

February 26, 2021

Dear Beloved in Christ of the Central Gulf Coast,

It is my pleasure to welcome you on behalf of St. Simon's on the Sound to the 50th Convention of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. What a difference a year makes!

As I looked at Rector/Dean welcome letters from previous years, I was really grieved we would not be able to provide the wonderful hospitality for you we have enjoyed from other hosts over the years. However, the people of St. Simon's are with you in spirit and prayer as we all join together virtually for this occasion.

No one would have dreamed a year ago we would have this historic occasion via the magic of the Internet, but here we are. As many have said, the church has not closed a single day of this pandemic and the same is true of our Diocese. We continue to do our best as disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim welcome in His name to all.

Please offer prayers of thanksgiving and support to the diocesan staff upon whose shoulders this electronic convention falls. I am constantly amazed by all they are able to do on our behalf.

With gratitude to our Bishop, Russell, and all who are joining us for this convention, we bid you welcome and God's blessings for you and your ministries.

In Christ,

The Reverend J. David Knight

Rector, St. Simon's on the Sound Episcopal Church

Ft. Walton Beach, FL

J. Davil Myht