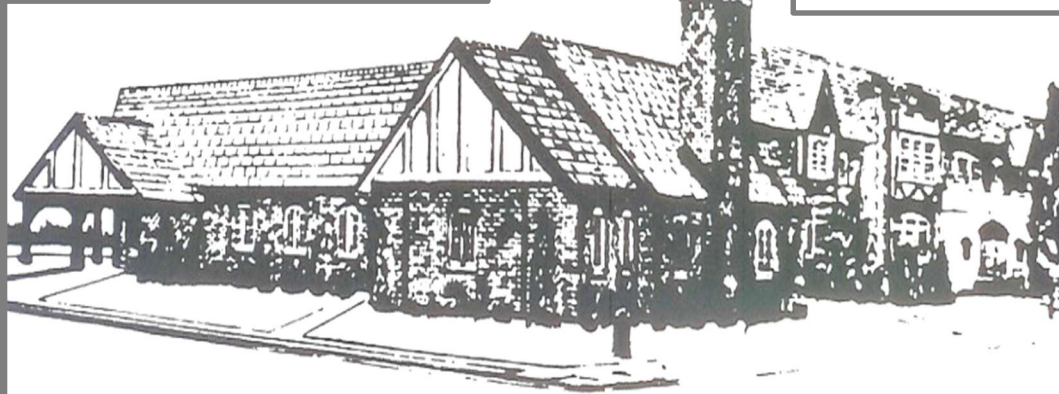


**Christ Episcopal Church**  
157 Shore Road  
Somers Point, NJ 08244

**Sixth Sunday of Easter:**  
**May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**



Phone: 609-927-6262  
Fax: 609-927-0713

Email: [Christchurchsp1971@gmail.com](mailto:Christchurchsp1971@gmail.com)  
Web site: <http://christchurchsomerspoint.org>  
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 11:30-2:30  
All Services Facebook Live-Stream  
<https://www.facebook.com/christchurchsomerspoint/>

**Sundays at 10:00am**

Service: Holy Eucharist  
Acolytes Serving: Aidan, Sierra & Adam  
Reader: Teresa Zipf

**Saturdays at 5:30pm**

**Reader: Donna Meele**  
**Service: Holy Eucharist**

**Wednesdays at 10:30am**

Service: Holy Eucharist  
**Holy Days as announced**

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Father Doug Eberly,  
Chuck Kane (2025) Bill Snyder (2026), Wardens  
Heidi Toth, Treasurer  
Maddie Holmes, Secretary  
Carlos Torres, Sexton  
Doug Murdock, Director of Music  
Patt Mathis and Diane McKeefrey, Christian  
Education Coordinators (Sunday School, Youth  
Forum and Adult Forum),

**Vestry:**

**Pat Conte (2025), Nicole Barnabei (2025),  
Steve Napoli (2026) David McMahan (2026),  
Nancy Austin (2027), Karen Geller (2027)**

**Christian Education**

Sunday School  
Led By: Diane McKeefrey & Laura Napoli  
Youth Forum  
Led By: Bill Snyder, Kirsten McMahon &  
Carolyn La Mountain  
*Sundays until June 2, 2024*  
*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>

**Entrance: *Hymnal No. 291. We plow the field and scatter***

1. We plow the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land, but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand; he sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain, the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

Refrain:

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.

2. He only is the Maker of all things near and far; he paints the wayside flower, he lights the evening star; the wind and waves obey him, by him the birds are fed; much more to us, his children, he gives our daily bread. [Refrain]

3. We thank thee, then, O Father, for all things bright and good, the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food: the gifts we have to offer are what thy love imparts, but chiefly thou desirest our humble, thankful hearts. [Refrain]

*Words: Matthias Claudius,, Music: Johann Abraham Peter*

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Alleluia, Christ is Risen

*People* **The Lord is Risen Indeed Alleluia**

*The Celebrant may say*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Gloria: *Hymnal S-278***

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**The Collect of the Day**

*The Celebrant says to the people.*

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also, with you.**

*Priest:* Let us pray;

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**First Reading: Acts 10:44-48**

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.      People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 98**

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.**
- 3 The Lord has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.**
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.**
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.**

## **The Second Reading: 1 John 1 5:1-6**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.      People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual: Hymnal No.705 *As those of old their first fruits brought***

1 As those of old their first fruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field  
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield;  
so we today our first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land,  
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind, and heart, and hand.

2 A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give; to make our life an offering  
to God that all may live; the Church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true:  
a world redeemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.

3 With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to thee to serve thy cause and share  
thy love with all humanity. O thou who gavest us thyself in Jesus Christ thy Son, help us to  
give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

*Words: Frank von Christerson*

*Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams*

## **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (15:9-17)**

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

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

## **The Sermon**

### *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the  
Lord, saying “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Sally our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For Joe our President, Philip our Governor, and for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For this city of Somers Point, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those on our Parish Pray list \_\_\_\_\_, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**To you, O Lord our God,**

*(The priest gives a concluding prayer)*

### **Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.  
Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,**

**We confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen**

*The Bishop, when present, or Priest, stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*

***The Peace***

***Announcements, Birthday's, Anniversaries, & Blessing of food we Donate to the Food Pantry***

**Offertory Anthem: Sung by Choir**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and says*

The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every- where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But Chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of you Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he was won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Sanctus: Hymnal S-125*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "*Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*"

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "*Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.*"

Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant Continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to the heavenly country where all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

And now, as our Savior  
Christ has taught us,



we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Fraction**

#### *Hymnal S-154*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

#### *Hymnal S-163*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

### **The Communion**

#### **Post Communion Hymn: 400. *All creatures of our God and King (Verse 1-5)***

1 All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voices, let us sing: Alleluia, alleluia!  
Bright burning sun with golden beams, pale silver moon that gently gleams,

Refrain:

O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Great rushing winds and breezes soft, you clouds that ride the heavens aloft,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
Fair rising morn, with praise rejoice, stars nightly shining, find a voice: [Refrain]

3 Swift flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your Lord to hear,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Fire, so intense and fiercely bright, you give to us both warmth and light, [Refrain]

4 Dear mother earth, you day by day unfold your blessings on our way,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
All flowers and fruits that in you grow, let them his glory also show: [Refrain]

5 All you with mercy in your heart, forgiving others, take your part,  
O sing now: Alleluia!  
All you that pain and sorrow bear, praise God, and cast on him your care: [Refrain]

*Words: Francis of Assisi Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams*

*Post Communion Prayer*

Let us Pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen**

**Final Blessing**

**Recessional: Hymnal No. 344. Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing**

1 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace; let us each, thy love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace: O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

2 Thanks we give and adoration for thy Gospel's joyful sound: may the fruits of thy salvation in our hearts and lives abound: ever faithful, ever faithful to thy truth may we be found;

3 so that when thy love shall call us, Savior, from the world away, fear of death shall not appall us, glad thy summons to obey. May we ever, may we ever reign with thee in endless day.

*Words: John Fawcett*

*Music: SICILIAN MARINERS*

*Dismissal*

**Flowers in the sanctuary are given for the glory of God by Jane Burke.**



**Last week's Sunday attendance:**

*Saturday 5:30pm: 19*

*Sunday 10:00am: 60*



**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. This last Sunday's collection was **\$2,265.**

Memorials & Thanksgivings: Altar Flowers for Sunday - \$50- see usher for sign-up sheet or contact parish secretary for available dates; Bulletin memorial- \$50- contact parish secretary for available dates; Altar candles- \$15- contact parish secretary for available dates; Mass cards- \$15- contact parish secretary.

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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)**
- **Society of Mary- First Tuesday of the month in the church 11:00am**
- **Guild of all Souls- Second Tuesday of the month in the church 11:00am**
- **Knit Wits- Wednesdays at 1p, in the Parish Hall**
- **BSA Troop 55- Wednesdays at 6pm in the Scout Room or Parish Hall (sponsored by our parish)**
- **Cub Scouts, Pack 87- Mondays, 7-8pm, Church undercroft (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. 10, 9am -9:45am (see registration form in narthex or church website) in the church class rooms, undercroft**
- **Youth Forum, Sundays, begins Sept. 11, 9am-9:45am (chapel on the Meyran Ave. side of church)**

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

#### **Church Events**

**Organ Fund-** The church is in need of a new organ. You can fill out organ fund pledges on the blue paper. You are now also able to gift money for the organ on the giving app.

**May 11<sup>th</sup> 2024-** From 10am-12pm you can join us to organize and price the items we will be setting out for sale.

**May 18<sup>th</sup> 2024-Church Yard Sale-** While you are thinking about your spring cleaning also think about what you might want to sell. We are hosting this event during the Somers Point Community Yard Sale. Please join us to support the church while having some fellowship. If you would like to volunteer to assist, please see Nicole Barnabei.

**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. If you would like more information, please see Carolyn La Mountain.

**May 19<sup>th</sup> 2024-** Rev. Canon Joan Mason is coming to talk to the Vestry about the next steps in the process to hire a new Rector. If you would like more information, you are welcome to attend the vestry meeting to learn more.

**Love Songs Concert at 3 PM.** Join us while the Meistersingers serenade us with love songs. We will be able to get back to that loving feeling by the time the event is over. Any donation made at this event will go towards the purchase of a new organ.