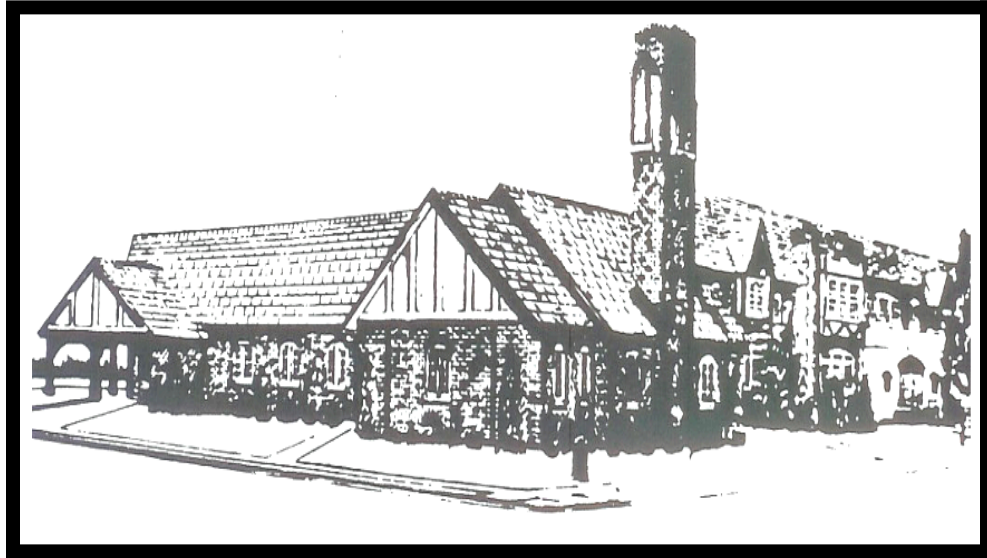


February 8, 2026  
**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**



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

**Ash Wednesday**

**February 18**

**7:00 am, 10:00 am and  
7:00 pm**

**Sundays at 10:00am**

Service: Holy Eucharist  
Reader: Steve Napoli  
Eucharistic Ministers:  
John and Nancy Austin  
Acolytes: Joanne, Abby  
and Sophia  
Ushers: Arthur Donchey  
Counters: Nancy Austin  
and Joe Zeigenfus

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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. 419 Lord of all being, throned afar**

Book of Common Prayer page 355

**Gloria: S-280**

**The Collect of the Day**

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**A Reading from the book of Isaiah**

**Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]**

Shout out, do not hold back!  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.  
Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.  
“Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.  
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.  
Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

[If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.]

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 112:1-9, [10]**

***Beatus vir***

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord \*  
and have great delight in his commandments!

**2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \*  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, \*  
and their righteousness will last for ever.

**4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \*  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending \*  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

**6 For they will never be shaken; \*  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \*  
their heart is right;  
they put their trust in the Lord.

**8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, \*  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

9 They have given freely to the poor, \*  
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.

**[10 The wicked will see it and be angry;  
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; \*  
the desires of the wicked will perish.]**

## **A Reading from the Book of Corinthians**

### **1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]**

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

“For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.]

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Blue Hymnal No. 505 O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God**

# The Gospel

## **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew**

### **Matthew 5:13-20**

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

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 A Book of Common Prayer pg 361

Sanctus 1982 Hymnal S-128

Lord's Prayer Book of Common Prayer pg. 364

The Fraction Anthem 1982 Hymnal S 155

Agnus Dei S 163

The Gifts of God for the People of God

**Communion Hymn Blue Hymnal No. 694 Go be in my head**

Post Communion Prayer Book of Common Prayer pg 365

The Blessing

**Recessional Hymn Blue Hymnal No. 629 We limit not the truth of God**

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: 5 Sunday 10:00 am: 46*

*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 \$3363.**

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-** The prayer list was reset on July 6, 2025. 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 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)  
Karen Geller (2027) and Nancy Austin (2027) Co-Wardens  
Carol Drumm, Parish Administrative Asst.  
Heidi Toth, Treasurer  
Michelle Cianci, Treasurer  
Carlos Torres, Sexton  
Doug Murdock, Director of Music

Vestry:  
Joe Zeigenfus (2028),  
Steve Napoli (2026), Bobbie Livesey (2026)  
Marie Bates (2028)

Head of Altar Guild: Barbara Keown

Christian Education  
Sunday School  
Led By: Kirsten McMahon & 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>