

# OAK TREE-ISELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Mind, hearts, hands and voices in Christ*

1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830

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(732) 283-1188

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Sunday, June 16, 2024

10:30 a.m.

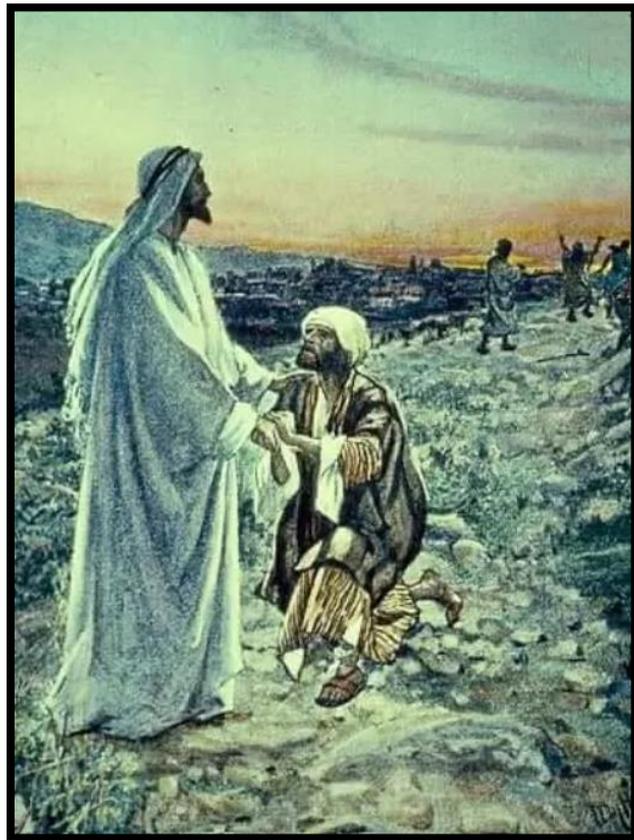
Service led by: Elder Linwood Bagby, CRE

Liturgist: Elder Chris Madsen

Guest Organist: Jude Duane

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

## *Gathering for Worship*



### *Centering Thought*

Faith, mighty faith, The promise sees, and looks to God alone; Laughs at impossibilities, and cries it shall be done. - Charles Wesley

**PRELUDE**

**Jude Duane, Guest Organist**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Chris Madsen**

**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)  
(based on on Ezekiel 17:22-24)**

**Chris Madsen**

God takes a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar, and plants it on a high mountain  
**in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit and become a noble cedar.**  
Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.  
**God welcomes. God loves. God provides.**

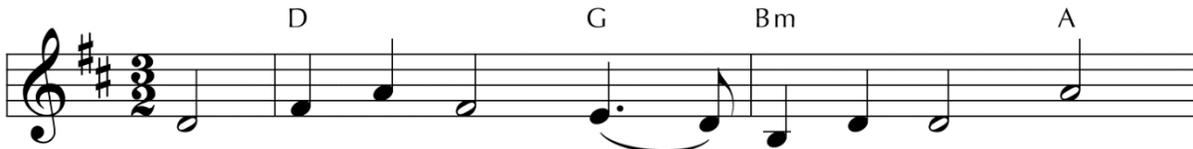
**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)**

**Chris Madsen**

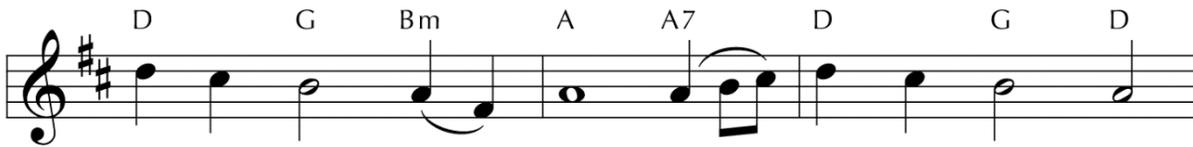
**Just for today, help me, God, to remember that my life is a gift, that my health is a blessing, that this new day is filled with awesome potential, that I have the capacity to bring something wholly new and unique and good into this world. Just for today, help me, God, to remember to be kind and patient to the people who love me, and to those who work with me too. Teach me to see all the beauty that I so often ignore, and to listen to the silent longing of my own soul. Just for today, help me, God, to remember You. Let this be a good day, God, full of joy and love. Amen**

**\*HYMN # 817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**

# 817 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
 4 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
 we re - joice and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
 you are near and seek where you are found.  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Chris Madsen

God gathers and prepares us for worship. Let us confess the sins that detract and distract us from God's path.

## PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison)

Chris Madsen

Holy God, you are a blessing to all people yet we choose sides and pit "us" against "them." Forgive our divisiveness. Forgive our exclusion. Forgive the ways we fail to seek and share your abundance. Help us build the Beloved Community you desire for us, where all your children may live in peace. Amen.

## PERSONAL CONFESSION

Chris Madsen

Merciful God, hear now our own personal confessions that we lift up to you in silence. In the strong name of Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Elder Linwood Bagby

Christ has set us free. Claim your forgiveness. Rejoice in God's grace.  
Respond with love. **Amen.**

**\*THE RESPONSE # 581**

Glory Be to the Father 581

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

The first system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the".

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

The second system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the bass clef accompaniment continues. The lyrics are: "Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -".

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

The third system of musical notation. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the bass clef accompaniment continues. The lyrics are: "gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,".

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

The fourth system of musical notation, which concludes the hymn. The melody ends with a double bar line in the treble clef, and the bass clef accompaniment ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "world with - out end. A - men, a - men.".

## **\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Chris Madsen

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**

Linwood Bagby, CRE

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Chris Madsen

Prepare our hearts and minds for the hearing of your Word, Holy God.

Open us to your truth. Humble us to your way. **Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **First reading: Psalm 6**

Chris Madsen

#### **The Lord's unfailing love delivers and heals**

6 LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. <sup>2</sup> Have mercy on me, LORD, for I am faint; heal me, LORD, for my bones are in agony. <sup>3</sup> My soul is in deep anguish. How long, LORD, how long? <sup>4</sup> Turn, LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.

<sup>5</sup> Among the dead no one proclaims your name. Who praises you from the grave? <sup>6</sup> I am worn out from my groaning. All night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears.

<sup>7</sup> My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes. <sup>8</sup> Away from me, all you who do evil, for the LORD has heard my weeping. <sup>9</sup> The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the LORD accepts my prayer. <sup>10</sup> All my enemies will be overwhelmed with shame and anguish; they will turn back and suddenly be put to shame.

#### **Second reading: Mark 5:1-20**

Elder Linwood Bagby

#### **Jesus Restores a Man Possessed by Evil Spirits**

5 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>2</sup> When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. <sup>3</sup> This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. <sup>4</sup> For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. <sup>5</sup> Night and day among the tombs and in the hills, he would cry out and cut himself with stones. <sup>6</sup> When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. <sup>7</sup> He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" <sup>8</sup> For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!" <sup>9</sup> Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." <sup>10</sup> And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. <sup>11</sup> A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. <sup>12</sup> The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." <sup>13</sup> He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. <sup>14</sup> Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. <sup>15</sup> When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his

right mind; and they were afraid. <sup>16</sup> Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. <sup>17</sup> Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

<sup>18</sup> As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. <sup>19</sup> Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the

Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” <sup>20</sup> So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis<sup>[b]</sup> how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

**THE MESSAGE Jesus Demonstrates Authority Over Evil Spirits**

**Elder Linwood Bagby**

**\*HYMN # 22**

# 22 God of the Sparrow

C Em Am Dm G

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the  
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the  
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the  
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the  
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the  
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the

C F E7 Am Em F Em

swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe  
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe  
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace  
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care  
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love  
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy

Am Dm Gsus G C

How does the crea - ture say Praise  
 How does the crea - ture cry Save  
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks  
 How does the crea - ture say Life  
 How does the crea - ture say Peace  
 How do your chil - dren say Home

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—Apostles’ Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.

*The Thanksgiving*

**THE OFFERING**

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

**\*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 14 (vs. 1)**

**For the Beauty of the Earth 14**

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'For the Beauty of the Earth'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is written in the bass staff. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, with five numbered lines of text.

*(Hymn continues next page)*

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 # 634 To God Be the Glory**

(hymn on next page)

634

## To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!  
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,  
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.  
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

*Refrain*



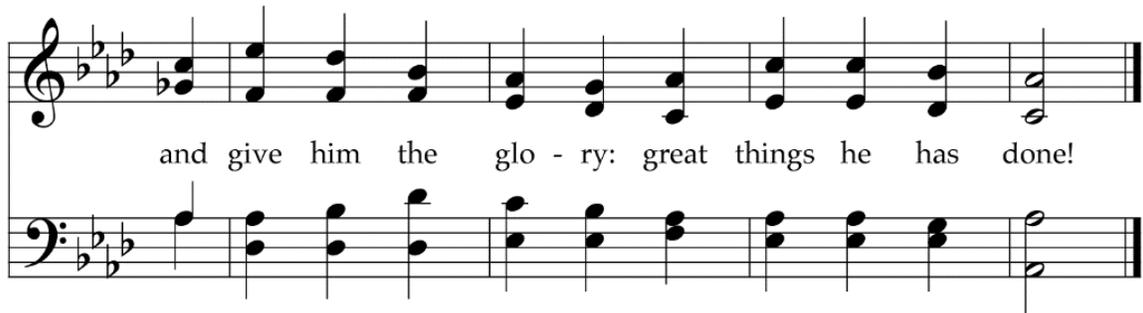
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!



O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,



and give him the glory: great things he has done!

**BENEDICTION**

God, bless us.

Jesus, walk with us.

Holy Spirit, guide us as we enter this new week.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and always. Amen.

# 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!

Chords: G, Am7, D, G, Am, D7, G, Am, D, G

## 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 Elder Linwood Bagby to our pulpit.

Linwood Bagby is a native of West Deptford, New Jersey who received his Bachelor of Science degree from The College of New Jersey and his Master's Degree from Kean University. Both degrees were in Speech and Language Pathology. He resides in Union Township and retired in July 2021 as a Speech and Language Specialist with the Elizabeth Public Schools Board of Education.

Linwood is active in the community where he worked. In 1994, he founded Restore Ministries, Inc., and currently serves as its Chief Executive Officer. Restore Ministries, Inc, provides academic help, recreational, and cultural activities and experiences for children and teenagers.

In 2012 he was elected to serve as the Moderator for the Elizabeth Presbytery (now Northeast Presbytery of New Jersey). Linwood was the Chair of the Presbytery Cabinet (2014-2017). Linwood is an active member and leader within the Northeast Presbytery of New Jersey and serves on its Vision Team. In addition, he serves as a Ruling Elder at his church, Second Presbyterian in Elizabeth. He works part time as the Lead Facilitator where he coordinates and delivers the worship services and other pastoral duties.

Linwood's hobbies are reading fantasy and mystery novels, playing his acoustic guitar, cooking, and riding his bike.

## 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.**

Elder Linwood Bagby, CRE Guest Speaker	<b>Today</b>	06/16/24	10:30 am
Rev. Dr. Betty Tom	Sunday	06/23/24	
Margarita Estrada	Tuesday	06/25/24	Vacation Day
Rev. Dr. Betty Tom	Sunday	06/30/24	
Independence Day	Thursday	07/04/24	Office Closed
Margarita Estrada	Friday	07/05/24	Vacation Day
Gayle Griffin, CRE	Sunday	07/07/24	
Margarita Estrada	Tuesday	07/09/24	Vacation Day
Gayle Griffin, CRE	Sunday	07/14/24	
Margarita Estrada	Tuesday	07/30/24	Vacation Day

## *Scheduled Liturgists!*

To all who answered the call to serve as liturgists, Thank you! We are covered through the end of July! Please email Margarita Estrada at [margarito1@comcast.net](mailto:margarito1@comcast.net), or call her at (732) 283-1188, if you'd like further opportunities to serve as liturgists.

<b>June</b>	
<b>Today</b>	Chris Madsen
06/23/24	Betsy Christensen
06/30/24	Ron Stamboly

<b>July</b>	
07/07/24 Communion	Ron Stamboly
07/14/24	Leonard Mesonas
07/21/24	Nikkie Hayase
07/28/24	Ron Stamboly

## *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,  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at 9 am

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	
Joan Moscomagas	Deacon Assistance Fund / Welfare Chair / Deacon Nominating Committee
Sara Schweitzer	Ministry of Compassion
Pat Lillie	Cards Chair / Hospitality Co-Chair

## 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)

Cover photo: A Grateful Heart by Anonymous