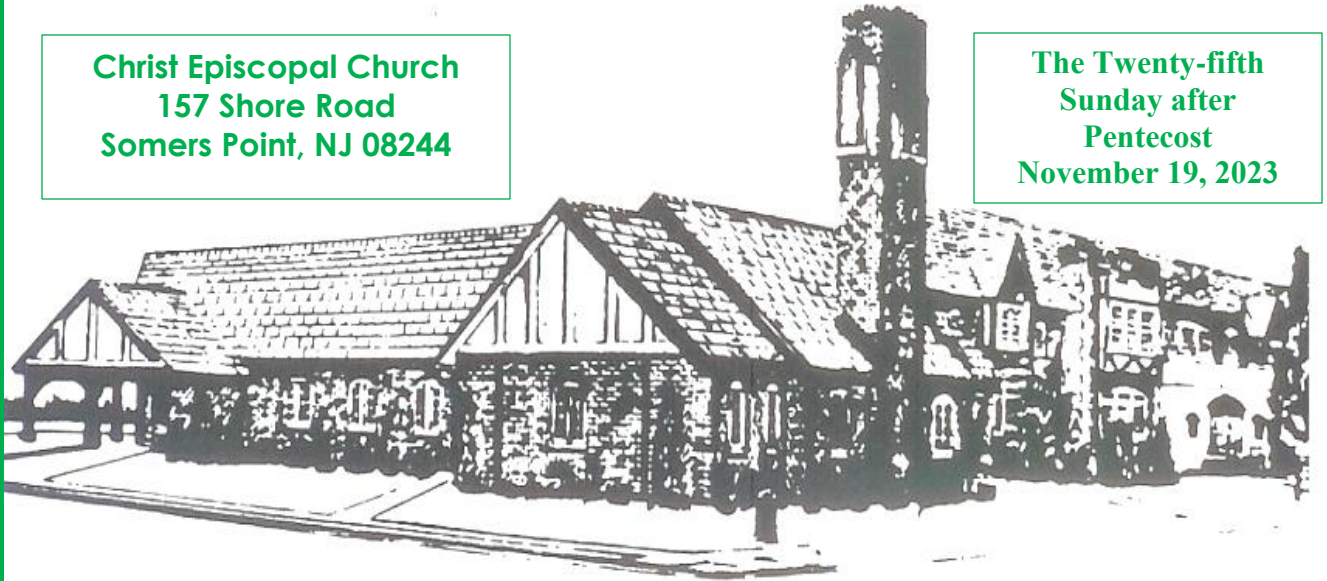


**Christ Episcopal Church  
157 Shore Road  
Somers Point, NJ 08244**

**The Twenty-fifth  
Sunday after  
Pentecost  
November 19, 2023**



Phone: 609-927-6262

Fax: 609-927-0713

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

Web site: <http://christchurchsomerspoint.org>

Office Hours Monday—Thursday

12:30pm-3:30pm

All Services Facebook Live-Stream

<https://www.facebook.com/christchurchsomerspoint/>

**Sundays 10:00am**

Service: Holy Eucharist

**Saturdays at 5:30pm**

Service: Holy Eucharist

**Wednesdays at 10:30am**

Service: Holy Eucharist & Anointing

**Holy Days as announced.**

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The Rev. Justin Falciani, Rector  
Chuck Kane & Ed Zipf, Wardens

Heidi Toth, Treasurer

Kathy Bauer, Secretary

Carlos Torres, Sexton

Doug Murdock, Director of Music

Patt Mathis and Diane McKeefrey, Christian Education Coordinators (Sunday School, Youth Forum and Adult Forum),

### **Christian Education**

Sunday School, Youth Forum

*Sundays, begins September 10*

*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. 631**

1 Book of books, our people's strength, statesman's, teacher's, hero's treasure,  
bringing freedom, spreading truth, shedding light that none can measure —  
wisdom comes to those who know thee, all the best we have we owe thee.

2 Thank we those who toiled in thought, many diverse scrolls completing,  
poets, prophets, scholars, saints, each a word from God repeating,  
till they came, who told the story of His Word, and showed His glory.

3 Praise we God, who hath inspired those whose wisdom still directs us;  
praise Him for the Word made flesh, for the Spirit who protects us,  
light of knowledge, ever burning, shed on us your deathless learning.

*Words: Percy Dearmer*

*Music: Liebster Jesu, Johann Rudolph Ahle*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And Blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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.*

**Gloria** *Hymnal S-280*

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.

*Celebrant*

The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **The First Reading Judges 4:1-7**

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’”

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

### **Psalm 123**

- 1 To you I lift up my eyes, \*  
to you enthroned in the heavens.
- 2 **As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, \***  
**and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,**
- 3 So our eyes look to the LORD our God, \*  
until he show us his mercy.
- 4 **Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, \***  
**for we have had more than enough of contempt,**
- 5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, \*  
and of the derision of the proud.

