

Our King Above All Politics

(thank goodness we didn't get to choose)

We understand democracy, not sovereignty. We elect our leaders. Democracy has been good for people because it seems to cause the least damage, not because it necessarily yields the best results. Fallen humans have done a lot of damage in history when given sovereign power. But God is neither fallen, nor human. Thank goodness!

We can thank God's sovereign rule for bringing us life and every blessing that flows from it. In his arrangement, he allows us the freedom to love him, or not; the freedom to love one another, or not. There's the problem: us! We have used our freedom to cause massive harm. Through our clumsy trial-and-error of human history, most nations have learned to take sovereign rule out of human hands because it has been too dangerous.

But democracy has problems too. People vote selfishly, not necessarily for the good of others. We can slip into thinking right and wrong can be decided by a vote. Right and wrong stands outside popularity contests—our loving Creator has already drawn those unchangeable lines.

In Romans 9, Paul explains that God's people made the mistake of thinking the Lord owed them—that by their birthright as Israel and by their adherence to God's law, that he was in their debt. Actually God made a sovereign choice to make our relationship with him hinge on belief or unbelief. Maybe we would have done it differently, likely on the basis of merit—which sounds good, but has unintended disastrous results (none of us measure up, we aren't all dealt the same hand, we want God to judge others but not us).

God sovereignly made a very democratic move: he opened his invitation to everyone. You don't have to be born into a royal family or be part of a certain nation or race. God declared that the basis of being right with him is FAITH. Paul traces this all the way back to Abraham in Genesis 12. Now everything rises and falls on whether you make a decision to believe. Your behavior does not put God in your debt, but is a natural outflow of what is truly in your heart. In the end, true belief cannot be faked. It will show.

Democracy is a concession to human weakness. The only place sovereignty can be trusted is in the hands of God. He

generously used it to make a way for all of us. Had he put that to a vote we would only have messed it up. He is the undisputed ruler of the universe and as it turns out, he is benevolent, loving, patient, merciful, and just. What a relief! Praise God!

Mark

LADIES: Sign-up Today

Our retreat is rapidly approaching, April 7-9.

Join us in sharing the joy of our Lord.

See Bibi at the registration table for info!

Stay for TODAY's Delicious Fellowship

Meal: with a Tex-Mex theme. Team 6 has set-up & clean-up.

Sr. Youth Group, TODAY: We will have Lunch after Worship and then take a trip to Victory Church in Audubon, PA (near KOP) to see the *Compassion Experience* at 1:40. We will return for pick up by 4pm.

Greeters' Meeting NEXT Sunday, March 26: If you are a Greeter or want to be a Greeter, please meet in the Teen Room after Worship for a short and important meeting with Dave Cook.

The NEW SERIES, "Too Busy NOT To Pray" Our Worship Messages and Sunday Adult Bible Classes will focus on this theme in March and April. **Books** are available.

Our Church Retreat Sign-up Sheets are posted: May 19-21 are the dates! This is a weekend of fun. Choose what you want to do. There is hiking, games, food, just sitting and talking, and much more.

ATTENTION SINGLES AND SENIORS:

Our Youth Groups are Hosting a FUN Evening for you! THIS Saturday,

March 25th Teens will host our Collingswood singles and seniors to a bingo serving night at the building from 6-8 pm. Teens will create their own "service" prize for our singles and seniors to select from. For example: help with a household task, or setting up a Facebook page, or tech support for your computer/phone/device, or baked goods, etc. Please encourage your teen to be thinking about something helpful or encouraging they'd like to offer. Our teens are eager to serve others!

Cathedral Kitchen: will be serving Thursday, March 30th at 3:30. See Vivian if you can help!

Haircuts for Missions is Saturday April 8th

Today's Worship Leaders

Worship Leader: Dave Williams

Welcome & Scripture: Henry Duncan (Psalm 39:4-7)

Opening Prayer: Carl Smith

Lord's Supper: Chet, Nelson Nuñez, Jay Morris, Logan McEntire

Scripture Before Message: Jon Jon Cook (Rom. 12:17-21)

Announcements & Closing Prayer: Tony Ceraso Jr.

Nursery: Laura & Nina Next Week: Sandra M. & Elaine

Red Cleaning Team March 22-25, Lillian coordinates

OUTREACH/MINISTRY

Mark Finn – Preacher

Church Office- (856) 854-0197

Worship Total 114

Bible Class..... 83

Wed. PM 37

ELDERS:

Rick Boyle (856) 986-4876

Tony Ceraso, Jr. (856) 278-6276

Bret Goen (856) 996-5267

Chet Churchill (609) 560-7179

Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969

Contribution \$2,706

Budget Goal\$4,260

15-Minutes Daily with GOD: 27

Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: www.ccc123.org

300 White Horse Pike

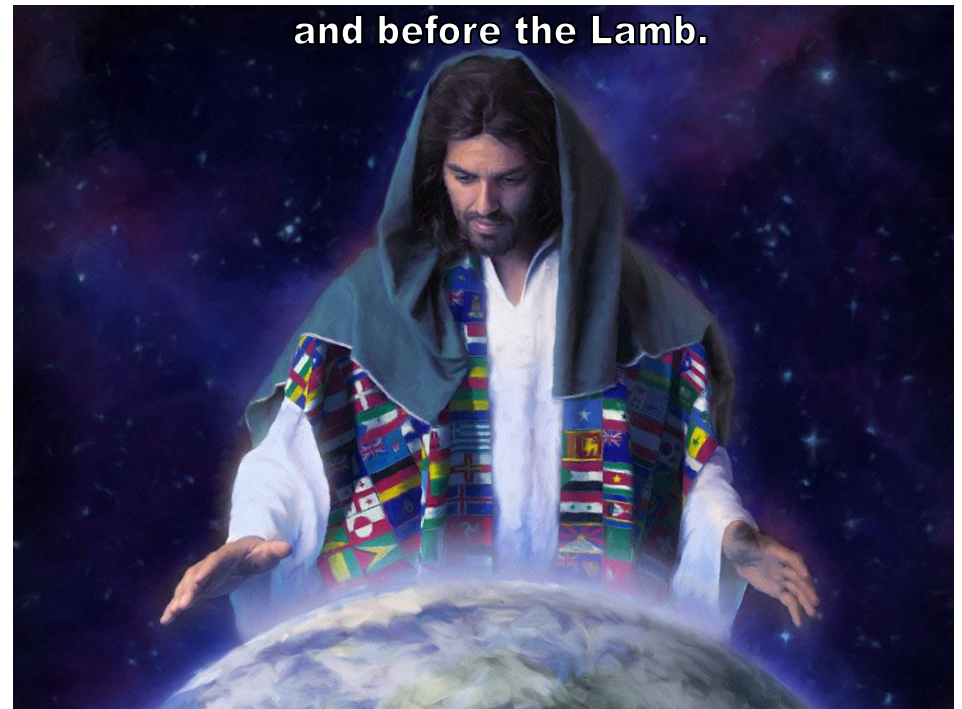
Collingswood, NJ 08107

March 19, 2017

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“Now faith is being **sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.



They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

- Revelation 7:9