

# OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ*

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830

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Sunday, July 21, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Elder Diane Anderson-Butts, CRE

Liturgist: Elder Betsy Christensen

Director of Music: Alaine Bolton

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

## *Gathering for Worship*



**PRELUDE**

**Alaine Bolton, Director of Music**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Betsy Christensen**

**CHORAL INTROIT I Was Glad (1x)**

I was glad when they said unto me,  
“Let us go into the house of the Lord.”  
I was glad when they said unto me,  
“Let us go into the house of the Lord.—  
And we’ll praise the creator of heaven and earth  
Who came among us in humble birth.”  
I was glad when they said unto me,  
“Let us go into the house of the Lord.”  
I was glad when they said unto me,  
“Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

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

**Betsy Christensen**

Jesus said, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

**Lord, we come to worship you, seeking sabbath rest.**

Jesus said, “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

**Lord, we come to worship you, to listen to your teachings and to seek rest for our souls.**

Jesus said, “For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

**Lord, we come to worship you, that we might serve you faithfully.**

Give thanks to God; bless God’s name!

**For the Lord is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever, and God’s faithfulness to all generations.**

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

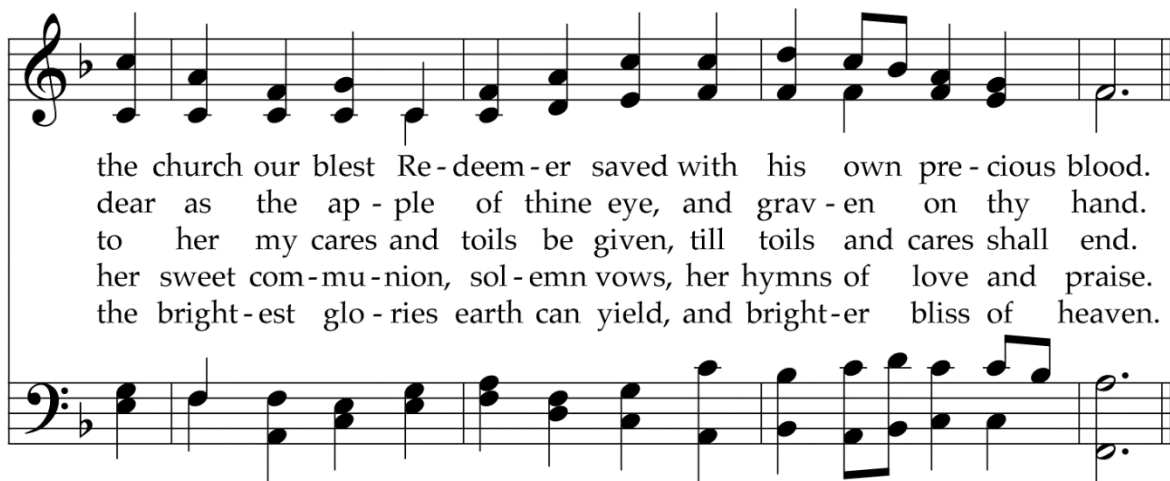
**Betsy Christensen**

**Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God. Open our ears and our hearts to your teachings, Lord, that we may be strengthened in our faith and equipped for ministry in your name. Amen.**

**\*HYMN # 310 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord**

**I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord 310**

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord". It features a treble clef and a bass clef, both in 4/4 time. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 1 I love thy king - dom, Lord, the house of thine a - bode, 2 I love thy church, O God. Her walls be - fore thee stand, 3 For her my tears shall fall; for her my prayers as - cend; 4 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize her heaven - ly ways: 5 Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zi - on shall be given



### **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**Betsy Christensen**

The scriptures teach that there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The scriptures also teach that we have a high priest who has been tested as we are, yet without sin. As the letter to the Hebrews encourages us, "Let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Let us pray.

