

## OUR CHURCH

Jim Angehr | Lead Pastor  
jim@liberti.org

Angel Garcia | Assistant Pastor of Discipleship  
angel@liberti.org

Courtney Clark | Virtual Administrative Assistant  
cclark@liberti.org

Rebekah Flovin | Administrative Assistant  
rebekah@liberti.org

Patrick MacAdams | Digital Ministry Director  
patrick@liberti.org

Tyler Mills | Music Director  
tyler@liberti.org

Josh Postalwaite | Pastoral Resident  
jpostalwaite@liberti.org

Taylor Postalwaite | Liberti Kids Director  
taylor@liberti.org

## THE LIBERTI NETWORK

[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.



**Infant Nursery:** Birth - 23 months are invited to our Infant Nursery from 10:45 to the end of the service, down the stairs at the back of the sanctuary just past the main entrance. In case of need, a changing table is located here or in the Toddler Nursery.

**Toddler Nursery:** 2 years - PreK are welcome in our Toddler Nursery (located up the steps at the front of the sanctuary) after the Passing of the Peace.

**Primary:** Kindergarten - 3rd Grade are invited to join our Primary class (located up the steps at the front of the sanctuary), which also starts after the Passing of the Peace.

**Grades 4th & 5th:** Liberti Bridge is a place for 4th and 5th graders to bridge the gap between Liberti Kids and Liberti Youth! Bridge meets Sunday evening from 6-8pm in the Liberti Kids wing.

**Grades 6th - 12th:** Liberti Youth A new year is right around the corner, if you're in middle school, high school, or the parent of someone in middle school or high school, all you need to do is text LY2024 to 856-329-7775. All of our updates this year will be through text so if you need to sign up to stay up to date!

**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.*

## INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS SUNDAY, 6/8

The Liberti Communion-wide International Missions Sunday is approaching once again on Pentecost Sunday! That morning, 6/8, we'll focus our service upon the work of God around the world, and as a new wrinkle this year, we'll take a special offering for a specific professor, Pastor Harold de Leon, at Santiago Theological Seminary in the Dominican Republic. Pastor de Leon has been serving at this important school that trains local church leaders on a part time basis and is seeking the funds to enable him to work full time at the seminary. Please come prepared to worship on Sunday, 6/8, and to support the work God is doing around the world!

## BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN, 5/11-6/5

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, 5/11, to Father's Day, Sunday, 6/15, families are encouraged to pick up a baby bottle and fill it with loose change, cash, checks (or even diamonds). Bottles can be grabbed 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 the link available in the newsletter. For more information or questions reach out, to Claire Smitley ([claire.smitley1@gmail.com](mailto:claire.smitley1@gmail.com)).

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, 5/18

Spring is in the air, which must mean. . . it's time for our annual Congregational Meeting! We'll gather in the fellowship hall immediately following worship on Sunday, 5/18, at 12:45pm both to elect our new elder and deacon nominees to Consistory (David Clapper and Jamie Dempsey, respectively) as well as Beth Hinton to our Nominating Committee, plus we'll also vote to receive the budget for our next fiscal year. Everyone is welcome to join, and In-Covenant members are especially encouraged to be present in order to vote!

## SAVE THE DATE!

- Coffee Hour (5/25)
- Consistory Ordination and Installation (6/29)
- Women's Retreat (7/19)

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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

May 18, 2025  
Fifth Sunday after Easter

### REFLECTIONS

“Life—whatever else it is—is short. Fate is cruel but maybe not random. Nature (meaning Death) always wins but that doesn’t mean we have to bow and grovel to it. Maybe even if we’re not always so glad to be here, it’s our task to immerse ourselves anyway: wade straight through it, right through the cesspool, while keeping eyes and hearts open. And in the midst of our dying, as we rise from the organic and sink back ignominiously into the organic, it is a glory and a privilege to love what Death doesn’t touch. For if disaster and oblivion have followed this painting down through time—so too has love.”

– Donna Tartt, *The Goldfinch*

“For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,  
for my hope is from him.”

– Psalm 62:5

*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.*

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Build Your Kingdom Here

Come set Your rule and reign  
In our hearts again.  
Increase in us we pray.  
Unveil why we're made.  
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope  
Like wildfire in our very souls.  
Holy Spirit, come invade us now.  
We are Your church  
We need Your pow'r in us.

