

LIBERTI

CHURCH



Sunday Worship | April 23, 2023

GLORIA PATRI

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP: ISAIAH 54:10

¹⁰ . . . the mountains may depart
and the hills be removed,
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,"
says the Lord, who has compassion on you

Hallelujah!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

***SONGS OF PRAISE: 10,000 REASONS**

***SONGS OF PRAISE: HOW GREAT THOU ART**

***CONFESSION: MATTHEW 5:38-45**

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Have mercy upon us, Father. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Also help us to forgive others as we've been forgiven, and even to love our enemies, even as we name the injustices we see and pray for change. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE: 1 JOHN 5:13-14**

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

***SONGS OF PRAISE : HE WILL HOLD ME FAST**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*SCRIPTURE READING: GENESIS 15:1-21

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." ⁴ And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. ⁷ And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³ Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." ¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, ¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

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Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

***DOXOLOGY**

SERMON NOTES

Genesis 15:1-21 | Rev. John Alexander

COMMUNION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

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.

SANCTUS

Leader: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of the faith

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

Leader: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us

People: Therefore let us keep the feast

***SONGS OF PRAISE: O COME TO THE ALTAR**

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

***SONGS OF PRAISE: HIS MERCY IS MORE**

***BENEDICTION**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023 Women's Retreat Registration Deadline

Just a few spots remain for this year's women's retreat (May 19–21 at Harvey Cedars)! The final day to register is Friday, May 5th. Contact Liz Laramée at emaileliz@gmail.com for information regarding financial assistance. See retreat details including registration form at libertiriverwards.org/womensretreat.

EVENTS THIS WEEK (APRIL 16–APRIL 23)

New to Liberti Class

Sunday, April 23rd | 10:45 am–12:00 pm

If you are new to Liberti or would like to learn more about our church, we invite you to join us today for a light lunch and discussion with church leaders and others new to the community. RSVP to Stephen Wood at swood@liberti.org

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Movement Day

Sunday, May 5th | 9:00 am–1:00 pm, 6:00–8:00 pm | Hilton City Ave

Philadelphia Gospel Movement, a ministry Liberti supports, is hosting its Movement Day on Sunday, May 5th. This event is dedicated to accelerating a unified and active Christian front line ready to serve the needs of Philadelphia. Learn more at philadelphiagospelmovement.org

2023 Women's Retreat

May 19–21 | Harvey Cedars Bible Conference

Registration for the 2023 Women's Retreat is now open! Early bird registration discount available through 3/31. Contact Liz Laramée at emaileliz@gmail.com for more information about financial assistance. This year, Liz Voboril, Director of Communications at seeJesus, will come and speak on the topic of "The Loveliness of Christ."

Visit libertiriverwards.org/womensretreat for more information and to register.

John Alexander Farewell Party

Wednesday, May 24th | 5:00–8:00 pm | Penn Treaty Park

All are invited to John Alexander's Farewell party as we celebrate and honor John's ministry to Liberti Church of the River Wards.

Liberti River Wards Leadership Retreat

September 8–9

Save the date for our next Liberti River Wards Leadership Retreat. More details to follow.

ONGOING EVENTS

Ongoing Mother's Fellowship & Kid's Playdates

April 3rd & 17th | 10:30–12:00 pm | 2047 Bellmore Ave

Every other Monday from 10:30 am–12:00 pm, Courtney Shenk will host stay-at-home mothers with their children for a time of fellowship while the children play. Courtney's address is 2047 Bellmore Ave in Port Richmond. Mothers should feel free to bring a snack to share. Contact Mandy Walker at mandyw0513@gmail.com for more information.

Men's Morning Prayer

Thursdays | 5:30–7:00 am | Liberti River Wards

All men are invited to join us for a Men's Prayer meeting every Thursday morning from 5:30–7:00 am. Contact Alex Schwarz at ac.schwarz@gmail.com for more information.

Liberti Kids Club*

Thursdays | 6:30–7:30 pm | Liberti River Wards

Liberti Kids Club is a mid-week gathering for K–5th graders. We run, we play, we learn, we pray. This weekly event is a space where kids can experience worship, community, and encouragement to interact with God and peers who are learning to love God and others. Contact Stephen Wood at swood@liberti.org for more information.

**Liberti Kids Club will be on break April 6th and resume on April 13th.*

Liberti Global Eswatini Summer Team Donations

Over the next month, the Liberti Global Eswatini Summer Team is collecting winter clothing donations, school supplies, and other items to distribute in Eswatini. If you wish to donate, visit libertiriverwards.org/eswatinidonations for more information, including drop-off dates and details on needed items. Contact Liz Spiegler at kuhn.lizabeth@gmail.com for more information.

Dear Visitor,

On my first Sunday at Liberti I wondered, “Is there a place for me here?” The answer was yes, but it took a little while to find that out. It turns out there were different kinds of people—some new like me, some shy like me. Others seemed confident about their faith, while I had questions. But two things were clear: they made much of Jesus and they were glad I was here.

We’re glad you’re here. We’re not perfect at it, but we aim to be as welcoming as Jesus. With all of your questions and troubles, with whatever you do and don’t know, we welcome you.

If you’re wondering how to learn more about us, here’s where to start:

Visit five times. It’s tough to judge a church by one service. You’ll notice great things and also strange things right away, but the heart of a church takes time to perceive. We hope you’ll connect to a church soon even if it isn’t ours—all of them take some time to get to know.

Connect. We get together a lot. See the events on the back page and check out a Bible study or meal group in your area (if someone hasn’t already invited you).

Serve and be served. We try to serve others like Jesus did. Our food pantry moves hundreds of meals each month, we visit shut-in neighbors, and we’re always finding new ways to bless others. Or maybe you have a need that we could meet.

Finally, there is a visitor info section in the back of this bulletin—drop it in the box on our welcome table if you would like someone to say ‘Hi’ over text or email!

I hope to meet you soon,

Pastor John Alexander
Lead Pastor

LIBERTI



RIVER WARDS



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

I WOULD LIKE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- TO SUBSCRIBE TO LIBERTI'S WEEKLY UPDATE EMAIL
- INFO ON GETTING CONNECTED TO A HOME MEETING
- INFO ON SERVING AT LIBERTI RIVER WARDS
- TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JESUS
- OTHER: _____

LIBERTI RIVER WARDS LEADERSHIP

ELDERS

John Alexander
Mike Kwon
Glenn McDowell
Julian Spiegler
Larry Walker
Dave Wenger
Stephen Wood

DEACONS & DEACONESSES

Michael Black
Gabe Li
Summer Rosario
Liz Spiegler
Betsy Stoltzfus
Alyssa Wood

STAFF

John Alexander
Lead Pastor

Carol Davis
Spiritual Director in Residence

Colleen Etherton
Family Ministries Director

Jared Etherton
Facilities Manager

Victor Kim
Pastoral Resident

Glenn McDowell
City Pastor

Larry Walker
Director of Community Outreach

Stephen Wood
Associate Pastor

GIVING