### **PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison)**

**Betsy Christensen**

**Good and gracious God, we confess that we run ourselves ragged. We are busy and preoccupied with so many things. We neglect to be still and know that you are God. Even our sabbath time can be filled with "busy-ness." Forgive us, Lord, for not accepting your gift and guidance of rest and restoration. Help us to put on the yoke of Jesus and walk in the way he models for us, mindful of our spiritual health and responding with compassion to the needs of our neighbors.**

**Loving God, thank you for Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, who makes us complete in everything good so that we may do your will, working among us that which is pleasing in your sight. We pray through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.**

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

### **PERSONAL CONFESSION**

**Betsy Christensen**

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

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Diane Anderson-Butts, CRE**

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

# Glory Be to the Father

581

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

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

Betsy Christensen

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

Diane Anderson-Butts, CRE

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, we set our attention on You and You alone. Quiet the busy thoughts that roam freely in our minds, as we listen for your voice, your instruction and your wisdom for our living. In Jesus' righteous name. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Jeremiah 23: 1-6**

**Betsy Christensen**

**23** “Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. <sup>2</sup>Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the LORD. <sup>3</sup>“I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. <sup>4</sup>I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the LORD.

<sup>5</sup>“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,  
“when I will raise up for David<sup>[a]</sup> a righteous Branch,

a King who will reign wisely  
and do what is just and right in the land.

<sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved  
and Israel will live in safety.

This is the name by which he will be called:

The LORD Our Righteous Savior.

## SCRIPTURE READING

**Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**

**Diane Anderson-Butts, CRE**

<sup>30</sup>The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup>Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” <sup>32</sup>So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. <sup>33</sup>But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup>When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

<sup>53</sup>When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. <sup>54</sup>As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. <sup>55</sup>They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup>And wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

THE MESSAGE

Called to Nap

Diane Anderson-Butts, CRE

# My Shepherd Will Supply My Need 803

(Psalm 23)



1 My shep-herd will sup - ply my need; Je - ho - vah is his name.  
2 When I walk through the shades of death your pres-ence is my stay;  
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh he makes me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.  
one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.  
O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.



He brings my wan - dering spir - it back when I for - sake his ways,  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;  
There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and leads me, for his mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.  
my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows; your oil a - noints my head.  
no more a strang - er, or a guest, but like a child at home.





for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

*Refrain*

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

**\*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.**

*Sending Us into the World*

**\*HYMN # 824**

**There Is a Place of Quiet Rest 824**

Near to the Heart of God

1 There is a place of qui - et rest, near to the heart of God,  
 2 There is a place of com - fort sweet, near to the heart of God,  
 3 There is a place of full re - lease, near to the heart of God,



a place where sin can-not mo-lest, near to the heart of God.  
 a place where we our Sav-ior meet, near to the heart of God.  
 a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

*Refrain*

O Je - sus, blest Re-deem - er, sent from the heart of God,

hold us, who wait be - fore thee, near to the heart of God.

**BENEDICTION**

My beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Amen.

**CHORAL BENEDICTION # 745 Now Go in Joy (2x) (hymn on next page)**

745

## Now Go in Joy

Now go in joy to spread the Word till all peo - ple have  
 heard: God em - brac - es all! Fol - low, then, the dis -  
 ci - ples' call: tend your neigh - bors with lov - ing care  
 in dai - ly work and prayer. God's own  
 grace em - pow - er your spir - it. A - men!

**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. We appreciate every generous gift and want to make sure we have a proper record of it to say, Thank you!

*Welcome!*

Today we welcome Diane Anderson-Butts, CRE, to our pulpit.

Diane Anderson-Butts is a Commissioned Lay Pastor in the Presbyterian Church, USA. Professionally trained as Social Worker, Diane was called to establish a unique ministry that intersects her professional skills and ministerial gifts. She is the founder and spiritual leader of Faith Works, an outreach ministry that goes into the streets of Paterson to reclaim God's children among the unhoused, addicted and broken.

Diane possesses a Master’s degree in Social Work from Fordham University and is newly retired from Newark Public Schools (NJ) as a school social worker. Diane also completed a certificate program in Ministry and Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. She is a powerful speaker with a message of hope, healing, and transformation through the Love of Christ.

