

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

Email: info@oaktree-iselinpres.org

Sunday, July 7, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Elder Gayle Griffin, CRE

Liturgist: Steve Kitsko

Director of Music: Alaine Bolton

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Gathering for Worship



PRELUDE

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Kitsko

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)**

Steve Kitsko

Leader: We come from the day-to-day busyness of our lives,
People: We come with cares and worries, joys, and celebrations.
Leader: Let us set it all aside and enter this time of worship.
People: May our hearts and minds be open to what God might say to us this day.
Leader: Trusting always in the Spirit to meet us.
All: Let us gather to worship God!

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

Steve Kitsko

Gracious and loving God, we thank You for this Sabbath day when we gather as your children in Your sacred space to worship You. We thank you for the new mercies of this day as we look for and see the Spirit at work all around us. As we gather this Sabbath to celebrate the Lord’s Supper, we rejoice that our siblings in Christ are gathered throughout this Presbytery, especially as many prepare for the Presbyterian General Assembly. We pray for God’s peace and God’s time when every meal we share looks more like your heavenly feast: everyone welcomed, everyone fed, and everyone nourished. Amen.

***HYMN # 65 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Steve Kitsko

When we gather to worship God, we must first be honest with ourselves. We are not who God has called us to be as a people. We have not cared for others in every instance. We have made many mistakes. Let us unburden ourselves and confess our sins, knowing that God awaits to forgive and renew.

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION (In Unison)

Steve Kitsko

Gracious God, we live in the tension of what we are called to be and our lived reality. We often fall short of the good we intend and our growing in the likeness of Christ is painfully slow at best. Forgive us we pray. Offer us the peace that passes all understanding that we might be forgiven and begin anew.

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

PERSONAL CONFESSION

Steve Kitsko

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Gayle Griffin, CRE

Hear the Good News! The old life is gone, a new life has begun. You are not who you were, may you live into who you can be. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*THE RESPONSE # 581

Glory Be to the Father

581

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

The first line of musical notation is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the accompaniment is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the' are written below the treble staff.

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

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. The lyrics 'Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -' are written below the treble staff.

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

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

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Steve Kitsko

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

Gayle Griffin, CRE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Steve Kitsko

Loving God, open our hearts and minds to what you would say to us this day. Speak Lord, for your people are listening. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS (Old Testament)

Steve Kitsko

Psalm 52- A Psalm of David describes when Doeg went to tell Saul that David has gone to the house of Ahimlech.

¹Why do you boast of evil, you mighty hero?

Why do you boast all day long,
you who are a disgrace in the eyes of God?

²You who practice deceit,
your tongue plots destruction;
it is like a sharpened razor.

³You love evil rather than good,
falsehood rather than speaking the truth.

⁴You love every harmful word,
you deceitful tongue!

⁵ Surely God will bring you down to everlasting ruin:
He will snatch you up and pluck you from your tent;
he will uproot you from the land of the living.

⁶ The righteous will see and fear;
they will laugh at you, saying,

⁷ “Here now is the man
who did not make God his stronghold
but trusted in his great wealth
and grew strong by destroying others!”

⁸ But I am like an olive tree
flourishing in the house of God;
I trust in God’s unfailing love
for ever and ever.

⁹ For what you have done I will always praise you
in the presence of your faithful people.
And I will hope in your name,
for your name is good.

SCRIPTURE READING (New Testament)

Gayle Griffin, CRE

Mark 8:27-30

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?” ²⁸ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

THE MESSAGE

Keys to the Kingdom

Gayle Griffin, CRE

***HYMN # 69 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am, Lord

G Am D G C G D
Leader or All

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em C Am7 D G

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

Am D G C G D

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em C Am7 C/G D D7

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

All G C G D G C G D G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Am7 G Am7 D G C G C

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

G C G D G Am7 D7 G Am7 G

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Eucharist

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 a musical score for the offertory response. 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 accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with five numbered lines of text corresponding to the five lines of the melody.

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 DEDICATION (In Unison)**

Gracious God, we offer these gifts to you. May they be used to bring grace and healing to this hurting world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

***HYMN # 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 features a treble and bass clef in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter and eighth notes, while the bass clef provides a steady accompaniment of chords and single notes.

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

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system, maintaining the same musical structure.

