

**Re-Opening for Worship at Seekers Church:**  
**Considerations and Recommendations from Celebration Circle**

**Current Benchmarks for Re-Opening**

**When CDC and DC Govt. Guidelines allow us to:**

- 1. Attend in our worship space without being socially distant.**
- 2. When we can sing in person**
- 3. When we can have communion in our normal way, in-person.**

**Values/Considerations for Worship**

- 1. Focus should be on the people who are present for in person worship**
- 2. We want to remain connected with long distance people as well as members who are not able to attend due to age, disability or illness.**
- 3. We value participatory worship rather than performative. We want to be able to maintain that value as much as possible.**
- 4. Privacy and maintaining the ability to be intimate are high values for Seekers in prayers and in sermons. We are confessional people.**
- 5. The decision needs to take into account the concerns of the whole community**

**Current Timeline for Reopening:**

**September 2021**

### Vocabulary and Their Definitions

<b>Vocabulary</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>In Person</b>	<b>When we gather physically (in person) at 276 Carroll Street</b>
<b>Live Streaming</b>	<b>Using a camera which is connected to the internet to film what is happening in the worship space and transmits those images in real time to those who are watching.</b>
<b>Audio Recording</b>	<b>Only the voices and sounds are recorded</b>
<b>Video Recording</b>	<b>A recording of both picture and sound</b>
<b>Platform</b>	<b>The method by which images and sounds are transmitted so people can see them on the internet. YouTube, Zoom are currently the platforms we are considering.</b>
<b>Channel</b>	<b>A proprietary (we are assigned or given) location on an internet platform, such as YouTube or FB where livestream, and/or recorded materials can be uploaded and viewed.</b>
<b>Notes</b>	

## ALTERNATIVES FOR SEEKERS WORSHIP FOR RE-OPENING AFTER THE PANDEMIC SHUTDOWN

As of 4/26/21	1. WHOLLY IN PERSON SERVICES	2. PREVIOUS NORMAL: IN PERSON SERVICES/ AUDIO RECORDED AND/ OR VIDEO TAPED PORTIONS MADE AVAILABLE AFTER SERVICE *	3. IN PERSON SERVICES/ LIVE STREAMED BUT NOT INTERACTIVE WITH VIEWERS	4. IN PERSON SERVICES LIVE STREAMED ON ZOOM WITH LIMITED CAPACITY FOR INTERACTION WITH ZOOM VIEWERS AND OCCASIONAL FULLY ZOOM SERVICES FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER OR SIMILAR REASONS.	5.: IN PERSON PLUS ZOOM EVERY SERVICE	6. WHOLLY ZOOM SERVICES
<i>Sunday Worship</i>						
Includes people who cannot attend in person	No	Yes	No, when in person,  Yes, for Live Stream.	Yes, although with limited access when in person.  Yes, fully, for the occasional weather induced Zoom services.	Yes	Yes
Fully face to face	Only liturgist and preacher, others partially (side view)	Only liturgist and preacher, others partially (side view) in person and for recorded audience-if audio none and video only with the preacher or liturgist.	Only liturgist and preacher, others partially (side view) in person. No for Live Stream-only the preacher or liturgist will be fully visible	In person would be our regular seating where liturgist and preacher are fully visible and others only side views. Zoom viewers would not be visible to in person attendees.  Zoom would be set up in the back looking towards the liturgist and preacher, so they would be fully visible, but they would not be able to see faces of in person attendees.	<u>Difficult</u> and involves some expense to do. A screen would need to be hung on the street side wall so that those on Zoom can be seen by the congregation.	Yes
Easier for those with hearing problems	Partially; hearing assistive devices are available	For In-Person, partially; hearing assistive devices are available.  Dependent on the mics that are available. Generally, liturgist and preacher can be heard	For In-Person, partially; hearing assistive devices are available.  Dependent on the mics that are available. Generally, the liturgist and preacher can be heard clearly, prayers for in	For In Person, partially; hearing assistive devices are available.  For Zoom participants dependent on the mics that are available. Generally, the liturgist and preacher can be heard clearly, prayers for in person, recorded and live streaming, prayers and comments from the audience may be less audible	For In Person, partially; hearing assistive devices are available.  <u>Difficult</u> and involves some expense to	Yes