## *Friendly Reminders*

Please note that checks made out to **First Presbyterian Church of Iselin** or **Oak Tree Presbyterian Church** are no longer accepted by the bank. Going forward, checks are to be made to: **Oak Tree-Iselin Presbyterian Church.**

Diane Anderson-Butts, CRE	<b>Today</b>	07/21/24	
	Sunday	07/28/24	
Margarita Estrada	Tuesday	07/30/24	Vacation Day
Gayle Griffin, CRE	Sunday	08/04/24	`
Kristofer Stinson	Sunday	08/11/24	
	Sunday	08/18/24	
Theodore Longlois	Sunday	08/25/24	

## *OakTreeIselinPresNJ members have an opportunity to host Fellowship Hour in August!*

There will be no refreshments served after worship during the month of August because the deacons are taking a well-deserved break; however, if anyone would like to host Fellowship during that month, you may do so. A sign-up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall. Fellowship Hour preparation will resume on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## Scheduled Liturgists!

To all who answered the call to serve as liturgists, Thank you! We are covered through the end of July! We are now looking to complete August and September. Please email Margarita Estrada at [margarit01@comcast.net](mailto:margarit01@comcast.net), or call her at (732) 283-1188, if you'd like further opportunities to serve as liturgists.

July	
Today	Betsy Christensen
07/28/24	Ron Stamboly

August	
8/04/24 Communion	Jim Durgana
08/11/24	
08/18/24	Betsy Christensen
08/25/24	Ron Stamboly

September	
09/01/24 Communion	
09/08/24	Leonard Mesonas
09/15/24	Linda Sahayaraj
09/22/24	Ron Stamboly
09/29/24	Lilliam Colon-Gilzean

## Ongoing Initiatives

**SHOP-RITE GIFT CARDS:** Gift cards will be available every Sunday after worship. Simply bring your check or cash and purchase your cards.

**RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES:** We are collecting aluminum can tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick throughout the year. Please place your donation of aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick in the container in Fellowship Hall or give them to Heather Meyers. Tabs can come from a variety of cans (soda or other beverages, pet food, soup, etc.), but must be aluminum. How can you tell? Aluminum won't stick to a magnet.

## *Message from The Board of Deacons*

### *Ministry of Compassion*

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, “I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” – Matthew 25:35-36

The Ministry of Compassion is requesting food donations for our monthly food baskets. A bin has been set up in the hallway of the church, by the literature bookcase so that you can have the opportunity to help. For more information, see Nancy Abel or Sara Schweitzer. Below are the food items needed:

<b>Canned</b>	<b>Dry Goods</b>
Vegetables	Pasta
Beans	Rice
Fruit	Instant Potatoes
Tuna fish	Mac and Cheese
Pasta sauce	Cereal
Soup	Peanut Butter & Jelly

### *Regular Activities*

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

Men’s Breakfast & CLEF Ladies Breakfast,  
Summer off, next meeting will be on September 7, 2024

Sunday Bible Study - 9:00 am

Session meetings are held monthly (dates will be posted in Friendly Reminders section).

Choir practice: 1<sup>st</sup> and last Sunday of the Month at 9:30 am

Divine Worship: In the sanctuary and on Facebook Livestream,  
Sundays at 10:30 am

# Session

Laura Reeves, Clerk of Session

Betsy Christensen	Mission
Jim Durgana	Treasurer
Len Mesonas	Human Resources, Officer Nominating Committee
Len 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

Nancy Abel	Moderator/ Prayer Concern List/Board Secretary/Ministry of Compassion Chair
Roseanne (Cookie) Anthony	Hospitality Chair
Kate Scott	Session Board Liaison
Nikkie Hayase	Literature Chair
Joanne Mesonas	Flowers Co-Chairs
Susan O'Rourke-Sendelsky	Deacon Assistance Fund / Welfare Chair / Deacon Nominating Committee
Joan Moscomagas	Ministry of Compassion
Sara Schweitzer	Cards Chair / Hospitality Co-Chair
Pat Lillie	

## 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 our website [www.oaktree-iselinpres.org](http://www.oaktree-iselinpres.org), using your mobile device, scan QR Code. To participate with us on social media, 'Like' our Facebook page, 'Follow' us on Instagram, or 'Like' and 'Subscribe' our YouTube channel! All the platforms use @oaktreeiselinpresnj as the identifier. Email us at: [info@oaktree-iselinpres.org](mailto:info@oaktree-iselinpres.org)