



# OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ*

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830

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## *Christmas Eve*

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

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Elder Herb Williams

Liturgist: Elder Len Mesonas

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

## *Centering Thought*

*Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. - Luke 2:10-11*

**PRELUDE**

**Will We Know Him When He Comes? (Price & Besig)  
The Chancel Choir**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Len Mesonas**

## *We Light the Christ Candle*

**Herb Williams:** We have watched and waited. The first candle symbolizing Hope is called the Prophet's Candle. The second week of Advent we lit the purple candle called The Bethlehem Candle. It represents Peace and Preparation. The third week of Advent we light the pink candle called The Shepherd's Candle. It symbolizes rejoicing. The fourth week of Advent we light the purple candle, called The Angel's Candle, which represents Love. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings a little more light into the darkness. The white candle, referred to as the Christ Candle, is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to symbolize that Jesus is with us. The candles represent Jesus coming as a light in the darkness.

### **The Raghunandan Family: (from Isaiah 9:2-7)**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son is given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. Glory to God in the highest! **Alelluia! Amen!**

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

**Len Mesonas**

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

**Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. Amen**

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

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**Len Mesonas**

The angels proclaim good news for all. Let us confess the sins that keep us from glorifying and enjoying our God

**PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison)**

**Len Mesonas**

Gracious God, you call us to celebrate, yet we struggle to find hope in the suffering and despair of our world. What reason is there to rejoice? We turn from each other and from you, questioning the power of love in the face of the world's cruelty and hate. Comfort your people, sovereign God. Return us to the faith born this night. Save us from hopelessness. May the promise and possibility of every newborn child remind us of the salvation we have in Jesus Christ. Amen.

**PERSONAL CONFESSION**

**Len Mesonas**

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**

The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His loving devotion for those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

# Glory Be to the Father

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

The first system of musical notation for the first system of the hymn. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The treble staff contains the vocal line with lyrics: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the". The bass staff contains the piano accompaniment.

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

The second system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the vocal line with lyrics: "Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -". The bass staff continues the piano accompaniment.

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

The third system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the vocal line with lyrics: "gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,". The bass staff continues the piano accompaniment.

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

The fourth and final system of musical notation. The treble staff concludes the vocal line with lyrics: "world with - out end. A - men, a - men." The bass staff concludes the piano accompaniment with a final chord and a double bar line.

## THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Herb Williams

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.)*

## PRAYERS FOR ILLUMINATION (Responsive)

Len Mesonas

Holy Father, open our wounded hearts to the balm of your Word.

**Holy Spirit, speak to us in clear tones so that we might feel our spirits leap  
for joy and skip with hope as witnesses to your reconciling love.**

Holy Jesus, Word made flesh, calm us now into a quietness that heals and  
listens.

**Amen**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Herb Williams

## THE MESSAGE

The Shepherds Heard It First

Elder Herb Williams

## *The Service of Lessons and Carols*

Adam and Eve disobey God

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Laura Reeves

Hymn #121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

God's promise to Abraham

Genesis 22:15-18

Jim Durgana

Hymn # 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1-4)

A great light in the darkness

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Betsy Christensen

Hymn # 123

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear (verses 1-3)

**A little child will lead them**      **Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9**      **Lilliam Colon-Gilzean**  
**Hymn # 129**      **Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming**

**An angel appears to Mary**      **Luke 1:26-35, 38**      **Len Mesonas**  
**Hymn # 119**      **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!**

**Mary gives birth in Bethlehem**      **Luke 2:1-7**      **Ron Stamboly**

**Anthem**      **A Simple Stable**      **The Chancel Choir**

**Angels announce the Messiah**      **Luke 2:8-16**      **Sara Schweitzer**  
**Hymn #113**      **Angels We Have Heard on High**

**The Magi come from the East**      **Matthew 2:1-11**      **Laura Reeves**  
**Hymn # 151**      **We Three Kings of Orient Are (verses 1-4)**

**And the Word became flesh**      **John 1:1-14**      **Jim Durgana**  
**Hymn # 140**      **Once In Royal David's City**

### **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**

## THE OFFERING

All things in heaven and on earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

## THE BELL CHOIR

## Gloria in Excelsis Deo

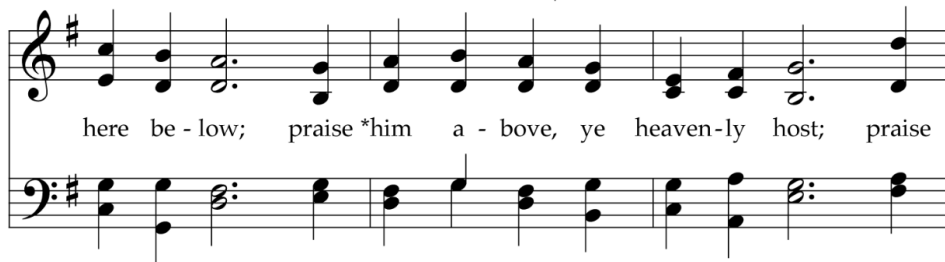
## THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

