

Dear Friends:

The Ministry and Worship committee has been discussing how to provide collective worship opportunities that do not require going to the Meeting House.

On Sunday, March 22, 2020, there will be two alternatives for worship.

1. **Worship quietly at home**

Many Friends will worship from 11 am to 12:00 noon in their own homes, simultaneously with other members of BFM, as we did on March 15th. At noon, Eric Sterling from Ministry and Worship will send an email message using the [BFM list-serve](#) to invite Friends to share reflections from their worship, as well as joys and sorrows. This opportunity will remain open until there is a sense that all who wish to share have had the opportunity to do so. We did this on March 15th and it was a very meaningful worship and sharing for many of us. [Link for instructions to join the BFM list-serve.](#)

2. **Worship via Zoom in order to see and hear people**

We will also be offering the opportunity to use an internet communications tool, Zoom, to have a collective, shared worship, which will enable us to see and hear one another. Many Meetings for Worship are using this tool, and you do not need to have an account with Zoom in order to participate. Zoom can be accessed several ways: with a computer that has a camera and a microphone, a tablet, or a smart phone. There is also an option to call in from a regular phone. Using a regular phone means you will not be able to see the other members and we cannot see you, but you will still have full audio so can hear and share messages.

We recognize that some BFM Friends may not want to engage in this technology, which is why we are continuing with our silent worship and the use of the list-serve for reflections, and joys and sorrows at its conclusion.

- For those who are not familiar with Zoom, and wish to try it, there will be a period of time from 10:15 to 11:00, during which you can join the Zoom meeting and get help from a couple of Bethesda Friends who have agreed to be available.
- **If you have never used Zoom before, we recommend joining the Meeting well before 11:00 so technical difficulties can be solved ahead of time and we can settle into worship.**
- Once you feel clear that you are in the Meeting, you can leave it open on your device, and start worship at 11:00.
- Some basic instructions for getting into the Zoom meeting are below.

We on Ministry and Worship hope that these two ways of worshipping together will provide opportunities that feel right for you.

Sunday Schedule using Zoom

10:15 – 10:40 AM: Two Bethesda Friends who have agreed to make themselves available to help: Maya Manning – 484-798-8759 and Ken Haas – 617-512-6867. If you have difficulty with the instructions below and need assistance getting into the Zoom Meeting for Worship, you can call Maya or Ken during this time and they will help you.

10:40 AM: Maya Manning will lead a brief tutorial for anyone who is interested on how to use some basic Zoom functions such as mute/unmute and how to see who is speaking. *If you want to participate in the tutorial, join the Zoom meeting (instructions below) by 10:40 AM.*

11:00 AM : Meeting for Worship begins for all, whether you are sitting in silent worship at home or joining by Zoom. Doug Smith will open and close the Zoom Meeting for Worship, and will invite those participating to share joys and sorrows at the close of Meeting.

How to Join the Zoom Meeting from your Computer/Tablet/Smartphone

Please click on the following link any time after 10:15 AM: <https://zoom.us/j/444918914>.

1. Once you have done so, you will see a box that says, “Open with Zoom,” and “Allow.” Click on “Allow.”
2. Then you will be prompted to “open with computer video.” Click on that.
3. Then you will be prompted to “open with computer audio.” Click on that.

Once you have taken these 3 steps, you will be able to see and hear others.

At this point, if you are not familiar with Zoom, Maya will lead a tutorial at 10:40 AM to familiarize you with some of the helpful features.

(For those already familiar with Zoom, Maya Manning will start the meeting with everyone muted. This is important with a large group, in order to reduce background noise. If you would like to give a message, you can un-mute yourself to do so, and we request that you mute yourself again after your message. For those unfamiliar with Zoom, we will show you how to unmute yourself and then mute yourself again after your message.)

How to Join the Zoom Meeting from your regular (not-smart) phone

1. Dial 301-715-8592.
2. When prompted for the Meeting ID, enter 444 918 914 followed by #.
3. You will be prompted to enter your unique participant ID. Press # to skip this step and join the meeting.

At this point you have joined the Meeting for Worship. You will automatically be muted so that background noise does not interfere. If you wish to speak, press *6 on your phone to unmute yourself. Pressing *6 again will mute you once more.

In conclusion

Friends, we on Ministry and Worship hope you will join us in one of these ways, as we strive to keep our community connected and spiritually nurtured during these challenging times. Please feel free to reach out to any of us on the committee in the coming week to share your experiences and any suggestions you may have. We look forward to worshipping with you.