



# OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ*

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830

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*Joy to the World! Our Lord Has Come!*

We request that you silence all electronic devices before service begins.

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

Wednesday, December 28, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Elder Herb Williams

Liturgist: Elder Jim Durgana

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

**PRELUDE**

**Alaine Bolton, Director of Music**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Jim Durgana**

**THE CHORAL INTROIT #119**

## 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

(Hymn continues next page)

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate de - i - ty,  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

**Jim Durgana**

Christ is born!

**Alleluia!**

Jesus is among us!

**Alleluia!**

Shout with joy, give thanks, and sing!

**Christ is born! Alleluia!**

There is good news of great joy for all!

**Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord!**

**\*LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS (In Unison)**

**Herb Williams**

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

Christ is born! Give him glory! Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him! Christ is now on earth! Exalt him! O earth, sing to the Lord! O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified! **Amen.**

**\* HYMN # 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**Jim Durgana**

Even on this day of celebration, let us come before the Holy One of Israel confessing our sins with contrite hearts, so that we may not deceive ourselves, but instead know the truth of our forgiveness.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)**

**Jim Durgana**

**Holy Incarnate God, by the light of your goodness and mercy, our failing to see your true light is clear: we have not loved you, we have not loved our neighbors, we have not loved ourselves. Our feet have not brought good news to the poor nor have our voices defended Earth and its creatures and plants. Forgive us, blind us with your holy honesty, so that we may more clearly see your will, and walk with sure steps into the way of holiness and peace.**

**PERSONAL CONFESSION**

**Jim Durgana**

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**

Hear the promise of the Lord: See, your salvation has come! You are a holy people, redeemed by God; sought out and not forsaken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*THE RESPONSE # 113 Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain only)**

*(Hymn begins next page)*

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - -

- - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

**THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**Jim Durgana**

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 of Christ to one another.)*

# *Hearing and Responding to the Word Proclaimed*

## TIME FOR CHILDREN OR THE YOUNG AT HEART

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jim Durgana

By the light of the Holy Spirit shining in our midst, open our hearts and minds, O God, to your Word, present now and always for the sake of your holy name. Amen.

### THE MESSAGE

Rejoice! Emmanuel Has Come To Thee  
Elder Herb Williams

\*HYMN # 116 The Snow Lay on the Ground

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! 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.

## Thanksgiving

### THE OFFERTORY

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

### THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

# 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise \*him, all creatures here be - low; praise \*him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men." The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple bass lines that support the vocal lines.

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.**

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.**

### **\*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (RESPONSIVE)**

Father All-Powerful and Ever Living God, we do well everywhere and always to give you thanks. Your mercy, love and grace abound; our blessings are countless; our cup runneth over.

God of mystery and might, we praise and worship you, for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping, to enter our world as a child of humble birth. We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, born of your handmaid Mary.

**In his face we behold your glory, for in his life as in his death is your gift of salvation. By your Spirit, make our hearts burn with thanksgiving, that we may give as we have received. Let our whole lives be gifts of praise to you, God of love and peace, in the gracious name of Jesus Christ, your Son, by the power of your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

*Empowered to Spread God's Love*



**\*HYMN # 115 Away in a Manger**

\*THE BENEDICTION (Guest Speaker will share benediction)

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION # 134 Joy to the World (all verses)

134

# Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
and heaven and na - ture sing,

(Hymn continues next page)

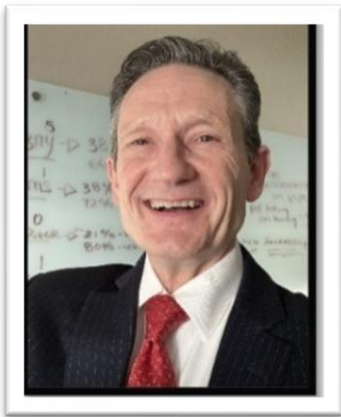
aria

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

## THE POSTLUDE

The text for today's worship was adapted from Rev. Chris Houtz' worship for the Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church on 12/25/2022.



**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.

# *Christmas Poinsettia Dedications!*

(We ask that you leave your Christmas flowers in the sanctuary until Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, when we celebrate the birth of our Savior)



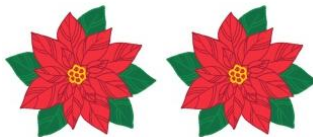
*(Please pick up your flowers based on the indications shown above)*

**Betsy Christensen**



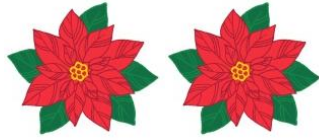
In Loving Memory of my Beloved Carl

**Jeremy Doodnauth and Theresa Brijlail**



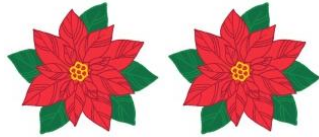
In Memory of Shane Durgana and Victoria Durgana-Latortue

## **The Durgana Family**



In Loving Memory of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, James Durgana, Sr., and our children Shane and Victoria and all our Loved Ones.

## **Remy and Arya Durgana**



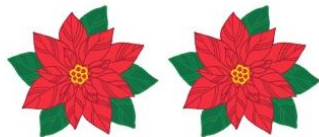
For Uncle Shane, the best uncle ever.

## **Gary and Susan Eagle**



In Memory of Trixie and Ivan

## **The Hayase Family**



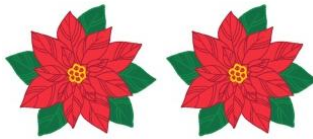
In Memory of Loved Ones

**Ruby Javed**



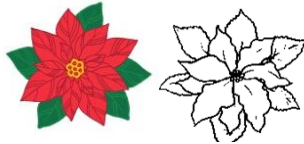
In Loving Memory of my husband, Akhtar Javed

**John and Patricia Lillie**



In Memory of John and Jean Lillie  
In Memory of Hichose and Mary Kira

**Christian Madsen**



Thank You, Jesus!

**Len and Joanne Mesonas**



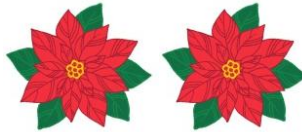
Merry Christmas!

## **Heather Meyers**



In Loving Memory of Ann, Roy, and Debbie Meyers

## **The Moscomagas and Chandaria Families**



In Loving Memory of Loved Ones, and Cynthia Chandaria

## **Ilona Nagy**



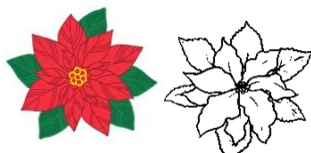
In Loving Memory of My Son, Joseph Nagy. I miss you so much!  
Love you!

## **Sheryl Raghunandan**



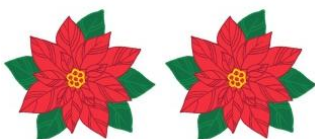
In Loving Memory of Loved Ones

**Sue Ramirez**



In Loving Memory of Our Parents, Dot & Dorothea Engemann, and  
brother Doug Engemann

**Nandai Sookhoo**



In Loving Memory of Charles and Loved Ones.

**Selyn Thomas**



In Loving Memory of my parents, Daniel and Stella Thomas

**Karen Wallner**



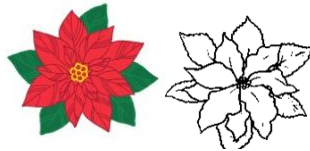
Merry Christmas to All!  
In Memory of My Beloved Mother, Addie.

**Kay Pintak**



In Memory of All My Loved Ones

Herb Williams



To new mothers, from a friend.

## *Friendly Reminders*

<b>Monday, 12/29-12/31; Jan 2 &amp; 5</b>	M. Estrada - Vacation	
<b>Sunday</b> 1/4/2026	Service Led by Elder Linwood Bagby	
<b>Tuesday</b> 1/6/2026	M. Estrada – Back in Office	
<b>Saturday,</b> 1/10/2026	Men’s Breakfast and CLEF Ladies’ Breakfast	9 am
<b>Sunday,</b> 1/25/2026	Congregational Meeting	After Worship

## *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](mailto:info@oaktree-iselinprs.org) if you’d like an opportunity to serve as a liturgist.*

<b>December 2025</b>	
<b>Today</b>	Len Mesonas
12/28/25	Jim Durgana

### Year 2026

<b>January 2026</b>	
01/04/26	Sue Ramirez
01/11/26	Len Mesonas
01/18/26	Betsy Christensen
01/25/26	Ron Stamboly

# 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
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, Chair
Literature	Nikkie Hayase & Nandai Sookho, Co-Chairs
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, Thursdays at 7 pm, Choir Room. For dates, connect with Elder Sue Ramirez.

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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Heart photo: vector.com