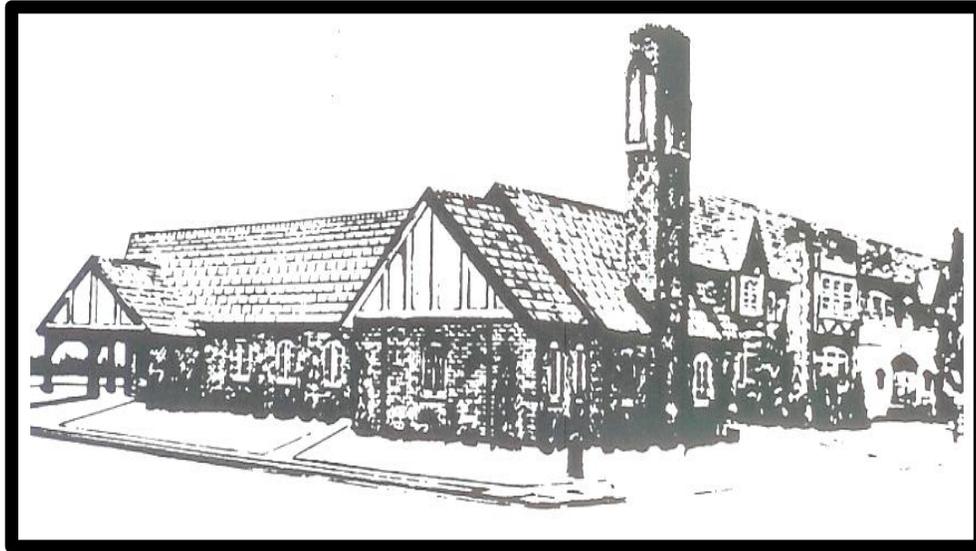


March 15, 2026  
**Third Sunday in Lent**



Christ Episcopal Church, 157 Shore Road, Somers Point, NJ 08244

Phone: 609-927-6262

Email:  
[Christchurchsp1971@gmail.com](mailto:Christchurchsp1971@gmail.com)

Web site:  
[christchurchspnj.org](http://christchurchspnj.org)

Office Hours: Tuesday-  
Friday 9am-1pm

All Services Facebook Live-  
Stream  
<https://www.facebook.com/christchurchsomerspoint/>

**Healing Service:**  
Wednesdays at 10am in  
the chapel  
Holy Days as announced

**Saturdays at 5:30pm**  
Service: Holy Eucharist  
Reader: Donna Melle  
Eucharistic Minister:  
Donna Melle

**Sundays at 10:00am**

Service: Holy Eucharist  
Reader: Karen Geller  
Eucharistic Ministers:  
Patti Stocker and Barbara  
Quick  
Acolytes: Adam, Aidan  
and Sophia  
Ushers: Arthur Donchey  
Counters: Pat Conte and  
Ed Zipf

All Music in this bulletin:  
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Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church of Somer's Point. We are glad to welcome you to our church. Everything you will need for worship can be found in the Red Book of Common Prayer and the Blue Hymnal. If you are new to the Episcopal Church and having a hard time following along, ask someone near you for help. They will be glad to show you where we are in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) or the 1982 Blue Hymnal. Again, welcome.

**Entrance: Blue Hymnal No. 490 I want to walk as a child of the light**

Book of Common Prayer page 355

**Trisagion: S 102**

The Collect of the Day

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**A Reading from the book of Samuel**

**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil,

and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 23

### *Dominus regit me*

1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

## A Reading from the Book of Ephesians

### Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual: 145 (Levas II – not the blue hymnal) No. 145 Have thine own way, Lord**

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Thou art the Potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me after Thy will,  
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Verse 2

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Search me and try me, Master, today!  
Whiter than snow, Lord, wash me just now,  
As in Thy presence humbly I bow.

Verse 3

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!  
Power, all power, surely is Thine!  
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine.

Verse 4

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!  
Fill with Thy Spirit 'till all shall see  
Christ only, always, living in me.

