

OUR CHURCH

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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.

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, a local ministry partner of ours, 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. As part of our Lenten menu at Liberti Collingswood, we're throwing a cooking party to prepare food for those care packages! Please join us at Holy Trinity on Sunday, 3/22, (12:30pm-2:30pm) to roll up your sleeves and help in the kitchen. You can simply pack a brown bag lunch that day for yourself (and family, if applicable) and head downstairs after our service to the fellowship hall both to eat and cook. Register and donate online!

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) 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.

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

March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent

REFLECTIONS

"I had lost the ability to concentrate. It was only the news that gripped my attention, the one thing I wished I could ignore."

- Sigrid Nuñez

"Because if America—as John Updike beautifully observed—is a conspiracy to make you happy, it is also a conspiracy to make you anxious, violent, horny, and obese. Stimulated by everything, nourished by nothing, you gape yet more savagely with need: the real need, the intolerable need, the need beneath the needs. So you dose yourself or distract yourself or stuff yourself."

- James Parker

"Christians should pray long enough and honestly enough, at a single session, to get past the feeling of formalism and unreality that attends not a little praying. We are especially prone to such feelings when we pray for only a few minutes, rushing to be done with a mere duty. To enter the spirit of prayer, we must stick to it for a while. If we 'pray until we pray,' eventually we come to delight in God's presence, to rest in his love, to cherish his will."

- D. A. Carson

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.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Come As You Are

Come out of sadness, From wherever you've been
Come broken hearted, Let rescue begin
Come find your mercy, Oh sinner come kneel
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal

*So lay down your burdens, Lay down your shame
All who are broken, Lift up your face
Oh wanderer come home, You're not too far
So lay down your hurt, Lay down your heart,
Come as you are*

There's hope for the hopeless, and all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table, Come taste of the grace
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure

There's joy for the morning, Oh sinner be still
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal

Come as you are
Fall in his arms
Come as you are

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!

King Of Kings

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

*Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of
kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus Christ, in your triumph over the grave and your resurrection from death, the heavens and earth rejoice!

People: We praise you, O God! For you have made us victorious over sin!

Leader: On the mountain of the Lord, all people will feast and all wine shall be poured!

People: We praise you, O God! For you have prepared a table before us and our cups overflow!

Leader: The Lord has swallowed up death forever; the Lord has wiped away the tears from all faces!

People: We praise you, O God! For you have brought us from death to life!

Leader: The disgrace of God's people has been taken away from the earth because the Lord has spoken!

People: We praise you, O God! For you have given us joy and gladness!

Leader: The Lord has said, "I am the Lord your God, beside me there is no other."

People: We praise you, O God! For you have proclaimed your Word to all creation! This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation!

(From Isaiah 25 and Isaiah 43)

GREETING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee:
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

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.

Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul

Dear refuge of my weary soul,
On Thee, when sorrows rise
On Thee, when waves of trouble roll,
My fainting hope relies
To Thee I tell each rising grief,
For Thou alone canst heal
Thy Word can bring a sweet relief,
For every pain I feel

But oh! When gloomy doubts prevail,
I fear to call Thee mine
The springs of comfort seem to fail,
And all my hopes decline
Yet gracious God, where shall I flee?
Thou art my only trust
And still my soul would cleave to Thee
Though prostrate in the dust

Hast Thou not bid me seek Thy face,
And shall I seek in vain?
And can the ear of sovereign grace,
Be deaf when I complain?
No still the ear of sovereign grace,
Attends the mourner's prayer
Oh may I ever find access,
To breathe my sorrows there

Thy mercy seat is open still,
Here let my soul retreat
With humble hope attend Thy will,
And wait beneath Thy feet,
Thy mercy seat is open still,
Here let my soul retreat
With humble hope attend Thy will,
And wait beneath Thy feet

CALL TO CONFESSION

Prayer of Confession

O most holy, righteous, and gracious God, you are the King of all the world, and your laws are holy, just, and good. But we have denied you our due obedience, being unruly and self-willed. We have not truly placed our trust and hope in you and your word. We have not loved people as you do.

Instead, we have feared them and been silent when we should have spoken of you. Or we have been indifferent to them, minding our own concerns when we should have shown them the kindness of your name.

Help us to deny ourselves, to take up our cross, and follow your son Jesus. Let us be faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through the merits and intercession of Christ Jesus our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

WORDS OF PARDON

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

(Romans 6:8-11)

PASSING THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 - Deuteronomy 6:4

4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

Psalm 131:2

2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child is my soul within me.

1 Peter 4:7

7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

Colossians 4:2

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

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

SERMON

Speaker: Jim Angehr

Title: "Prayers and Distraction"

Series: "When Prayer Is a Struggle"

SERMON NOTES: