

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 23, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Service led by: Rev. Dr. Betty J. Tom

Liturgist: Elder Betsy Christensen

Director of Music: Alaine Bolton

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Gathering for Worship



Centering Thought

We enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.

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

Leader: Sing for joy all whom God has comforted; Listen to the God who has saved and helped us.

People: God is our Rock and our Salvation; we will praise God, our refuge.

Leader: Be responsive to God all His people. Keep covenant with God, and let God speak through you.

People: God fills our hunger and thirst. We will share our blessings with others.

Leader: Trust in God at all times, O people; know that God’s steadfast love upholds you.

All: God understands us and loves us beyond measure; we will be still and wait for God.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

Betsy Christensen

Silent God, whose saving acts of deliverance speak louder than words, we are here to listen to your rules of life and to respond to the ways you set before us. We thank you for times of keen insight and spiritual discernment. We are grateful for those high standards that shape the fullness of life. Be with us here in all your steadfast love and power. Help us to build on the foundation Christ has laid among us. Amen.

*HYMN # 726 Will You Come and Follow Me

726 Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)
F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

- 1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?
- 2 “Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?
- 3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?
- 4 “Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
- 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(Hymn continues next page)

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus)(A)
 Gm7 B^b Am7 B^b Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot - steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B^b F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Betsy Christensen

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)

Betsy Christensen

Have mercy on us, God of all wisdom, for we have defiled your temple within us with our pretense, falsehood, and unfaithfulness. We have been so interested in riches that we tolerate robbery, so concerned with comfort that we forgo community, and so intent on our own hunger that our hearts forget the starving among us. Look with compassion at our misplaced trust and misdirected loyalties. Save us from ourselves. Amen

PERSONAL CONFESSION

Betsy Christensen

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

Rev. Dr. Betty J. Tom

With steadfast love, God delivers us from the dungeons of our own devices. In Christ we are forgiven and set free, Praise be to our God!

*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 treble staff contains a melody of quarter notes and rests, with lyrics underneath. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment of chords and single notes.

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

The second system of musical notation, continuing the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics continue across the two staves.

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

The third system of musical notation, continuing the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics continue across the two staves.

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

The fourth and final system of musical notation. It concludes with a double bar line and a fermata over the final notes. The lyrics conclude with 'A - men, a - men.' The bass staff ends with a fermata and the number '8' below it.

***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

Rev. Dr. Betty J. Tom

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Betsy Christensen

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone. Let the heavenly food of the scripture we are about to hear nourish us today in the ways of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First reading: Psalm 133

Betsy Christensen

¹How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!
²It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.
³It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the LORD bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.

ANTHEM Piano Solo - Perfect Peace (Zichterman)

Alaine Bolton, Director of Music

Second reading: Mark 4:35-41

Rev. Dr. Betty J. Tom

³⁵That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" ³⁹He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. ⁴⁰He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" ⁴¹They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

THE MESSAGE

Stay in One Peace

Rev. Dr. Betty J. Tom

753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis



1 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
2 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
4 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. Where
there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
is in par-don - ing that we are par - doned, in



there is in - ju - ry, your par-don, Lord, and
there is dark-ness, on - ly light, and
giv - ing of our - selves that we re - ceive, and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you.
where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.
dy - ing that we're born to e-ter - nal life.



3 O, Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so



much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be

un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be
 loved as to love with all my soul.

to Stanza 4

***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)**


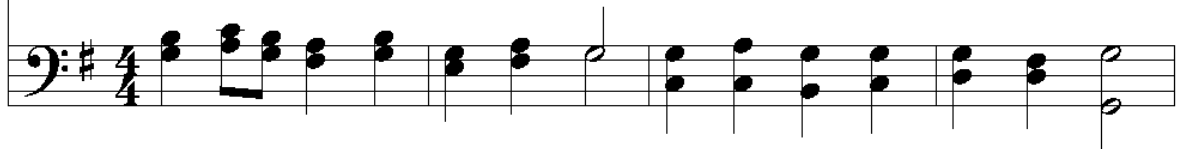
(Hymn on next page)

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;



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

Generous God, extend our ministry beyond what our eyes can see so that the whole earth may be blessed by our giving. We are blessed to be a blessing. Amen

Sending Us into the World

*HYMN # 317


317 In Christ There Is No East or West



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com -
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your
4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet



south or north, but one great fel - low -
mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the
race may be. All chil - dren of the
south and north. All Christ - ly souls are



ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION #745 (2x)

745 Now Go in Joy

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: "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 chords are: G, Am7, D, G, Am7, D, G, Am, D7, G, 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 Rev. Dr. Betty J. Tom to our pulpit.

Rev. Dr. Betty Jean Tom was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. Rev. Tom professed a saving hope in Jesus Christ and was baptized at the age of 12 while growing up in the New Liberty Baptist Church, where she grew up serving in the church in various capacities and believes that she was, “born to serve God”. The benchmarks of Rev. Tom’s ministry are her desire to advocate for those who have no voice, her love for prayer, praise and worship, and the study of God’s Word. The scripture that best informs Rev. Tom’s ministry is Colossians 3:17, “and whatever you do in word or deed do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Rev. Tom, formerly a teacher and school counselor in the Indianapolis Public School and Warren Township School districts for 22 years, holds a Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL, (2013); a Masters of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, IN (2003); a Master of Science degree in Education from Butler University, Indianapolis, IN (1986); and a Bachelor of Science degree from Ball State University, Muncie, IN (1978). She has served churches in Indianapolis, IN, Mt Vernon, New York and Newark, New Jersey. After 21 years of full-time ministry, Rev. Tom is honorably retired as of July 31, 2022.

Rev. Tom is a lifelong learner, social justice advocate and spiritual leader. She is an active member of the National Association of Presbyterian Clergy Women. She has served on the Advisory Board for the Presbyterian Hunger Program and currently serves as a board member for the Institute of Music for Children in Elizabeth NJ and the Jarvie Foundation and has written articles, essays and devotionals for the Indianapolis Star Newspaper, Presbyterian Today magazine, PHP Post. She has conducted several seminars and workshops on women in ministry with an emphasis on ministry as a second vocation. Rev. Tom is a philanthropist, an avid football and basketball fan who enjoys reading, writing, good jazz music, collecting books on prayer, water aerobics and swimming. Betty Tom is married to the Rev. Phil Tom and their blended family includes 6 children and three grandchildren.

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.**

Rev. Dr. Betty Tom	Today		
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	
Mid-Summer Patio Picnic	Friday	07/19/24	Oak Tree-Iselin Outreach Center at 6 pm
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, or call her at (732) 283-1188, if you'd like further opportunities to serve as liturgists.

June	
Today	Betsy Christensen
06/30/24	Ron Stamboly

July	
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:

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