



CONCORD LIBERTY

P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

"Come as Visitors - Leave as Friends - Return as Family"

To talk to someone about a particular area of ministry, please call the church office, (610) 358-2105 and Mary Ann, our church secretary, will direct your call to one of the Leaders, Directors, or Pastor below.

Rev. John King, Pulpit Supply
Marcia Bickley, Clerk of Session
David Steel, Service Leader

Charlie Jones, Dir., Community
Outreach & Congregational Care
Dino Firmani, Sexton
Mary Ann Emely, Office Secretary

Office Phone: 610-358-2105

Web Site: www.concordliberty.org

E-Mail: office@concordliberty.org

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/concordliberty>

If you have any concerns or questions about our church please feel free to contact any of our session elders listed below.

CLPC Session

Marcia Bickley, Clerk of Session
Beth Berstecher
Tom Long
Judy McCleary
Tom McGrail
Frank Sangster
Marian Spor
Brenda Wilson

CLPC Deacons

Gary Cannon
Betty Culver

Denise Jingoian
Dave Lengel

Kim Lengel
Connie O'Donnell

Pray for our missionaries:

Nate & Jenny Bacon
InnerChange
Skip and Carol Tobin, VMM
Chester Eastside Inc.
Carolyn & Dan Hennings,
Chop Point
Michele Rickett — She is Safe
David & Bethany Wilkinson,
World Impact

Ray Garcia, Philadelphia Project
Jacob & Hosanna Thomas, VMM
City Team - Chester
Cornerstone Christian Academy
Young Life of Delaware County
Greenhouse Project
Delaware County Pregnancy Center
Doug Dicks, PCUSA's Regional Mission
in Israel-Palestine

CONCORD LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

FEBRUARY 9, 2025



Let all that you do be done in love.

I CORINTHIANS 16:14 ESV

CONCORD LIBERTY WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

February 9th

9:15 am Prayer Time. *All are welcome.*
 10:00 am Worship Service
 10:00 am Nursery Care — Carol Keeler, Sandy Mueller
 10:00 am KOTM Pre-school and Elementary
 11:00 am Deacons Meeting (Library)
 11:00 am Youth Cookie Bake (Kitchen)

MONDAY

February 10th

TUESDAY

February 11th

10:00 am Women's Ministry Team Meeting (Sanctuary)
 11:00 am Love and Learn Bible Class, Sanctuary until 1 pm
 7:00 pm Women's Tuesday Night Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

February 12th

11:00 am Love and Learn Bible Class, Sanctuary until 1 pm
 1:00 pm Wednesday Afternoon Prayer Time, Sanctuary
 6:00 pm Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study (Zoom)

THURSDAY

February 13th

12:30 pm Women's Thursday Afternoon Bible Study, Sanctuary
 7:00 pm Women's Thursday Evening Bible Study (members' homes)

FRIDAY

February 14th

**NO SCHOOL FOR LOVE AND LEARN
 PRESIDENTS' WEEKEND**

SATURDAY

February 15th

10:00 am Women's Ministry's Souper Event! (Kitchen)

CONCORD LIBERTY HIGHLIGHTS

WORSHIP

To view recent worship services, go to our website, concordliberty.org. Choose "Worship", then "Sermons". Select the sermon title you wish to view. Click the Facebook link to view the full service or the YouTube link to view the sermon only. Video links are normally available by Sunday afternoon.

Nursery service will be offered during Worship. If you need nursery service on Sunday morning, please let a Greeter know and they will assist you.

STEPHEN MINISTERS - If you are going through a difficult time, or you know of someone who is facing difficulties, consider a caring relationship of a Stephen Minister. To learn more contact, Sylvia Schaffer or Joann Smith.

PRAYER CHAIN — Prayer requests for the emailed prayer chain should be sent to office@concordliberty.org.

DEACONS AND SESSION MAILBOXES are located in the Berstecher Library.

WORSHIP DETAILS — Any schedule changes to worship service roles (KOTM, communion, tellers, etc.) should be sent to office@concordliberty.org at least a week in advance of the respective service date.

Sermons for the Winter Months

FEBRUARY 9

"HALFWAY THERE!"