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		clearly, prayers comments from the audience will be less clear. Video is likely to be much the same or of lower sound quality	person, recorded and live streaming, prayers and comments from the audience may be less audible		include those on Zoom.	
Facilitates full congregational participation in liturgical responses	Yes	For those present in person- yes. For those who get audio/video later- no.	For those present in person- yes. For those watching live, cannot interact but may feel more connected than col. 2.	For those present in person- yes. For those watching live, they will not be able to interact fully, but may feel more connected than col. 2.	Those on Zoom would need to remain muted but could participate.	No
Facilitates full congregational participation in music	Yes	Yes, for in person. No, for those not present.	Yes, for those present. Partially yes for those watching live stream.	Yes, for those present. Partially yes for those watching on Zoom.	Those on Zoom must remain muted.	No
Facilitates full congregational participation in congregational prayers	Yes	Yes, for in person. No, for audio/video participants.	Yes, for in person. No, for those not present	Yes, for In Person.  For Zoom we may need to consider person who is monitoring Zoom as liturgist and they could read aloud in the service, prayers that have been sent by chat by remote viewers?	<u>Difficult</u> and involves some expense <sup>2</sup> to include those on Zoom. Liturgist would have to call on people to pray in turn to be inclusive.	Yes
Facilitates congregational reading of scripture	Yes	Yes, for in person. No for audio/video participants.	Yes, for in person.  No for audio/video/recorded participants.	Yes for in person.  May be possible but not clear technically how to do it.	<u>Difficult</u> and involves some expense. Liturgist would have to call on people to pray in turn to be inclusive.	Yes
Facilitates congregational responses to the sermon	Yes	Yes, for in person. No for audio/video participants.	Yes, for in person. Mostly no for those not present.	Yes, for in person. Mostly no for those not present. although may be able to read comments in chat?	<u>Difficult</u> and involves some expense <sup>1</sup> to do for those on Zoom.	Yes

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<i>Sunday Worship</i>						
					Liturgist would have to call on people to pray in turn to be inclusive.	
Facilitates word for the children	Yes	Yes, for in person. No for audio/video participants.	Yes, for in person. No for streaming participants.	Yes, for in person.  We may be able to do this but need to think through technical issues.	<u>Very difficult</u> and involves some expense <sup>1</sup> to do for those on Zoom.	Yes
Privacy Considerations	What happens in the service stays in the service.	Audio link is sent to Seeker's members only. The link is to our website.  Video would need to be up linked to another platform like You-Tube. Since it is recorded and live streamed, we have more control over what is shown, and we can edit things out as needed or not show the video if the preacher objects to it being live streamed.  Less concerns about self-editing as things can be taken out as needed.	We would need to link to You Tube since the video files will be too large to email to people directly or to support on our website.  The You Tube channel would be Seekers', but it is not as safe as Zoom from being hacked or for people gaining access to the videos. Considerations re: 1. Self-editing for prayers 2. Self-editing for sermons	With Zoom there are fewer privacy concerns, (Zoom has been increasing security) and we control the recordings.	Fewer privacy concerns since Zoom is a pretty safe platform (Zoom has been increasing security) and we control the recordings.	Fewer privacy concerns since Zoom is a pretty safe platform (Zoom has been increasing security) and we control the recordings.

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Copyright for Music	No additional steps need to be taken.	No additional steps need to be taken for audio but may need consideration for video. If only the sermon is recorded, then no problem.	You Tube. Live Streamed: may be considered a “performance,” additional payment for use for may be needed.	Zoom: considered “private” so no problem,	Zoom: considered “private” so no problem,	Zoom: considered “private” so no problem,
Costs/Time for CC	None/ Same Time as before for CC	None for the audio which we already do.  Video entails costs for camera and computer and a person to monitor the recording and a platform to view it on.  Some extra time for CC to edit video and audio and post it to platform.	We would need one video camera/computer set up at the back and one person to monitor it during the service and a computer to control things especially if we want different camera angles.  Person to monitor computer/ camera during the service.	We would need one video camera/computer set up at the back and one person to monitor it during the service. A person to monitor the Zoom service on the computer every Sunday.  CC would need to create power point for every season, coordinate with preacher and/ or Children’s Word if showing pictures or slides so those are available for online viewers?	See below for breakdown of equipment which would be around \$1,500-2,000 for equipment and then someone would need to be constantly monitoring Zoom during the entire service. This could be volunteer or paid position	
Intrusive to the Worship Experience	None	Virtually none for audio. Video is more intrusive.	Camera(s)/ Computer will be visible although placed in the back of the room.	One Camera/ Computer will be visible although placed in the back of the room.	Multiple cameras and mics will be visible. A screen would need to be hung on the street side wall so that those on Zoom can be seen by the congregation. During prayers the liturgist might need to call on the people on Zoom as they cannot	

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					see or hear clearly when to speak up.	
Ongoing Costs and Maintenance	Nothing extra	Nothing extra for audio. Video would add some extra costs.	Additional camera/ computer and person to run it if paid. You Tube costs.	Additional camera/ computer and person to run it if paid. Zoom costs.	Additional camera placed around the room, computer, Zoom subscription costs, person to run the Zoom service every Sunday if paid, and any maintenance or replacement as needed.	
<i>Special Services</i>						
Facilitates use of ashes on Ash Wednesday.	Yes	Yes, for in person. No for audio/video participants.	Yes, for in person. No for streaming participants.	Yes, for in person. No for streaming participants.	Yes, for in person. No for streaming or Zoom participants.	Everyone tears cloth.
Facilitates Maundy Thursday foot-	Yes	Yes, for in person. No for audio/video participants.	Yes, for in person. No for streaming participants.	Yes, for in person. No for streaming participants	Yes, for in person. No for streaming or Zoom participants.	No.

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<i>Sunday Worship</i>						
washing service						
Facilitates a wedding	Yes	Yes, for in person. Yes, for audio/video participants.	Yes, for in person. Yes, for streaming participants.	Yes, for in person. Somewhat for streaming participants -difficult to fully participate	<u>Difficult and</u> involves some expense <sup>1</sup> to do for those on Zoom.	Yes
Facilitates a funeral	Yes	Yes, for in person. Yes, for audio/video participants.	Yes, for in person. Yes, for streaming participants.	Yes, for in person. Somewhat for streaming participants- difficult to fully participate.	<u>Very difficult and</u> involves some expense <sup>1</sup> for those on Zoom..	Yes
Notes;						

<sup>1</sup>Difficult and increased cost: Would require a camera plus microphone or a laptop computer mounted on the lectern or in back of the room, numerous cameras and microphones throughout the congregation linked to a computer (costing around \$1,650 – or more in hardware,) and a person monitoring the zoom meeting.

<sup>2</sup>Difficult and increased cost: Same as footnote 1 . The liturgist would have to monitor the video screens and call on people to speak.



## Cost Proposal for Combined Live/Virtual Worship

There are many good reasons to continue offering online access to Seekers' worship even when it once again becomes possible for us to gather in person. As we have experienced, both people who once worshipped with us regularly and guests or newcomers as well as those who are ill are able to join the congregation, even over great distances.

### Practical Considerations

To make regular combined in-person/online worship possible, it will be best to have a dedicated, good quality computer system for the online portion, with a reliable, wired internet connection and a table near the audio cabinet for the person doing the Zoom hosting to sit at. The computer could be either a high-end laptop with a dock to accommodate several USB inputs, or a desktop with a large screen. While a laptop is less obtrusive, a large screen makes juggling screen shares, switching camera feeds, and other tasks a bit easier.

It would also be good to have at least two dedicated cameras, one for a wide view of the entire congregation for most of the service, and another for focusing on the preacher during the sermon. Here is a list of estimated costs in addition to the \$150 annual Zoom license for worship:

1. computer, keyboard, mouse	800.00
2. 2 webcams @ 400.00	800.00
3. monitor	500.00
4. ethernet cable - 100 ft	25.00
5. audio cable	25.00
6. misc	350.00-850.00
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Hardware total	\$2,500-3,000