## **The Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

**Gradual Hymn:** *LEVAS II No. 126*

1 Hark! The voice of Jesus calling, Who will go and work today?  
Fields are ripe the harvest waiting, Who will bear the sheaves away?

*Refrain:*

Loud and long the Master calleth, Rich reward He offers free;  
Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me."

2 Let none hear you idly saying, There is nothing I can do;  
While the souls of some are dying, And the Master calls for you. *[Refrain]*

3 Take the task He gives you gladly, Let His work your pleasure be;  
Answer quickly when He calleth, "Here am I, send me, send me." *[Refrain]*

*Words: Daniel March      Music: J.C. Lenderman*

## The Gospel

### The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (25:14-30)

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

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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*

We pray for the earth and for all people:

(Silence)

O God, the creator and preserver of all, we pray for all people and especially those in any kind of need through famine, war, or natural disaster. Make your ways known upon earth, O God, your saving power among all peoples. Help us to lighten their burden and to seek justice and peace for all. God of love:

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Church throughout the world:

(Silence)

Guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that all who call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in holiness of life.

Strengthen Sally our bishop, Michael our presiding bishop, and all your church in the service of Christ that we may be witnesses to your compassion. God of love:

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are suffering:

(Silence)

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bless those who care for them. We remember those who have died in Christ, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom. God of love:

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves and our ministries:

(Silence)

Give grace to us, our families, and friends, and to all our neighbors; that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us. God of love:

**Hear our prayer.**

For those on our Parish Prayer List:

(Silence)

(Names are now read)

God of love:

**Hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and all people to your unfailing love. Accept these prayers we pray in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*(The celebrant says a concluding collect)*

**Confession of Sin**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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 the 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*

#### *Offertory Sentence*

**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.**

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.

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new  
people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in  
all the world.

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- 130*



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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues*

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 before he died for us, 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;**

*The 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 the 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 that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and 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.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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-155***

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the feast.* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

#### ***Hymnal S-164***

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

### **The Communion**

**Post Communion Hymn:** *Hymnal No. 508*

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
2. Breath on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with thee I will one will, to do or to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine, till all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die; but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

*Words: Edwin Hatch Music: Nova Vita, Lister R. Peace*

**Post Communion Prayer**

Let us Pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Final Blessing**

**Recessional:** *Hymnal No. 522*

1 Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;  
he whose word cannot be broken formed thee for his own abode;  
on the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

2 See! the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,  
well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint, when such a river ever will their thirst assuage?  
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.

3 Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear  
for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.  
Thus deriving from their banner, light by night, and shade by day,  
safe they feed upon the manna which he gives them when they pray.

4 Blest inhabitants of Zion, washed in the Redeemer's blood! Jesus, whom their souls rely on,  
makes them kings and priests to God. 'Tis his love his people raises over self to reign as kings:  
and as priests, his solemn praises each for a thank-offering brings.

*Words: John Newton Music: Austria*

## Dismissal

### last week's Sunday attendance:

*Saturday 5:30pm: attendance 19*

*Sunday 10:00am: attendance 44*



**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 \$ 2,062.00**



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.

**Help the church save in printing costs and use our app! Christ Church, Somers Point app <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)**
- **Knit Wits (parish knitters)- Wednesdays 1pm in the parish living room (parish house)**
- **Society of Mary- First Tuesday of the month in the parish living room (parish house) 11am**
- **Guild of all Souls- Second Tuesday of the month in the parish living room (parish house) 11am**
- **BSA Troop 55- Wednesdays at 6pm in the Scout Room or Parish Hall (sponsored by our parish)**

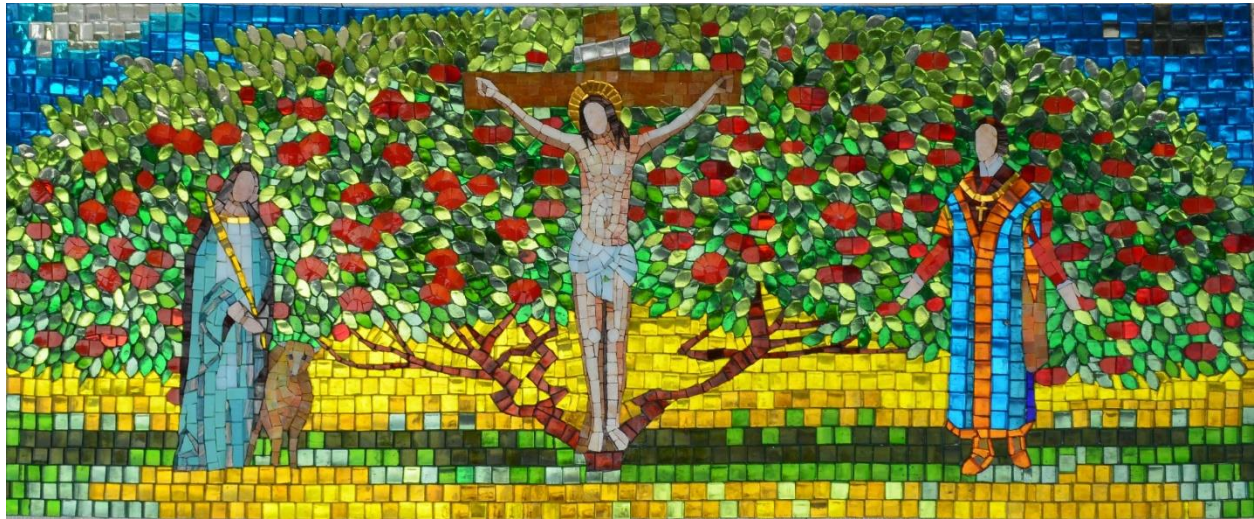
- Cub Scouts, Pack 87- Mondays, 7-8pm, Church undercroft (Sponsored by our parish)
- Ecumenical Food Pantry- our parish staffs the pantry Thursdays (except 1<sup>st</sup> full week of month closed) from 9am to 11:30am at 11 E/ Dawes Ave., Somers Point.
- Sunday School Sundays, begins Sept. 10, 9am -9:45am (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 our parish secretary, Kathy, will be happy to assist you. Church office 609-927-6262, [ccspsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ccspsecretary@gmail.com). Office Hours Monday – Thursday 12:30pm to 3:30pm

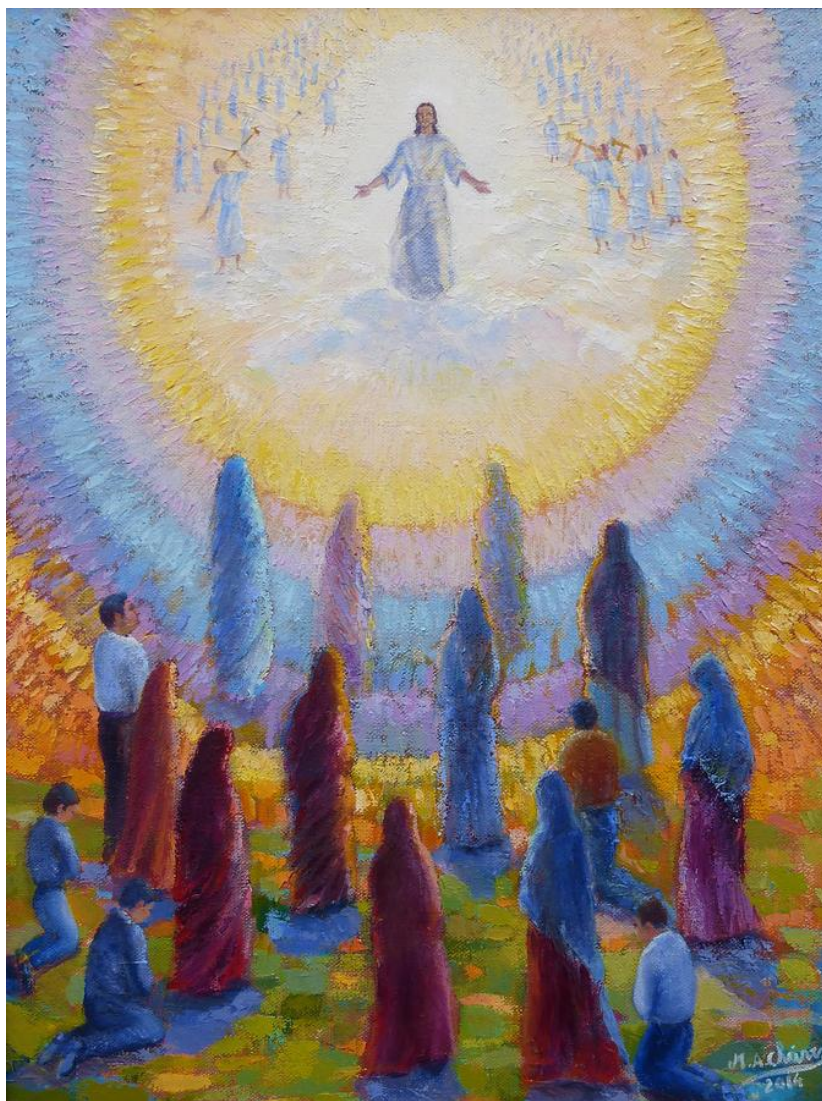
### Adult Faith Forum

*The Use of Prayer and Christian Spirituality, continued  
(located in the chapel, the Meyran Ave. side of church)  
From 7pm to 8:30pm*

- *Tuesday, November 28*
- *Tuesday, December 12*
- *Tuesday, December 19*



***Advent Retreat: Welcoming Christ's Return!  
December 9 from 10am to 1pm in the parish hall***



*Painting by Miguel A Chavez*

***(If participating please sign up in the back of the church or call the church office)***