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THE LIBERTI COMMUNION
www.liberti.org

Philadelphia | River Wards
Philadelphia | Fairmount
Philadelphia | Main Line
Philadelphia | Northeast
Bristol, PA
Harrisburg, PA
Glassboro, NJ

Glenside, PA | Bridge Community Church
Doylestown, PA | Covenant Church



seeks to live, speak, and serve as the very
presence of Jesus for Collingswood and
surrounding boroughs

Welcome

Welcome to Liberti Church Collingswood and thank you for joining us! We hope that you'll be able to connect with God, God's mission, and other people here this morning. As you've already seen from the cover of this worship folder, we seek to live, speak, and serve as the very presence of Jesus for Collingswood and its surrounding boroughs. We aspire to pursue this mission through the practice of **worship, community, and mercy** - our three core values.

Info Jaws! Unless you've done it before, please take a second to fill out one of our "Info Jaws" and drop it in an offering box in the foyer as you exit the building. This information is really helpful for us to have as we grow as a community.

Bathrooms are located down the steps from the rear sanctuary entrance and also out the front sanctuary entrance, at the top of the steps.

Nursing Mothers Room is located in Holy Trinity's chapel just outside the front entrance of the sanctuary. Follow the sign!

Liberti Kids - First time? Please register your child by scanning the QR code and then check them in at a Check-In Station.



Nursery: Crawling - 2 years are invited to our Nursery from the Passing of the Peace until the end of the service, down the stairs at the back of the sanctuary just past the main entrance.

2&3s: 2 and 3 year olds are welcome in our 2&3s class (located up the steps at the front of the sanctuary). Pick up at the end of the service.

4&5s: 4 and 5 year olds are welcome to our 4&5s class (located up the steps at the front of the sanctuary). Children will be escorted back to the sanctuary before Communion.

Primary: 1st - 3rd Grade are invited to join our Primary class (located up the steps at the front of the sanctuary). Children will be escorted back to the sanctuary before Communion.

Liberti Bridge: Liberti Bridge is for 4th and 5th Graders. Bridge meets Sunday mornings 9:30-11am. Sign up for text updates by texting "Bridge25" to (609) 793-8526

Liberti Youth: Liberti Youth is for 6th through 12th Grades. Youth Meets Sunday evenings 6-8pm. Sign up for text updates by texting "LY2025" to (856) 329-7775

Consistory The Consistory is made up of our elder and deacon boards. If you're in need of help (whether physical, spiritual, or mental) or simply want to talk to someone more about what our church believes, please reach out at consistory@liberti.org.

Upcoming Events

It's impossible for us to list everything that's going on at Liberti Church Collingswood, but here are a few things happening soon that we would like to highlight.

REFUGEE GROCERY STORE, 12/20!

Welcoming the outsider, sojourner, and exile is one of the key components of biblical ethics, and we have an opportunity to let that rubric hit the road on Sunday, 12/20, at Fervent Church (904 Cooper Rd, Voorhees Township, NJ 08043). Come and serve at their Refugee "Grocery Store" for families and individuals primarily from Afghanistan, Burma, and Syria. To serve, you can arrive at Fervent for as much time and as many "shifts" as you'd want to spend: setup runs from 9am to 12pm, the "grocery store" itself stretches from 1pm to 2pm, and cleanup occurs afterwards. Lunch will be provided around noon. You can also drop off donations on 12/20 at Fervent between 9am and 11:30am. Text Lauren at 856-816-4517 by Monday 12/15, if you'd plan on volunteering or dropping off any items at Fervent Church.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, 12/24!

Christmas Eve awaits! Come on out to our Christmas Eve service at Holy Trinity on Tuesday, 12/24, at 6:30pm. This time of worship will be family friendly and shorter than a normal, Sunday morning service; as such, we won't be offering Liberti Kids but will encourage families to keep their kiddos in the sanctuary for the duration of worship. This service will feature a guest star presentation by the Liberti Kids choir. It will be a delightfully non-silent night.

SAVE THE DATE!

- Please note that we're giving our Liberti Kids teachers a break during the **Sunday, 12/28**, service. No LK that day!

Engage with Us

Whether this is your first time at Liberti Church Collingswood or you have been regularly worshipping with us for some time, we would love to help you take a next step in following Jesus and engaging more deeply in our community.

CONNECT TO A HOME MEETING

Small groups (aka “Home Meetings”) are the primary environment where Christian community is developed and fostered. People are introduced to what it means to be a Christian, encouraged in their relationship with God, and supported to make a contribution to the welfare of people in Collingswood and surrounding boroughs. They also provide an opportunity for intimacy, mutual support, practical service, learning about the Christian faith, prayer, and sharing of what God is doing in our midst. Visit our website to see all the available groups being offered and sign up. If you have any questions about Home Meetings, contact Jim (jim@liberti.org).