*Words: Adelaide A. Pollard*

*Music: George C. Stebbins*

## The Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**People: Glory to you Lord Christ.**

### **John 9:1-41**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the

world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone

opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.    **People: Praise to you Lord Christ**

### **The Sermon**

Nicene Creed Book of Common Prayer pg. 358

Prayers of the People Form VI Book of Common Prayer pg. 392

Confession Book of Common Prayer pg. 393

The Peace

Announcements

Offertory: Choir

Eucharistic Prayer C Book of Common Prayer pg 369

Sanctus 1982 Hymnal S-127

Lord’s Prayer Book of Common Prayer pg. 364

The Fraction Anthem 1982 Hymnal S 156

Agnus Dei S 161

The Gifts of God for the People of God

**Communion Hymn Blue Hymnal No. 339 Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness**

Post Communion Prayer Book of Common Prayer pg 365

The Blessing

**Recessional Hymn Blue Hymnal No. 533 How wondrous and great thy works, God of praise!**

Dismissal Book of Common Prayer pg 366



## Flowers in the sanctuary are given for the glory of God

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### Last week's Sunday attendance:

Saturday 5:30 pm: 13 Sunday 10:00 am: 57

*form our hearts and make them thine.*



**Stewardship Note: Regarding our Annual Budget it costs the church \$3,500.00 per week to operate and sustain our ministries, outreach and music ministry. Sunday's collection is \$2,312.75.**

Memorials & Thanksgivings: Altar Flowers for Sunday - \$50-Bulletin memorial- \$50; Altar candles- \$15- Mass cards- \$15- contact parish secretary for available dates

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<https://egiving.ministryone.com/landing/294y>

- **Choir-** meets Sundays at 9am in the choir room (parish house)
- **Altar Guild-** weekly preparations for Services
- **Brotherhood of Saint Andrew-**meets third Thurs. of the Month (except August) 6pm in the parish living room (parish house)
- **Adelaide's Place-** is a ministry of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary
- **Knit Wits-** Working on projects from home
- **BSA Troop 55-** Wednesdays at 6pm in the Scout Room or Parish Hall
- **Cub Scouts, Pack 87-** Mondays, 7-8pm, Church undercroft
- **Both BSA Troop 55 and Cub Scout Pack 87 are Sponsored by our parish**
- **Ecumenical Food Pantry-** our parish staffs the pantry Thursdays (except 1<sup>st</sup> full week of month closed) from 9am to 11:30am at 11 E/ Dawes Ave., Somers Point.
- **Sunday School Sundays,** begins Sept. 8, 9am -9:45am (see registration form in narthex or church website) in the church class rooms, undercroft
- **Youth Forum,** 9am-9:45am (in the undercroft)

**If you have questions or need further information about ministries or participation please contact our Secretary, who will be happy to help you at 609-927-6262 or [Christchurchsp1971@gmail.com](mailto:Christchurchsp1971@gmail.com).**

## Church Information

**Capital Campaign-** To help us pay off this loan, we are doing two things:

- 1) We are holding a 3-year capital campaign to raise the money for this loan. If you need pledging information please check with a vestry member or call the church office.
- 2) We will be holding 3-4 fundraisers a year to help us with the cost of the loan. This includes our organ concert and other future fundraisers.

**Memorial Garden Bricks-** Bricks are a great way of preserving the memory of a loved one. They are also a great way to honor an achievement that a loved one has accomplished. Bricks are \$100 dollars to order and need to be sent in batches of 10 bricks at a time. These bricks were installed early last year. Forms to order bricks are on a table in the narthex. If you would like more information, please see Pat Conte.

**Flower Donations-** Donating funds for the altar flowers is a way to share your dedication of thanksgiving or to remember a loved one. These dedications are printed in the church bulletin. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. There are still many Sundays available to provide donations.

**Prayer List-** Please email the office at [ChristChurchsp1971@gmail.com](mailto:ChristChurchsp1971@gmail.com) with your prayer requests. Each individual will stay on the prayer list for approximately 30 days, unless you specifically request longer.

The prayer list will continue to be important to our community.

**The Rev. George Anne McDonnell, Rector**

Pat Conte (2027) Jr. Warden  
Karen Geller (2027) and Nancy Austin (2027) Co-Wardens  
Carol Drumm, Parish Administrative Asst.  
Arlene Santhouse, Treasurer  
Michelle Cianci, Asst. Treasurer  
Carlos Torres, Sexton  
Doug Murdock, Director of Music

Vestry:  
Joe Zeigenfus (2028), Marie Bates (2028), Dennis Huey (2029),  
Cecelia Khoury (2029) and Michelle Cianci (2029)

Head of Altar Guild: Barbara Keown

Christian Education  
Sunday School  
Led By: Kirsten McMahan & Laura Napoli  
Youth Forum  
Led By: The Rev. George Anne McDonnell  
Sundays  
9:00am to 9:45am

Additional Events and ministry activities will be posted on our Website and Facebook Page

Our Church app: Ministry ONE  
<https://egiving.ministryone.com/landing/294y>