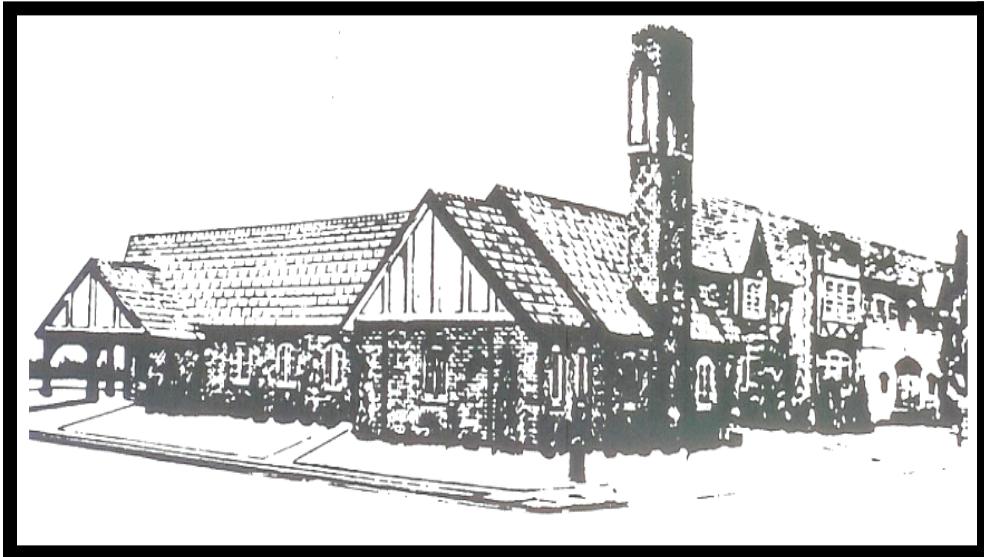


February 22, 2026  
**First Sunday of Lent**



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

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Email:  
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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:  
Mike Bronsky

**Sundays at 10:00am**

Service: Holy Eucharist  
Reader: Caren Abonyo  
Eucharistic Ministers:  
Cindy and Jeff Hight  
Acolytes: Joanna, Abby  
and Sophia  
Ushers: Arthur Donchey  
Counters: Michelle Cianci  
and Pat Conte

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. 688 A mighty fortress is our God**

Book of Common Prayer page 355

**Trisagion: S 102**

**The Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**A Reading from the book of Genesis**

**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 32

### *Beati quorum*

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, \*  
and whose sin is put away!

**2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, \***  
**and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, \*  
because of my groaning all day long.

**4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; \***  
**my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, \*  
and did not conceal my guilt.

**6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." \***  
**Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

**7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; \***  
**when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

**8 You are my hiding-place;**  
**you preserve me from trouble; \***  
**you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; \*  
I will guide you with my eye.

**10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; \***  
**who must be fitted with bit and bridle,**  
**or else they will not stay near you."**

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; \*  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

**12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; \***  
**shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

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

### **Romans 5:12-19**

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual 142 Lord, who throughout these forty days**

## **The Gospel**

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

### **Matthew 4:1-11**

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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 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. 448 O love, how deep, how broad, how high**

Post Communion Prayer Book of Common Prayer pg 365

The Blessing

**Recessional Hymn Blue Hymnal No. 563 Go forward, Christian soldier**

Dismissal Book of Common Prayer pg 366



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

**Last week's Sunday attendance:**

*Saturday 5:30 pm: 8 Sunday 10:00 am: 23*

*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 \$3438.75.**

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

**Help the church save in printing costs and use our app! Christ Church, Somers Point app**  
[\*\*https://egiving.ministryone.com/landing/294y\*\*](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)

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 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>