EZRA 6:13-22; 7:11-14, 25-28

FEBRUARY 16

"GOOD GRIEF"

NEHEMIAH 1:1-11; 2:1-5

FEBRUARY 23

"BACK IN BUSINESS"

NEHEMIAH 6:15-16; 8:1-10

MARCH 2

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, "AGLOW"

LUKE 9:28-36

Sermon Notes

FEBRUARY 9, 2025

I. Halfway There!

Ezra 6:13-22; 7:11-14, 25-28

- A. "The temple was completed on the third day of the month of Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius" (6:15).
1. The exact date was March 12, 516 B.C., which was 70 years after the destruction of the original temple of Solomon by the Babylonians, 20 years after the foundation was laid by the exiles.
 2. Due to the inspirational leadership of the prophets Zechariah and Haggai and the continuing political leadership of Zerubbabel and Jeshua (Joshua), the renewed work on the temple had taken four years until the day of completion.
 3. Haggai records in Haggai 2:3 that the older ones could see that this temple was not as grand as the original. It will, however, last a lot longer until it is destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. (In between there will be many renovations and additions, particularly by Herod who basically rebuilt the entire temple with a much larger and more lavish one.)
- B. Two momentous celebrations.
1. The dedication of the temple (6:16-18). Not as grand or as large as the dedication of the previous temple (1 Kings 8), but that did not keep them from celebrating "with joy" (v. 16).
 2. The celebration of the Passover (vv. 19-22).
 - a. Just as the Israelites who celebrated the original Passover became exiles from Egypt on their way to the Promised Land, this band of exiles have returned to the Promised Land from Babylonian captivity.
 - b. They knew the hand of the Lord was upon them and "the Lord filled them with joy" (6:22).
- C. Two major goals of the Persian kings for their empire.
1. To establish the favor and worship of the gods of the people so that the gods would look approvingly upon the empire.
 - a. It was, therefore, in the king's interests to complete the temple for the good of the empire.
 - b. It was also for the sake of the empire that the king equipped the people to worship and obey their god.
 - c. To accomplish this, he sends the highly qualified Ezra (7:12, 25) to Jerusalem along with an entourage of leaders. This occurs nearly 55 years after the completion of the temple.
 - d. The entourage under Ezra is about 5,000 total people compared to the approximately 42,000 (plus 7,337 slaves) in the original group of exiles
 2. To establish the civil authority of the empire.
 - a. Ezra was not only a priest and teacher of the Law of Yahweh, he was a highly trained civil servant of the empire, as well.
 - b. The king, therefore, decrees that he is to appoint leaders, establish law and order, and teach the law of the king to any who are ignorant of it (7:25) and he is given power and authority to enforce the law (7:26).
- D. Ezra will come to a city and region that is still in dire condition. The temple may be built, but the wall of the city is in shambles and the people are living in fear of their enemies.

The theme music from Jaws begins again!

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

CONCORD LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 9, 2025

10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. John King, Pulpit Supply
Jim Bradenburg, Worship Leader
David Steel, Service Leader



Silent Preparation

David Bartlett, while teaching at Yale, told the story of a Stradivarius violin that was owned by UCLA, and had been placed in the charge of a faculty member who was the 2nd violinist in a university string quartet. The man reported the priceless instrument missing. Authorities were suspicious that the musician had stolen it, but the violinist said he thought he put the violin on the top of his car when he was loading groceries into his car on the way home from the concert and he drove off, simply forgetting the Stradivarius. Decades later, the hapless violinist's story was confirmed when the instrument showed up at a music shop to be tuned. The present owner said he had bought the violin from someone who found it lying beside an on-ramp to a southern California freeway! How attentive are we to the valuable things in our lives?

*Congregation is requested to stand if able.
Please adjust all electronic devices so as to not interrupt the service.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Be Still My Soul"
Jean Sibelius

LEADER: Let us join in worshiping the Lord our God.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 138)

LEADER: We give You thanks, O Lord, with our whole heart, for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness.

PEOPLE: **All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.**

LEADER: The Lord will fulfill his purpose for us; His steadfast love endures forever. Come, let us worship our God!

*THE HYMN OF ADORATION

"Gentle Shepherd"
No. 458

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*HYMN

"They'll Know We Are Christian By Our Love"
No. 284

*THE DEDICATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS (responsively)

LEADER: Only You, O Lord, are holy.

PEOPLE: **As we commit these gifts, our eyes are only able to glimpse a touch of your glory.**

LEADER: Through Your perfect power, love and purity, magnify these gifts for Your holy work in our midst, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

*DOXOLOGY

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"
No. 625

SCRIPTURE

Ezra 6:13-22; 7:11-14, 25-28

THE MESSAGE

"Halfway There!"
Pastor John King

*HYMN

"He Is Lord"
No. 105

BLESSING AND SENDING

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"O, How He Loves You and Me"
O, how He loves you and me. O, how He loves you and me;
He gave His life, what more could He give?
O, how He loves you; O, how He loves me;
O, how He loves you and me!

POSTLUDE

"They'll Know We Are Christian By Our Love" (reprise)