SERVE OUR CHURCH, COMMUNITY, AND WORLD

There are numerous opportunities to serve on Sunday mornings. Whether it’s setting up, teaching a kids’ lesson, or running the sound board, it takes many volunteers each week to make Liberti Church Collingswood an inviting community for our friends and neighbors. To see all of the volunteer teams open to you, please, visit our website. If you have any questions about serving our church, contact Jim (jim@liberti.org). Additionally, we are connected to a number of local and international ministry partners serving in areas from South Camden to South Sudan. To learn more, visit our website or contact Jim (jim@liberti.org).

GIVE GENEROUSLY

It is our practice to offer a sacrificial portion of all of our resources – time, skills, possessions – as a tangible act of worship, faith, and gratitude in response to God’s grace and generosity to us in Christ. You can give on Sunday mornings or online. Contact our Finance Team (liberticollingswoodfinance@gmail.com) if you would like to speak with someone about giving or receive help with your personal finances.

INVITE A FRIEND

Yes, you! If you won't invite your friend to Liberti Church Collingswood, who will?

Gathering Before God

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

REFLECTIONS

“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”

– 1 John 4:15-16

We have now entered the season of Advent, which marks the beginning of a new liturgical year! The word "advent" itself means "coming" or "arrival"; in the span of these weeks, we celebrate and remember that roughly 2,000 years ago in history, Jesus came to our world. Likewise, Advent is characterized by hopeful waiting for the future arrival of the Messiah on the last day, when Christ will both renew all of creation and also judge the living and the dead. During Advent, the colors in our sanctuary are purple, which symbolizes focused preparation.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Joy To The World

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as far as the curse is found

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love

The Sending

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Now and forevermore, go in peace.

(2 Cor 13:14)

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

O Praise The Name (Anástasis)

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds His hands His feet
My Saviour on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone

*O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord oh Lord our God*

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting
The angels roar for Christ the King

He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

People: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins.

Leader: Because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

People: To guide our feet into the way of peace.

(Luke 1:68-69, 76-79)

GREETING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O Come O Come Emmanuel

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

*Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel*

O come Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go

O come Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace

PRAYERS FOR REFLECTION

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with his people, the church. If you are unable to receive Communion, we invite you to meditate on one of the following prayers:

Prayer for those Searching for Truth: Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief: Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment: Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Leader: Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

HOLY COMMUNION

*Leader: Here is the bread of life given for us;
Let all who hunger come and eat.
Here is the fruit of the vine, poured out for us;
Let all who thirst come and drink.*

Holy Communion, also called the Lord’s Supper or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all committed followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the Gospel, who are at peace with God and their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ.

The First Noel

The first Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

*Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the king of Israel*

They looked to the sky and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night

So let us all in one accord
Sing praises to our Heavenly Lord
Who made the earth and Heaven of naught
And with His blood mankind has bought

CALL TO CONFESSION

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, gracious Father, we confess that we are not worthy of your presence, but we look now to the Lamb of God, who takes away our sin. Through Him we would now come near to you, listening to your voice, trusting in your love, delighting in your Word, and leaning on your arm. We joyfully seek your face.

Now cleanse our minds of all error and our hearts of all idols, that we may shine in the world with the radiant light of your Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

WORDS OF PARDON

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, [Christ] has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

(Colossians 1:21-22)

PASSING THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A VISIT FROM ISHMAEL ADAM!

The Lord’s Table

MEANING OF THE SACRAMENT

Leader: Beloved in the Lord Jesus, the meal which we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance, communion, and hope.

We come to remember that Jesus was sent into the world to assume our flesh and blood, to become God with us, that we might be redeemed.

We come to have communion with this same Christ who has promised to be with us even to the end of the world.

We come in hope, believing that this bread and this cup are a pledge and a foretaste of a new heaven and a new earth, where we shall behold God.

THE APOSTLE’S CREED

Leader: Let us say what we believe.

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.
The third day He arose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
whence He shall come 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 life everlasting.
Amen.

OFFERING

We encourage our members and regular attenders at Liberti to give to the church! To make a contribution, people are welcome to drop an offering in the box as they exit to the Holy Trinity courtyard, or to give online via the web page linked to this QR code.



The Word of God

SCRIPTURE READING - John 3:16

16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ!

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost
Amen

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Speaker: Jim Angehr
Title: "God's Love For Us"
Series: "Advent in Four Movements"

SERMON NOTES: