

## OUR CHURCH

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

## 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

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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.*

## JOIN A HOME MEETING FOR THE STRETCH RUN?

We've enjoyed a great year of small groups (a.k.a. "Home Meetings") at Liberti Collingswood! These gathering will wrap up at just in time for summer, but if you haven't done a group this year, you can jump into one this spring. Sign up online, or talk to Jim, Lauren G., or Claire S. for more info.

## MEN'S RETREAT, 6/5-6/6

Our men's retreat will feature lots of man stuff, like thumping our chests, lighting things on fire, journaling about our feelings and growing closer to God and each other. Man stuff! Details coming soon.

## SAVE THE DATE!

- Men's Fire Pit (4/18)
  - Read *Fighting Shadows*, Ch. 2 "The Shadow of Despair"
- Women's Bible Study (4/25)
  - Read *Behold and Believe*, Ch. 4 "I Am the Good Shepherd"

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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 ([jim@liberti.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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

April 12, 2026  
First Sunday After Easter

### REFLECTIONS

"Here at the end of the Beatitudes, the question arises as to where in this world such a faith-community actually finds a place ... at the cross. The faith-community of the blessed is the community of the Crucified. With him they lost everything, and with him they found everything."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

"Who would be on your list of 'hopeless blessables' as found in today's world? ...

Blessed are the physically repulsive,

Blessed are those who smell bad,

The twisted, misshapen, deformed,

The too big, too little, too loud,

The bald, the fat, and the old-

For they are all riotously celebrated in the party of Jesus."

- Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*.

*Easter Sunday launches the worldwide Christian family into the liturgical season of Eastertide. The momentous importance of Jesus' resurrection cannot be contained within a single Sunday! In this 50 day period of Eastertide which leads up to Pentecost, we engage in an extended period of celebration as we explore the ramifications of Easter for the redemption of all creation and for joyful Christian living. In contrast to the solemn purples of Lent, in commemoration of Easter the cloth on our worship table is white, which symbolizes the brightness of the new day—and new world—that dawns in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

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## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

### Nothing But the Blood

What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*Oh, precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know;  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

For my pardon this I see:  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
For my cleansing this my plea:  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone:  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
Naught of good that I have done:  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace:  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
This is all my righteousness:  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

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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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## Heart Won't Stop

There is not a man or a beast  
Nothing on the land or underneath  
Oh nothing that could ever come between,  
The love you have for me.

*I could lay my head in Sheol  
I could make my bed at the bottom of the darkness deep.  
Oh, but there is not a place I could escape you.*

*Your heart won't stop, coming after me.  
Your heart won't stop, coming after me.  
Your heart won't stop, coming after me.*

There is not an angel of the stars,  
There is not a devil in the dark,  
Nothing that could change the way you are  
The love you have for me

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

**People: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!**

*Leader: Oh taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the one who takes refuge in him!*

**People: Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!**

*Leader: The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, and his ears toward their cry.*

**People: When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.**

*Leader: The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.*

**People: The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.**

(from Psalm 34)

## GREETING

*Leader: The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you!**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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## All Must Be Well

Through the love of God our Savior, all will be well  
Free and changeless is His favor, all is well  
Precious is the blood that healed us  
Perfect is the grace that sealed us  
Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us  
All must be well

Though we pass through tribulation, All will be well  
Ours is such a full salvation, All is well  
Happy still in God confiding  
Fruitful if in Christ abiding  
Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding  
All must be well

We expect a bright tomorrow; All will be well  
Faith can sing through days of sorrow, All is well  
On our Father's love relying  
Jesus every need supplying  
Yes in living or in dying, All must be well

On our Father's love relying  
Jesus every need supplying  
Yes in living or in dying, All must be well

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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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## Cornerstone

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name

*Christ alone, cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love  
Through the storm, He is Lord  
Lord of all*

When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil

When He shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless stand before the throne

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## CALL TO CONFESSION

Prayer of Confession

**Sovereign Lord, our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: rebellion and treachery against you, O Lord, turning our backs on you, our God, speaking oppression and revolt, uttering lies our hearts have conceived. So justice is driven back, righteousness stands at a distance, and truth is nowhere to be found in us.**

**Restore us, O Lord God Almighty; make your face to shine upon us, that we may be saved, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. 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

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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Leader: Lord, in your mercy.*

**People: Hear our prayer.**

## 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.*

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## 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.*



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## The Word of God

### SCRIPTURE READING - Matthew 5:1-12

- 1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.
- 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
- 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
- 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons[a] of God.
- 10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

**People: Praise to you, O Christ!**

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## 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: Blake Smitley

Title: "Where the Broken Belong"

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## SERMON NOTES: