I found this on Facebook of course! It was written by Ronne Rock, author of "One Woman Can Change the World" and then shared by Jana White Fraley. I've used it with her (Ronne Rock's) permission. It says so well what I needed to hear. I hope it resonates with each of you as well. Linda

The shadows are looming long these days. And it's difficult to see the same paths that we could so clearly describe as we toasted better years and made our resolutions. Fear catches in our throats as we wonder if every good plan and every great dream might be laid waste. Some of us rage while others cower. We stand our ground and hope against hope that we are on the right side of whatever the future holds.

We humans both succeed and fail gloriously each day. We are exceptionally good at both delighting and disappointing each other. Right now, we are proving ourselves to be experts at the art of demolition. We are quick to snap another soul in two as we look for demons under every stone and declare ourselves the victims of a most unfortunate series of calamities.

And we wonder if there are truly any real answers to be found.

I think they're found in us. You and me. They're found in the way we see each other, the way we offer true grace and readily forgive and show real mercy. The answers are in standing for what is just and being kind and loving well and letting go of fear. The answers are found in loving our neighbors and blessing our enemies and rising together.

The Lord is saying right now, “We need to talk.” Stop pointing fingers at what troubles you. He wants to talk to you. About your heart.

Because your heart, changed, just might be the answer. Our hearts, changed, just might change the world.

Today, instead of snapping each other in two, I think it would be nice if we simply celebrated each other like a holiday. I'm celebrating you right now with prayers and proclamations of your fearfully and wonderfully made design.

Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. From Romans 12.
WHAT’S HAPPENING AT ST. ANDREW’S

Boy it’s been a long time since I’ve typed those words! And so many things have changed. Can it really have only been 5 months? Funny how time flies and drags at the same time.

Before opening again for services the Diocese of Wyoming has required that each church have an approved plan in place to mitigate, as much as possible, any chance of spreading the Covid-19 virus. We now have a plan accepted and signed by the Bishop. We can have services beginning immediately.

I sent out a copy of the plan earlier. If you want another let me know and I will get one for you. I hope that this is an adaptable plan that we can amend as conditions with the Covid-19 virus change. But for now there are certain requirements that must be met.

- Masks must be worn by all attendees and participants at all services.
- Social distancing is to be maintained - 6’ between all non-family members.
- No food or drinks served
- No singing - we can play music but not sing

I know everyone’s got an opinion on this - and I wish there were a perfect answer that made everyone happy. But for now this is where we are. I’d ask all of us to keep each other in our prayers, accept with respect and love the decisions and positions of others, and remember that we are God’s own - whether we’re worshipping in church this Sunday or celebrating God’s love at home.

And now for the Good News! The Rev. Kenli Lowe was ordained on Monday, July 13. This too was not near the celebration we would have liked. Hopefully the time will soon come that we can have a big party! But until then - Kenli will be officiating at 2 services a month.

Lili will continue to serve as a Lay Reader.

And Sad News. Nada and Mervin Larsen have moved to Cody so Nada will no longer serve as a Lay Reader. Nada has been a huge part of St. Andrew’s for many, many years. There are so many things that will just not seem the same without her. Nada, you will be missed and leave huge shoes to fill.

The Covid-19 virus hit as the Diocese of Wyoming was in the process of finding a new Bishop. This has created difficulties with this process as well but progress is being made! There have been 3 candidates selected as finalists for the Bishop position. If you have email you should be getting the e-Spirit of Wyoming weekly, if you don’t have email but have internet access you can also find it on the Diocesan website (www.diowy.org). The e-Spirit has been introducing, showcasing and highlighting the 3 candidates so we can get to know them. I’d encourage you to look them up and learn about them. (If you’re not getting the e-Spirit of Wyoming but would like to you can sign up on the Diocesan website or let me know and I’ll get you signed up. It’s a great way of keeping in touch with the Diocese.)
The last week of August the three candidates are going on an abbreviated Walkabout - Wyoming Style. They will be visiting as many churches as possible for a brief Q & A - following Covid protocols. They will be at St. Andrew’s, Meeteetse the morning of Friday, August 28, 8:30 - 9:30. To accommodate more people we will hold this outside in the church park area. Even though it is outside, masks are still required.

It will be a little more structured than Walkabouts in the past. There will be a moderator/facilitator at each stop. All questions must be submitted in writing by August 17th - there is a link on the Diocesan website to submit questions. (If you need help with this let me know). Please understand that time will be limited - there may not be time for all questions. While time will be short it is an opportunity to get a feel for the 3 candidates, hear them speak, and put a real person with the written responses you’ve seen in the e-Spirit of Wyoming.

Voting for the new Bishop will be at the Electing Convention September 18 &19 in Casper. Lili and Linda are your voting delegates to this convention. The regular Diocesan Convention will be held in conjunction with the Electing Convention. Both of them are scheduled to be a pared down, bare minimum affair.

Schedule - August, 2020

August 2, 9:00 am Holy Eucharist with Rev. Kenli Lowe
August 9, 9:00 am Lay Reader Service
August 16, 9:00 am Holy Eucharist with Rev. Kenli Lowe
August 23, 9:00 am Lay Reader Service
August 30, 9:00 am Holy Eucharist with Rev. Kenli Lowe

It’s not much of a schedule! We’ll flesh it out and fill it in as we become more, temporarily, adjusted to how things will work. We all need a little grace at this time even, maybe especially, the church itself.

“"If you must look back, do so forgivingly. If you must look forward, do so prayerfully. However, the wisest thing you can do is be present in the present... Gratefully.”

-Maya Angelou
LORD,
Thank You
I AM NOT THE MISTAKES I HAVE MADE.
I AM NOT THE PLANS I HAVE FAILED.
I AM NOT THE WRONGS I HAVE DONE.
I AM NOT FORGOTTEN.
I AM NOT ABANDONED.
I AM NOT ALONE.
BECAUSE YOU SAY TO THE LOST:
Come.
YOU SAY TO THE UNLIKELY:
Beloved.
YOU SAY TO THE BATTLE WEARY:
Rest.
In a hard and beautiful world,
Your grace
is the only pillowed relief for my tired soul
to rest in You making all things new.

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