



Virtual Worship Resources Provided on Week 6 Clergy Call

Terrific Low-Tech Options

Many of churches may have limited internet access or other resources to do live-stream worship – and that's ok! Here are some other options listed in order of technical simplicity:

A conference call

Don't have a conference call service? No problem. There's even a free service: <https://www.freeconferencecall.com/>. You can deliver a sermon and the spoken liturgy. Even music can be provided by a musician through their phone. Email or call parishioners in advance to provide the phone number and a passcode. All anyone needs is a phone!

An audio-only recording

Some people find this takes the pressure off compared to a video or live stream.

- **Option 1 - Audacity:** To record to your computer, laptop or mobile device, you can use free, downloadable software from www.audacityteam.org. Then simply post the recording to your website. Here's a [good tutorial](#).
- **Option 2 – iPhone voice memo:** Use the voice memo feature on your iPhone then air drop the recorded file to your computer and post. (see air drop details in the section below). Some Android phones also come with pre-installed voice recording features apps.
- **Option 3 – A voice recorder:** Purchase a voice recorder from Amazon for just \$40-\$60. We recommend [this one](#) from Sony, which allows you to transfer the recording to your computer with a simple USB card.
- **Option 4 – Zoom recording:** Finally, you can use the Zoom software and record yourself; when you're done it automatically saves both a video and an audio-only file to your computer. Then post any of these audio recordings to your website.

Want to get fancy? Pair it with images or the service bulletin on a simple power point that has been emailed to participants in advance.

Pre-recorded video

You can pre-record your worship service then post the link to your website and/or email a private or public link to your parishioners. There are many ways to record a video:

1. **Using your iPhone** – you can use the camera app to record video. You'll need to stabilize the phone on a makeshift tripod or other surface. Because of the file

size, you'll need to air drop your recorded audio or video file to your computer. See option 1 in [this article](#).

2. **On a Mac** – PhotoBooth is a tool that lets you record a video of yourself, using the computer's built-in webcam and microphone, or an external mike if you plug one in. [Tutorial](#)
3. **On any computer** – again, doing a solo Zoom meeting and hitting the Record button is a great way to capture your sermon and/or service. Once you are done, hit the Stop button and leave the meeting and the program saves a video file to the computer for you to then upload to your website or social media page.

Live-streaming Virtual Worship Options

If you're exploring live-streaming platforms as part of your parish's worship, the following are popular ways to do so. It's important to keep in mind that streaming video, both for the presenter and for the viewers, requires a fair amount of internet bandwidth to avoid inadvertent freezing or dropping the call. Fortunately for one of these – Zoom – there is a phone dial-in option for those with spotty internet.

Facebook Live

Pros: a simple way to live stream. You can post a recording following the service. It provides limited interactivity with the viewers in the form of likes and comments. Here's a [step-by-step](#) and a [few more pointers](#).

YouTube

Also fairly simple. Provides limited interactivity with viewers in the form of comments. Here's a [short tutorial](#).

Zoom

This is the highest level of interactivity with viewers. Parishioners can all see and talk to one another and, now more than ever, that means a lot to folks. It does require some knowledge and a tech savvy assistant is helpful. It's free but the entry level price of \$15/month is worth it. The free version limits you to a 40-minute live stream.

Tips: Appoint a tech savvy staff member or volunteer to do the "hosting" – that is, the running of the live stream – so that clergy can focus on leading worship and preaching. Be sure to do some dry runs with a small group of staff and your techy volunteers.

Here are some great resources for using Zoom:

- [Free Zoom teaching](#) from the Zoom team. Start with "Getting Started with Zoom Meetings" (a 30-minute session geared for first-time users) and "Zoom Meetings" (a one-hour session covering the foundational elements of Zoom for those hosting meetings)

- [Going Virtual with God](#): In addition to pointers about working with Zoom, this [video](#) and [slide deck](#) from Mark Seip at St. Andrew's, Arlington, also gives great tips about: picking a location, getting good film quality, getting the word out to parishioners, online service bulletins and more.
- [Curated Zoom resource page](#): This document gives links to information on Zoom basics, types of accounts, equipment considerations and much more.
- [Connecting Zoom to Facebook Live](#): If your church is hosting worship on Zoom, you can connect that Zoom service to Facebook Live, making worship more accessible to those who want to worship with you. The Rev. Stacy Williams-Duncan, Rector of Little Fork, Rixeyville, walks you through this process in this [video tutorial](#).
- With Zoom, there are security considerations to think through, including how to handle interlopers via Zoom-bombing. [This article](#) has solid tips to manage this, or check out [Zoom's latest on best practices/settings for security](#). Generally speaking, we recommend these settings: participants are muted upon entry; participant video is on; participants cannot share screens; private chat is disabled during worship but enabled during coffee hour.