We held our first virtual worship today via Facebook live, which was the simplest to set up on a quick timeline. It worked, but it is only a broadcast, and other than written comments and emoji’s, it is not interactive.

We would like to consider another platform for weekday services, something called Zoom. This is a tool that many businesses (in fact our own Diocese and Parish) use for daily operations.

Zoom will work on iPhone, Android, MAC and PCs. You will need to open a browser and point to www.zoom.us. It will ask you to sign up, and send an email to register. You will need to download the application from the GooglePlay or AppleApps, or use your web browser on your PC to reach the application. Please login to the site 30 minutes before the stated time for the first time to allow for some administrative work.

Zoom works best with a headphone/mic combo (like you use for phone calls on your device). It will also work fine with the internal speakers and mic if you are in a quiet space. If your device has a camera, you can decide whether to show your video on not. And you can mute your audio if it’s noisy where you are sitting.

Additionally, you can dial in just like a regular conference call from any phone. You’ll be able to hear and speak to the group, without the video.

Here are the call in numbers. The first is the number you enter in the app for the full interactive tool. The second is the call in number for telephones

417 531 024
https://zoom.us/j/417531024
1 929 205 6099 and enter code 417 531 024

Some tips on using Zoom:

Always allow 5+ minutes to get logged in (longer for the first time from any device).

Get settled comfortably before you call in, and try to have a way to prop your device so it is stable (recipe stands and plate holders work great).

When Zoom opens, it will have video shut off; decide if you want to be seen.

Be aware of your background. Just like photos, sitting in front of a bright window or door frame shows you as a silhouette.

Please mute yourself on audio unless you are speaking. Audio/Video mute are on the lower left of the screen. From a landline, *6 will turn mute on and off.

To leave the meeting, the button to ‘leave meeting’ is on the lower right corner. From the phone, simply hang up.