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

The third system of music features a treble and bass clef in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter and eighth notes, while the bass clef provides a steady accompaniment of chords and single notes.

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

The fourth system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system, maintaining the same musical structure.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Friends, in this season of Pentecost, we experience the Lord's Supper as a joyous feast in which we celebrate the mystery of our faith. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites all who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...giving drink to the thirsty, raising the dead to life.

Holy, Holy, Holy

552

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (D)
F C F B^b C F

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the

(A) (D/F#) (F#m) (G) (A) (Bm)
C F/A Am B^b C Dm

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

(G) (D) (A) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)
B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F


full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

...take our hearts and lives—and offering of praise.

(please sing response in next page)


553 Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

Capo 3: (D) (A) (D) (G)(A) (D) (A) (D/F#)(F#m)
F C F B^b C F C F/A Am



Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

(G) (A)(Bm) (G) (D) (A)(Bm) (Em7) (A)(Dsus)(D)
B^b C Dm B^b F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F



Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

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

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Because there is one loaf, we, many as we are, are one body; for it is one loaf of which we partake. When we break the bread, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

When we give thanks over the cup, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

Friends, these are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER SUPPER

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you and each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Sending Us into the World

*HYMN # 81 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

(Hymn on next page)

81 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken



1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God.
2 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
3 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,



God, whose word can - not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.
for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.



On the rock of a - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows, their thirst to as - suage?



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them when they pray.
Grace, so like the Lord the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.



BENEDICTION

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit today, tomorrow, forever. Amen

CHORAL BENEDICTION # 745 (2x)

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 Gayle W. Griffin, Ph.D., CRE, to our pulpit.

Gayle W. Griffin, Ph.D., has been a member of Roseville Presbyterian Church, Newark, New Jersey for more than 22 years, and also serves Elder there. Prior to moving to New Jersey, she was a member of Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, for 19 years. There, she was a Deacon for 7 years, including 5 years as Moderator of the Deacon Board, and 10 years as an Elder. She worked in several ministries in Grace Church. She also served as secretary of the church's non-profit foundation, Schenley Heights Community Development Corporation. At Roseville, she teaches the adult women's Sunday School Class and chairs the Worship and Music Committee, is an Elder, and serves on the Roseville Church non-profit foundation, Roseville Outreach Community Corporation. She has served on numerous church and presbytery committees and is currently serving on the Vision Board for the newly organized Presbytery of North East NJ.

In her professional life, Dr. Griffin is retired from the Newark Public Schools and the East Orange School District as Assistant Superintendent. She served on the **Newark Public Library** Board of Trustees for 14 years. She has been an Executive School Performance Coach and served as Executive Director of the NJ Department of Education's Regional Achievement Center in Essex and Hudson County. She currently is a faculty member at Seton Hall University's Urban School Transformation, serving as an educational consultant in school districts in New Jersey.

Dr. Griffin is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who at the age of seventeen moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to attend college. She graduated from Chatham College where she received her B.A. degree and the University of Pittsburgh where she received her M.Ed. and Ph.D. In Pittsburgh, she was a teacher and principal. She met and married her husband who was a native of western Pennsylvania. She is a widow and the mother of one daughter, Dr. FloJaune Griffin-Cofer, an epidemiologist, who lives in Sacramento, CA.

More importantly, though, she is a born again Christian. Mrs. Griffin believes, "A woman makes her plans, but the Lord orders her steps." Through prayer, this proverb has guided her daily actions.

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.**

Gayle Griffin, CRE	Today	07/07/24	
Margarita Estrada	Tuesday	07/09/24	Vacation Day
Gayle Griffin, CRE	Sunday	07/14/24	
Mid-Summer Patio Picnic	Friday	07/19/24	Oak Tree-Iselin Outreach Center at 6 pm
Margarita Estrada	Tuesday	07/30/24	Vacation Day

Message from the Board of Deacons

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 8th, 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 margarito1@comcast.net, or call her at (732) 283-1188, if you'd like further opportunities to serve as liturgists.

July	
Today - 07/07/24 Communion	Steve Kitsko
07/14/24	Leonard Mesonas
07/21/24	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	
09/15/24	
09/22/24	Ron Stamboly
09/29/24	

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:

Canned	Dry Goods
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: 1st 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, 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

Cover photo: Jesus Calms the Storm by Anonymous