



I was lying on my bed, fully dressed, eyes closed, early in the morning. The last child in the nest, a college grad young adult, came prancing in, running around getting ready for her day of work. Realizing she was interrupting something, Claudia said, "Oh, I'm sorry . . .but what are you doing?" I responded, "Not to worry honey, I was just thinking, praying and meditating in quiet." Well," she continued, "What were you thinking about?" Sensing a special moment, I continued, "Well, I was thinking about my day, what I am going to be doing, stuff I am working on. *My partner will set me straight.*" She gently turned to me and said, "I wish I had a partner," probably thinking that my partner was my wife, and she is still single. I replied quickly, "You can have one, too, you know, a primary partner." And I simply pointed upwards. Quickly catching on, she spoke again, "I wish God would speak to me more." And then my closing comment, "Oh, he does honey; we all just need to take the time to listen more."

God, Christ, our life long partner! What an amazing truth. This November we celebrate, recognize, and open our hearts to the one Partner we have who always listens, does respond, and never, ever abandons us. On Nov. 4th – be sure to worship on All Saints Sunday. Just envision the millions of persons and the specific ones we have known well and loved, who were and are still in eternal partnership with the Lord Jesus Christ. Then, on Sunday the 11th, we lift up our Lord in song, on "Hymn/Praise Sunday." On Sunday the 18th, we give thanks to God for the life giving Sojourner's Ministry that was placed on our hearts and that we now implement. Christ, our partner, called us into the city, into the lives of new people, to not only offer a delicious breakfast once a month, but to make new friends, and then to invite them into this same partnership of grace with Christ at St. Mark's. Finally, on Nov. 25 we celebrate the Christ the King, our eternal partner, Lord, and Savior.

Yes, come regularly this November to worship God in Christ and to experience some life enriching services – All Saints, Hymns/Songs, Sojourner's, Christ the King!
Christ - our life partner!