We seek Your kingdom first.  
We hunger and we thirst.  
Refuse to waste our lives  
for You're our joy and prize.  
To see the captive hearts released.  
The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace.  
We lay down our lives for Heaven's  
cause.  
We are Your church  
We pray revive this earth.

*Build Your kingdom here.  
Let the darkness fear.  
Show Your mighty hand.  
Heal our streets and land.  
Set Your church on fire.  
Draw your children back.  
Change the atmosphere.  
Build Your kingdom here, we pray.*

Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r  
Reaching the near and far.  
No force of Hell can stop  
Your beauty changing hearts.  
You made us for much more than this!  
Awake the kingdom seed in us!  
Fill us with the strength and love of  
Christ.  
We are Your church  
We are the hope on earth.

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!**

(Parents, please, retrieve your children from Liberti Kids immediately after the service ends.)

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## O Praise The Name (Anástasis)

I cast my mind to Calvary  
Where Jesus bled and died for me  
I see His wounds His hands His feet  
My Saviour on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears  
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb  
The entrance sealed by heavy stone  
Messiah still and all alone

*O praise the Name of the Lord our God  
O praise His Name forevermore  
For endless days we will sing Your praise  
Oh Lord oh Lord our God*

Then on the third at break of dawn  
The Son of heaven rose again  
O trampled death where is your sting  
The angels roar for Christ the King

He shall return in robes of white  
The blazing sun shall pierce the night  
And I will rise among the saints  
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.*

**People: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the king of glory may come in.**

*Leader: Who is this king of glory?*

**People: The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle!**

*Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates, and be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.*

**People: Who is this king of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the king of glory!**  
(from Psalm 24)

## GREETING

*Leader: The Lord be with you.*

**People: And also with you!**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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## 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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## 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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## 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.

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## CALL TO CONFESSION

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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 - Genesis 41

**1** After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, **2** and behold, there came up out of the Nile seven cows, attractive and plump, and they fed in the reed grass. **3** And behold, seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile. **4** And the ugly, thin cows ate up the seven attractive, plump cows. And Pharaoh awoke. **5** And he fell asleep and dreamed a second time. And behold, seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk. **6** And behold, after them sprouted seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind. **7** And the thin ears swallowed up the seven plump, full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream. **8** So in the morning his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was none who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

**9** Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "I remember my offenses today. **10** When Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, **11** we dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own interpretation. **12** A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each man according to his dream. **13** And as he interpreted to us, so it came about. I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged."

**14** Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh. **15** And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." **16** Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer." **17** Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Behold, in my dream I was standing on the banks of the Nile. **18** Seven cows, plump and attractive, came up out of the Nile and fed in the reed grass. **19** Seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and thin, such as I had never seen in all the land of Egypt. **20** And the thin, ugly cows ate up the first seven plump cows, **21** but when they had eaten them no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were still as ugly as at the beginning. Then I awoke. **22** I also saw in my dream seven ears growing on one stalk, full and good. **23** Seven ears, withered, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them, **24** and the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears. And I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me."

**25** Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. **26** The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one. **27** The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind are also seven years of famine. **28** It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. **29** There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt, **30** but after them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt. The famine will consume the land, **31** and the plenty will be unknown in the land by reason of the famine that will follow, for it will be very severe. **32** And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about. **33** Now therefore let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. **34** Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plentiful years. **35** And let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. **36** That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine."

**37** This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. **38** And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?" **39** Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. **40** You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you." **41** And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." **42** Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. **43** And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, "Bow the knee!" Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. **44** Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." **45** And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-paneah. And he gave him in marriage Asenath, the daughter of Potiphra priest of On. So Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.

**46** Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt. **47** During the seven plentiful years the earth produced abundantly, **48** and he gathered up all the food of these seven years, which occurred in the land of Egypt, and put the food in the cities. He put in every city the food from the fields around it. **49** And Joseph stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured.

**50** Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphra priest of On, bore them to him. **51** Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house." **52** The name of the second he called Ephraim, "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

**53** The seven years of plenty that occurred in the land of Egypt came to an end, **54** and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. **55** When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do."

**56** So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. **57** Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.

*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: "The Scope of God's Providence"  
Series: "Genesis: Then and Now"