# 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

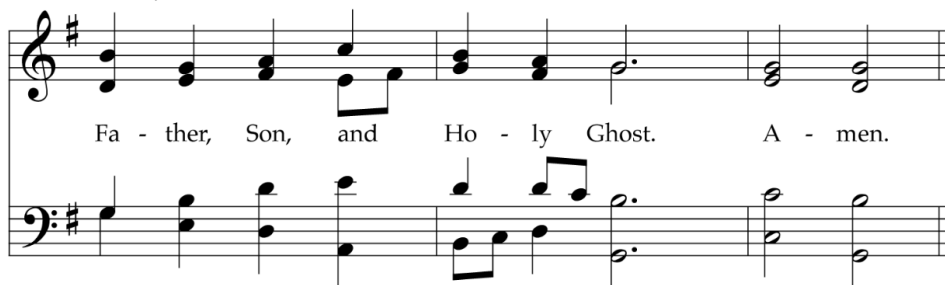
Doxology



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise \*him, all creatures



here below; praise \*him above, ye heavenly host; praise



Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Responsive)**

The peace of 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.**

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.

**We pray you accept our offerings and bless them to be used in the service of your children and your church.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

*Empowered to Spread God's Love*



**\*HYMN # 134 Joy to the World**

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

*(Guest Speaker will share benediction).*

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION # 122 Silent Night (all verses)

# Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

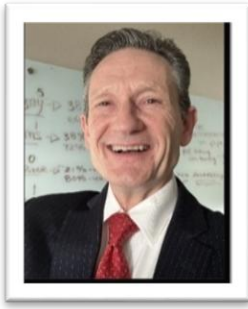
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

*(All present are asked to walk to the front. Your candles are lit from the Christ candle as we sing Silent Night, then church house lights are shut off.)*

*Please depart in silence and darkness in awe of Christ's birth.....*



**Today 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.

*Thank you!*

The Oak Tree-Presbyterian Church would like to thank all who participated in making our Christmas Eve service a special experience for all.

# *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)



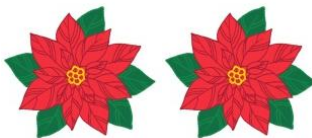
*(Please pick up your flowers based on the indications shown above)*

**Betsy Christensen**



In Loving Memory of my Beloved Carl

**Jeremy Doodnauth and Theresa Brijlail**



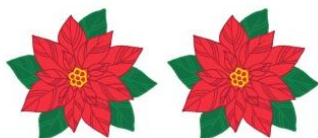
In Memory of Shane Durgana and Victoria Durgana-Latortue

## **The Durgana Family**



In Loving Memory of our beloved children Shane and Victoria and all  
our Loved Ones

## **Remy and Arya Durgana**



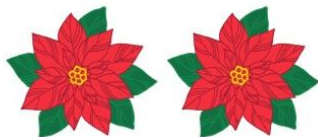
For Uncle Shane, the best uncle ever.

## **Gary and Susan Eagle**



In Memory of Trixie and Ivan

## **The Hayase Family**



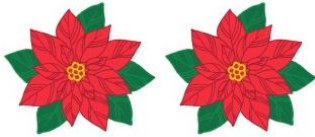
In Memory of Loved Ones

**Ruby Javed**



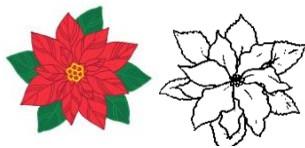
In Loving Memory of my husband, Akhtar Javed

**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**



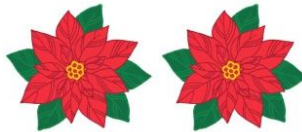
Merry Christmas!

**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**



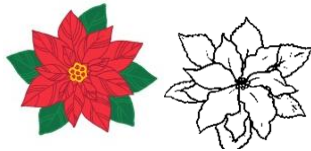
In Loving Memory of My Son, Joseph Nagy. I miss you so much!  
Love you!

**Sheryl Raghunandan**



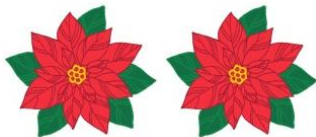
In Loving Memory of Loved Ones

**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**



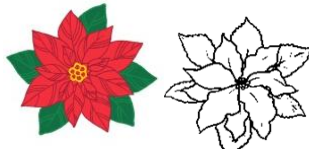
Merry Christmas to All!  
In Memory of My Beloved Mother, Addie.

**Kay Pintak**



In Memory of All My Loved Ones

Herb Williams



To new mothers, from a friend.

## *Friendly Reminders*

|  |   |      |
|--|---|------|
| <b>Wed. 12/24 -<br/>Fri. 12/26</b>             | Office Closed – Christmas Eve,<br>Christmas Day & Day After                                   |      |
| <b>Today 12/24</b>                             | Christmas Eve Service – Lessons &<br>Carols, service by Elder Herb<br>Williams - No Communion | 7 pm |
| <b>Monday, 12/29-<br/>12/31; Jan 2 &amp; 5</b> | M. Estrada - Vacation   |      |
| <b>Sunday<br/>1/4/2026</b>                     | Service Led by Elder Linwood Bagby  |      |
| <b>Tuesday<br/>1/6/2026</b>                    | M. Estrada – Back in Office   |      |
| <b>Saturday,<br/>1/10/2026</b>                 | Men’s Breakfast and<br>CLEF Ladies’ Breakfast   | 9 am |

## *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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