

## OUR CHURCH

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## THE LIBERTI COMMUNION

[www.liberti.org](http://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

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# 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](mailto:consistory@liberti.org).

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# 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.*

## FOSTER THE FAMILY COLLECTION DRIVE, 3/8-3/29

Between the Sundays of 3/8 and 3/29, we'll be collecting toiletries for our local ministry partner, Foster the Family, which serves foster care families in our region— by way of competition! You can drop off directly to your Home Meeting (or place in the designated bin downstairs in the fellowship hall) any of the following items: hairbrushes for all types of hair (plus infant hairbrushes), body lotions for kids and teens, boys/girls deodorants, kid and regular toothpaste, hair ties, and 3-in-1 body/hair wash for kids. We'll also have a bin at church for those who wish to contribute but aren't a part of a Home Meeting.

## FOSTER THE FAMILY COOKING PARTY, 3/22

One of the things that Foster the Family does to serve foster families in our region is to provide them with care packages that include a home cooked meal within 24 hours of their receiving a new foster child placement. We're throwing a cooking party to prepare food for those care packages! We'll meet on Sunday, 3/22 from 12:30-2:30pm. BYOBrown bag lunch. More details coming soon!

## COMMITMENT CARD CAMPAIGN, 3/1-3/15

Commitment cards are requested by our Finance Team each winter as a means of bringing to your consideration what you'd plan on giving over the next fiscal year (which begins July 1). We'd ask that you'd let us know your giving targets; that knowledge essential to our church's budgeting process. You can drop the physical card into the offering box on a Sunday morning or go online to access a digital version. Please return your commitment by Sunday, 3/15. If you have any additional questions, don't hesitate to email the Team ([liberticollingswoodfinance@gmail.com](mailto:liberticollingswoodfinance@gmail.com)) or check out the FAQ online.

## MEN'S MINISTRY MEETING (WITH FIRE!), 3/21

Not just another men's fire pit is coming your way on Saturday, 3/21, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm! We'll gather in the Phelps' back yard (please register here; 510 Kings Hwy W Haddonfield, NJ 08033) that evening, but in addition to a general hang, we'll both begin to talk about laying some foundational pieces for an expanding men's ministry at Liberti as well as discuss the introduction to a book that we'll be using for men's stuff, *Fighting Shadows: Overcoming 7 Lies That Keep Men From Becoming Fully Alive*. Try and grab a copy and read the Introduction, which we'll be discussing on 3/21, ahead of time.

## LENTEN OFFERINGS

- Good Friday Service (4/3)

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## 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 ([jjim@liberti.org](mailto:jjim@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 ([jjim@liberti.org](mailto:jjim@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 ([jjim@liberti.org](mailto:jjim@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](mailto: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?

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## Gathering Before God

March 08, 2026  
Third Sunday in Lent

### REFLECTIONS

"Purity of heart is to will one thing."

- Søren Kierkegaard

"I have a notion that what seem our worst prayers may really be, in God's eyes, our best. Those, I mean, which are least supported by devotional feeling and contend with the greatest disinclination. For these, perhaps, being nearly all will, come from a deeper level than feeling. In feeling there is so much that is really not ours--so much that comes from weather and health or from the last book read. One thing seems certain. It is no good angling for the rich moments. God sometimes seems to speak to us most intimately when He catches us, as it were, off our guard. Our preparations to receive Him sometimes have the opposite effect. Doesn't Charles Williams say somewhere that "the altar must often be built in one place in order that the fire from heaven may descend somewhere else.?"

- CS Lewis

"Wisdom outside of prayer assists wisdom, attentiveness, and discernment in prayer... After all, Christ created the world. Jesus knows what works and what doesn't. He understands our hardwiring, our spiritual, emotional and physical DNA. If we attempt to live against the grain of the universe Jesus has created, we'll end up scraped, bruised, frustrated and disillusioned. Life will make little sense nor will our prayers."

- Chris Hall

*Between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, we observe the season of Lent. Over this 40 day period, we will practice such spiritual disciplines as preparation, service, and repentance while we anticipate rising to meet Jesus on Easter morning. The church during this season follows after the Christ who walked with us—even as his days turned increasingly toward opposition, incarceration, trial, and, ultimately, crucifixion. To commemorate Lent, the cloth on our worship table is purple, which both symbolizes sadness and suffering but also will contrast with the joyously bright colors of the subsequent season, Eastertide.*

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## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

### There is Mercy

Lost with all my failures my ambition as a guide  
Sinking to the deep where I was held by all my pride

But You brought my life up from the ground  
And You are my hope in You I am found

*Though I fall You will carry me  
Though it storms You guide my way  
In the midst of the darkest night  
There is mercy there is grace*

Blinded to the beauty of Your love and to Your grace  
Walking in my ways into a dark and distant place

God You are love You are my life  
You are my strength You stay by my side  
God You are love You are my life  
You are my strength You stay by my side  
You are my strength You stay by my side

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## 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!**

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## Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou, my great Father, and I, Thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;  
Thou, mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk, without money and without price.*

**People: Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.**

*Leader: Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts.*

**People: Let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

*Leader: For you shall go out in joy, and be led forth in abundant peace;*

**People: The mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**

(from Isaiah 55)

## GREETING

*Leader: The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you!**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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## O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Lord I Need You

Lord I come I confess  
Bowing here I find my rest  
And without You I fall apart  
You're the one that guides my heart

*Lord I need You oh I need You  
Ev'ry hour I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You*

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more  
Where grace is found is where You are  
And where You are Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me

So teach my song to rise to You  
When temptation comes my way  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay

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## CALL TO CONFESSION

Prayer of Confession

**Our gracious Father, you sent your Son to die and rise to new life in order that death might be brought to an end and that we too might live a new life. Foolishly, however, we have, time and time again, chosen death over life.**

**In our thoughts, words and deeds we have rebelled against you and your intentions for us. In so doing, we have broken our fellowship with you whose love is better than life. We have hurt others, sometimes unintentionally and sometimes deliberately, and have diminished their lives. We have damaged and despoiled ourselves who have been created to reflect your beauty.**

**Father, forgive us our sin for Jesus' sake. And grant that your resurrection power might course through our entire being, that we might walk in the ways of love and justice to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Silent Confession

## WORDS OF PARDON

*"In [Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight, making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fulness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."*

(Ephesians 1:7-10)

## PASSING THE PEACE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Leader: Lord, in your mercy.*

**People: Hear our prayer.**

## The Lord's Table

## 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 - James 4:1-10

**1** What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? **2** You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. **3** When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

**4** You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. **5** Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? **6** But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

*"God opposes the proud  
but shows favor to the humble."*

**7** Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

*Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**People: Thanks be to God!**

### 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

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## SERMON

Speaker: Josh Postalwaite

Title: "Grace for Our Faltering Prayers"

Series: "When Prayer Is a Struggle"

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## SERMON NOTES: