

## January 2021 Laity Minute

It's that time of year again. It's time for New Year's resolutions. We have all heard the resolutions about losing weight, eating healthier saving more money, getting more sleep, or learning a new skill. The commercials on TV advertising new home gym equipment are plentiful. (You know, the ones purchased in January and end up being a convenient place to stack books by May.) Maybe you have been successful with your resolutions and maybe not so much. Or, if you are like me, you don't even attempt them in the first place.

I decided 2021 is different, though. I figure the world is different, so why not? However, I am still not a fan of resolutions. As studies have shown, most are broken and fail by the second week of February. There's no way I am going to give up chocolate or learn how to speak Mandarin Chinese. It's just not going to happen.

In addition, resolutions are complicated. I would have to make some pretty major adjustments if I wanted to save more money, for example. Chocolate can be expensive and we already know giving that up is out of the question. So, how about a more simple solution? Thus, the word of the year was born.

Instead of a resolution, a simple word (or maybe a general theme) could guide my 2021. Many words came to mind when I first decided to do this. Love, kindness, and compassion were a few. Then, I got to others like knowledge, sympathy, generosity, and honesty. Applying my chosen word to most situations would be a better plan than just a plain, breakable resolution which would end with the Valentine candy. It would be a guide in my everyday life.

Upon further reflection, it dawned on me to look in the Bible to find more options for my 2021 Word of the Year. Even though I could probably guess some of the words I would find, where better than to look to Scripture? I was right. Many of the same words appeared such as the ones I already thought of like love and compassion. However, a plethora of new words started jumping out at me.

I started randomly flipping around chapter to chapter, eyes closed just to see what would be there when my eyes opened again. Humility, justice, laughter, climate stewardship, leadership, meditate, victorious, worthy, wisdom, bliss, study, and dignity appeared. It was a world of words waiting to be discovered in a whole new way.

The winning word could be applied to just about any situation I will face in 2021. Maybe it will be used when I deal with a student who has come to me for support. Maybe it will guide me as I serve the church and the UMW. Surely it can even help me play better golf.

I'm closing in on my 2021 Word of the Year. I have narrowed it to a few finalists and will make my selection soon. In an unsettled world, I am comforted by the fact that my word from the Word will guide me though.

Comfort. There's another contender for Word of the Year!

Peace,

Kelly