Holy Communion Announcement for Annual Meeting, October 17, 2020

On Saturday, October 17 2020, We will gather in our New Hampshire Conference Annual Meeting. This year’s virtual meeting is a change, but not something “broken that needs repair.” We will not experience the jostle of last minute packet-grabbing, sniff coffee urns during break, watch someone’s tears at the name of a pastor who has passed into God’s resurrection and find that person to offer a hug, feel the vote-card breeze at the passing of a unanimous resolution. On the other hand, more people will be able to attend and everyone is going to remember this one, (Admit it ... some annual meetings blur into each other), and surely the next in-person meeting will have new aspects we will have learned.

As part of our worship we will share Holy Communion and, curiously enough, this is not as “different” as the plenary is because we always receive the sacrament in the company of the Communion of Saints across time and space. Doing so now is a bodily reminder that sacrament is not about elbow-to-elbow. The first century sharing of “letters” was our earliest “screen-share.” As lay and clergy alike lift, consecrate, and break our elements we will settle into the truth of the priesthood of all believers. The grains of wheat once scattered on the hill are gathered into bread ... so all our pixelated images are the Body of Christ.

Before worship you will want to prepare a slice or small loaf of any kind of bread. In some parts of the world tortilla, rice cake, or cassava are used as this element which is defined as the most common food of the people. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your space may break and share. Prepare a cup or cups of juice -- perhaps grape or cranberry -- or wine, with or without alcohol.

Set the elements as sacred, special. Perhaps you want to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric which has some meaning to you. Include a photograph of some good church or Conference time or a blessed place like Chapel Rock at Horton Center or a person deeply connected with you in this communion of saints. Perhaps you will light a candle, place a flower or plant, invites a child to draw a rainbow on a placemat. Whatever you do is holy.

Thank you for your preparation.