same bass line of quarter notes: G2, Bb2, D3, and F3.

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

The third system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The vocal line has a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a quarter note C5. The piano accompaniment continues with the same bass line of quarter notes: G2, Bb2, D3, and F3.

(Hymn continues next page)



**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Ron Stamboly**

Come! Praise the Lord!

**Praise God for the heavens and the earth and all that is in them!**

Come! Praise the Lord!

**Praise God who feeds the hungry and uplifts the downtrodden!**

Come! Praise the Lord!

**Praise God who gives sight to the blind and sets prisoners free!**

Come! Praise the Lord!

**The Lord will reign forever! Praise the Lord!**

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

**Ron Stamboly**

**Gracious God, with grateful hearts we gather to offer you praise. May your praises fill the whole earth. We are thankful for your mighty works and for the tender care you provide us. We praise you with our voices, our talents, our time, and ourselves. We join all of creation to praise you. In the name of your Son, our Lord, amen.**

**\*HYMN # 35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**Ron Stamboly**

Perhaps we fear that if we admit the flaws of our lives, we will find ourselves too far away, unreachable by God's grace. But no chasm is too wide for God. In the act of confession, we begin the work of reconciliation, reaching out so God can take our hand once again. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison)**

**Ron Stamboly**

Almighty God, you call us to lives of service, but we confess that we ignore our neighbors in need right outside our door. You call us to share our abundance, but we confess that we choose our own comfort over generosity to others. You call us to build community, but we confess that we are too often gatekeepers, letting in only the ones that make us comfortable. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to be content with enough and inspire us to share what we have – our prosperity, our power, and our love – until all your children have life and dignity in a beloved community. Lord, hear our prayer. Amen

**PERSONAL CONFESSION**

**Ron Stamboly**

Merciful God, hear now our own personal confessions that we lift to you in silence.

*(Silence is kept)*

In the strong name of Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Donald Pitches**

Friends, who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ prays for us. Christ reaches out with endless love and mercy. Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made ready to love and serve. Alleluia. Amen

**\*THE RESPONSE # 581**

**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 on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is written in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the' are written below the treble staff. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass line.

*(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.

**\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**Ron Stamboly**

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*

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**Rev. Donald Pitches**

## **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**For the purpose of electing Herb Williams as Elder and Nandai Sookhoo and Karen Wallner as deacons.**

## **ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION**

**(See Insert)**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Ron Stamboly**

God of wonder, as we hear your Word for us today, fill us with holy imagination. Help us hear your holy invitation and ignite within us a passion to live your truth and follow your way. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Genesis 6:1-8**

**Ron Stamboly**

**6** When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, **2** the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. **3** Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with<sup>[a]</sup> humans forever, for they are mortal<sup>[b]</sup>; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.” **4** The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. **5** The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. **6** The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. **7** So the LORD said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I

regret that I have made them.”<sup>8</sup> But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Hebrews 11: 1-7**

**Donald Pitches**

**11** Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. **2** This is what the ancients were commended for. **3** By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. **4** By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. **5** By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.”<sup>[a]</sup> For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. **6** And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. **7** By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

### **THE MESSAGE**

**Be an Ark!**

**Donald Pitches**

**\*HYMN # 22 God of the Sparrow**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Isaiah 54: 8-10*)

**Donald Pitches**

**In overflowing wrath for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love, I will have compassion on you, says the Lord, your Redeemer. 9 This is like the days of Noah to me: Just as I swore that the waters of Noah would never again go over the earth, So I have sworn that I will not be angry with you and will not rebuke you. 10 For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.**

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for those whose bodies, minds, and spirits ache for your peace. Where we can be healers, let us inspire one another to do so. Inspire us to be a refuge, a harbor, a safe space, an Ark for the community. Where only your Spirit can heal, bring your healing mercies. Come close to those who are ill and those who grieve alongside them. Wrap them in your loving arms and give them peace. Give wisdom to our medical professionals and provide loving patience to caregivers everywhere. Strengthen them in their work. Merciful God, hear our prayers. Move us out of idleness and into faithful service. May we be your hands and heart, tending to your children until at last this world is just the way you meant it to be for us. All this we ask in the name of your Son, who taught us to pray, 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.**

## *The Thanksgiving*



## THE OFFERING

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

### \*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 606

# 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Doxology

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some dotted rhythms. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise \*him, all crea-tures  
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.**

*(Guest Speaker will share a prayer)*

*Empowered to Spread God's Love*

**\*HYMN # 315 In the Midst of New Dimensions**

**\*BENEDICTION**

Go, we cannot stay here; there is work to do.

Go, there are people to love and people to serve.

Go, be rich in good works, for that will bring true joy!

May the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit uplift and uphold you now and always. **Amen.**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION # 670**

**From the Rising of the Sun 670**

(Psalm 113)



From the ris - ing of the sun to the go - ing down



of the same, the name of the Lord shall be

*(Hymn continues next page)*

praised. From the ris-ing of the sun to the

go-ing down of the same, the name of the Lord shall be

praised. So praise ye the Lord.

Praise ye the Lord. From the

ris-ing of the sun to the go-ing down of the same,

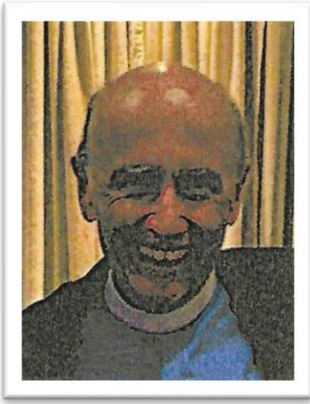
the name of the Lord shall be praised.

## THE POSTLUDE

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**Liturgy written by Rev. Rae Watson and provided for free distribution, with portions selected and adapted for today's worship by Rev. Donald Pitches**  
**For more resources, visit [pres-outlook.org](http://pres-outlook.org)**

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</b>	Rev. Donald Pitches, Guest Speaker	
<b>Today</b>	Special Congregational Meeting; Ordination and Installation of Herb Williams (Elder) Nandia Sookhoo and Karen Wallner (Deacons) All are encouraged to attend. G-7.0301 All ACTIVE Members who are present are eligible to vote.	During Worship
<b>Saturday</b> 10/04/2025	Men's Breakfast and CLEF Ladies' Breakfast	9:00 am in Fellowship Hall.
<b>Sunday</b> 10/05/2025	Worship will be at First Pres. Church Avenel, 621 E. Woodbridge Ave., Avenel, NJ	Time: 10:00 am
<b>Sunday</b> 10/12 & 10/19	Herb Williams, Guest Speaker	
Sunday 10/26 – 12/7	Donald Pitches, Guest Speaker	

## *In Loving Memory*

*The flowers in the sanctuary today were donated by Heather Meyers, in memory of Ann and Roy Meyers.*

### *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>	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	Sue Ramirez
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	Sue Ramirez
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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