

## 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.*

## IN-COVENANT CLASS, 5/16

An "In-Covenant class" is a dashing conversation with Liberti leadership about what it means to be a part of a church, the vision of Liberti Collingswood, and how you can get more connected to our community. (One isn't required to join Liberti Collingswood if attending this event, but the In-Covenant class is a step in the typical pathway for becoming a member here.) Our next In-Covenant iteration will be held on Saturday, 5/16, from 9am-2pm in the fellowship hall at Holy Trinity. Lunch and childcare will be provided. There is no cost to attend, and childcare is on us. Sign-up online! Talk to Jim ([jjim@liberti.org](mailto:jjim@liberti.org)) if you'd have questions from here, and please RSVP by Monday, 5/11

## YOUNG LIVES BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN, 5/10-6/21

Babies and bottles and binkies, oh my! YoungLives is raising funds to support ministry to teen parents in the city of Camden and all across Camden County. There are lots of ways to partner with this ministry through their Baby Bottle Campaign, including sponsorship to send teen moms & babies to summer camp! From Mother's Day, Sunday, 5/10, to Father's Day, Sunday, 6/21, families are encouraged to pick up a baby bottle and fill it with loose change, cash, checks (or even diamonds). Bottles can be picked up on the table outside of the sanctuary and returned in the same location. Should you want to fill a bottle online, you can do so at this link. For more information or questions reach out to Claire Smitley ([clairesmitley1@gmail.com](mailto:clairesmitley1@gmail.com)) or Joanna Moulton ([jojomerz@hotmail.com](mailto:jojomerz@hotmail.com)).

## SAVE THE DATE!

- Men's Book Club (5/9)
- Women's Bible Study (5/16)
- Men's Retreat 6/5-6/6
- Summer Supper Clubs (TBD!)

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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

May 3, 2026  
Fifth Sunday After Easter

### REFLECTIONS

"All my dreams are slowly dying  
I can count my years in scars  
The only one that's never left me  
Has carried me so very far  
I've heard it said that he wastes nothing  
So beautiful to behold  
The Author of my hope is writing  
The greatest story ever told"

- Five Iron Frenzy

"For there is only one thing, Olympias, which is really terrible, only one real trial, and that is sin; and I have never ceased continually harping upon this theme; but as for all other things, plots, enmities, frauds, calumnies, insults, accusations, confiscation, exile, the keen sword of the enemy, the peril of the deep, warfare of the whole world, or anything else you like to name, they are but idle tales. For whatever the nature of these things may be they are transitory and perishable, and operate in a mortal body without doing any injury to the vigilant soul

Nevertheless even when I look at these calamities I do not abandon the hope of better things, considering as I do who the pilot is in all this – not one who gets the better of the storm by his art, but calms the raging waters by his rod."

- John Chrysostom

*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

### 10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
O my soul,  
Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before  
O my soul.  
I'll worship Your holy name.*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,  
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger.  
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

And on that day when my strength is failing,  
The end draws near, and my time has come;  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending:  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore!

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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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## In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones he came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied -  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine -  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath.  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.*

**People: There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.**

*Leader: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.*

**People: The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.**

*Leader: They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.*

**People: May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

(from Psalm 19)

## GREETING

*Leader: The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you!**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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## Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine  
Oh what foretaste of glory divine  
Heir of salvation purchase of God  
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood

Perfect submission all is at rest  
I in the Savior am happy and blessed  
Watching and waiting looking above  
Filled with His goodness lost in His love

*This is story this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
This is my story this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long*

Oh what a Savior  
Wonderful Jesus  
Oh what a Savior  
Wonderful Jesus

Death could not hold You  
You are victorious  
Praise to the risen King

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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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## God With Us

Oh You've come to bring peace to be Love  
To be nearer to us  
You've come to bring life to be Light  
To shine brighter in us  
Oh Emmanuel God with us

*Our Deliverer, You are Savior  
In Your presence we find our strength  
Over ev'rything our Redemption  
God with us  
You are God with us*

Oh You've come to be Hope to this world  
For Your honor and name  
And You've come to take sin to bear shame  
And to conquer the grave  
Oh Emmanuel God with us

You are here  
You are holy  
We are standing in Your glory (Lord)

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## 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

*I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.*

(Psalm 40:1-3)

## 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 - Philippians 1:12-18

**12** I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, **13** so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. **14** And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

**15** Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. **16** The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. **17** The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. **18** What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice.

*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: "Joy in Adversity"

Series: "Philippians: Durable Joy"

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## SERMON NOTES: