

St. Andrew's Signpost

The Rev. Canon Linda Mayer—Vicar
Linda Cox—Bishop's Warden
Bob Beeson—People's Warden



March 2021

Claiming the wilderness time

A message from Bishop Gretchen Rehberg. Bishop Rehberg will be joining St. Andrew's on Sunday, March 21.

March means spring is coming. Spring means a mix of sun and snow, rain and wind, mud and new growth. March means hope for new life, and a reminder of the dead of winter. It is a time when all can seem dark, and yet we also have the promise of new light just over the horizon. March is also the one year anniversary of the shutdown. Many of our congregations have not been back in person for a year, while some have been able to have small gatherings during the summer and some have been able to be together, masked and distanced. When I asked all congregations to suspend in person worship last March I certainly did not expect that it would be a year of virtual worship, no summer camp and no in-person diocesan events! And yet we have had a full year of learning how to be church in a new way. Some of what we have learned has been beneficial and we will want to take with us. We have learned just how important it is to be together, be in community together. We have learned that we can worship on line, we can do meetings online, we can study together online, and we have also learned how much we miss being together for worship, offering the peace and taking communion, learned how much we long for coffee hour fellowship.

It is good to know what we miss the most, what we long for, since that tells us what is essential. It is also good to ask what we have not missed. What events, what meetings, what projects in our congregations and diocese have been ok with not doing? This question helps us learn what we can leave as we start to be together again.

In many ways we have all been in the wilderness, just as the children of Israel were as they left Egypt and travelled to the Promised Land. And just like them, we are learning what we need to take with us as we travel. The children of Israel had to leave behind anything which kept them stuck in Egypt, they had to learn to take only the essentials. This year actually provides all of us with the great opportunity to ask what our essentials are, what do we need to take with us and what can we set down? What is essential to be the church, and what is simply extra baggage?

Lent is also a time that invites us to rediscover our core identity in Jesus. As individuals, as communities of faith small and large alike, what is essential in our life in Christ, and what is simply extra baggage?

As we go through this March, praying that the vaccine rollout gets more proficient and more of our members able to receive the vaccine so that we may more safely return to being together, let us not neglect the lessons of this past year. No matter how much we might want to simply return to the "way it was before" time never allows for that. Instead, we are invited to see the new life, the resurrection life, that God is offering us now. Let us claim this wilderness time, this Lenten time, as a time of growth and preparation for the new life that God is bringing.

+Gretchen

Bishop Gretchen Rehberg; Diocese of Spokane

Easter Season Church Schedule:

March 14 – Morning Prayer – 10:00 a.m. – Linda Cox and Kathy Nierenberg officiating
March 21—Morning Prayer – 10:00 a.m. – Bishop Gretchen Rehberg visiting St. Andrew’s
March 28 – Palm Sunday – 10:00 a.m.—Lutheran intern Dane Breslin preaching
April 2 – Good Friday – 12:00 noon
April 4 – Easter Celebration Holy Eucharist – 10:00 a.m.

Diocesans Women’s Retreat:

March 12-14 – Register now for this weekend of love and fellowship. Call Linda Mayer for more information.

Remembering Barb Sutor:

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our dear friend and church member, Barb Sutor. She passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 28th after suffering from a stroke. Please keep her son’s Ed, Hugh and David and their families in your prayers. Due to COVID, attendance at her funeral will be limited. Please contact Linda Mayer if you would like to attend by Zoom.



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