

## How does the Bishop's Appeal bring congregations closer together?

Beginning in March 2020, when the pandemic forced us to change how we lived our lives and worshipped at church, the Diocese of Virginia decided to make hybrid technology a focus for grants from the Bishop's Appeal.

**For two years we've made it a priority that proposals relieving immediate needs in the community brought on or exacerbated by the pandemic will be given priority, including technology for hybrid worship grantmaking. Now we've begun to see congregations report back on how these funds have made a difference.**

La Iglesia de Cristo Rey, Arlington used their grant to purchase a computer and Zoom license in order to continue to worship together when we were not able to worship in person. The Rev. Catherine Campbell, vicar of La Iglesia de Cristo Rey, explained, "The grant enabled us to reach so many parishioners through Facebook and Zoom. It was invaluable for the congregation during the pandemic."



Christ Church, Saluda extended internet connectivity into their worship space, integrated multiple cameras, and a switchable device to enhance the audio and video production capability that is sustainable by their members. They have now also set up an efficient filming, recording, and production procedure that is sustainable for their team and doesn't detract from the solemnity of the

service itself. After livestreaming for a year, they've built consistent viewership with many more people watching the recorded service and they anticipate this will continue to increase.

In 2022, grants were made for hybrid worship technology to three more churches. While each of the congregations proposed to meet the needs of their community in a different way our response is the same – the Bishop's Appeal will provide funds to the churches in order to help them navigate this new experience so that churches can best meet the needs of their members as well as preach the Gospel.