

Friends,

Here are some options to consider utilizing technology to provide important connections to people who are homebound or have self-quarantined.

Options for Sharing / Interacting with Your Congregations

Here are some options. Live streaming and video conferencing are explained in more detail later in this article.

- Live-streaming: through social media platforms such as [Facebook Live](#) or [Periscope](#): allows for text interaction during the live stream.
- Video Conferencing: Platforms such as [Zoom](#) will allow text messaging, but there is also an option for video and audio interaction.
- Facetime: With group [FaceTime](#), you can get on a FaceTime video or audio call with up to 31 other people at once with your Apple device.
- Video sharing: You can consider recording your service or meeting and posting on [YouTube](#), [Vimeo](#) or even [Facebook](#). No live interaction with this type of sharing.
- Phone: There is a service called [Free Conference Call](#) which will walk you through getting a conference call number and a pin to host. Simple solution for those who don't have appropriate technology.

*There are many questions to consider:

What type of service? Morning Prayer? Holy Eucharist? The entire, or just part of your service? Do you need to think about copyright licensing? How is audio captured from various locations in your church? Maybe consider a separate virtual on-line only service?

Live-Streaming

If you are considering a [live-stream](#) of your worship service or other alternative ways of using technology to meet people where they are, keep in mind embracing individual connections. Also think about how you can shift meetings and youth events from in-person gatherings to virtual experiences. Doing a live-stream allows for a real-time experience alongside and with an in-person gathering. If you have a smartphone and a decent wi-fi connection, you can live-stream. It won't be the best quality, but it can work.

Other Live-Streaming Options

<https://www.sundaystreams.com/features.shtml>

<https://www.boxcast.com/solutions/church-streaming>

Video Conferencing

You will need a video conferencing platform. Options I suggest are:

[Zoom](#), [UberConference](#), or [Cisco Webex Meetings](#).

Zoom is a widely used platform that is user-friendly and inexpensive, that our Diocese uses. The basic plan is free but has a forty-minute time limit per conference. The Pro plan for \$14.99 per month allows up to 100 participants, with unlimited time, and the ability to upgrade that plan based on your number of participants beyond 100.

Recording the service is also available. Another advantage to Zoom is that one can call in on a phone if a computer isn't available.

Copyright Law

US Copyright Law provides a Religious Service Exemption (Section 110 [3]). This exemption allows the performance of certain copyrighted works in a religious service without permission or royalty payments; but the exemption *does not* extend to live streams/webcasting. There are many questions concerning copyright, especially with recorded music and livestreaming. You can learn more from these sites.

[Caffeinated Church](#)

[Christian Copyright Solutions](#)

[Zoom US](#)

[Church Publishing](#) – (*The Rite Song does not cover streaming services. You would need to contact each of the copyright holders of the hymns you are using and obtain their permission for the use or try Onelicense.net.*)

Equipment

If you're interested in understanding the tools you will need to facilitate virtual services, here's a link: [audio/video tools](#)

Book of Common Prayer is online!

Find it [here](#)

I will be sending out a Zoom invitation next week in hopes of answering any technical questions you may have going forward with virtual Morning Prayer.

Understand there may be limitations to smaller parishes, especially with poor Wi-Fi connectivity. Suggest discussing it with your church leadership to come up with the best solutions. It can be a bit overwhelming moving into the virtual world. Take your time reviewing these resources, and possibly enlist someone in your parish who has a flair for innovative technology!