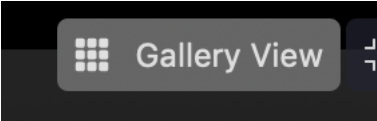
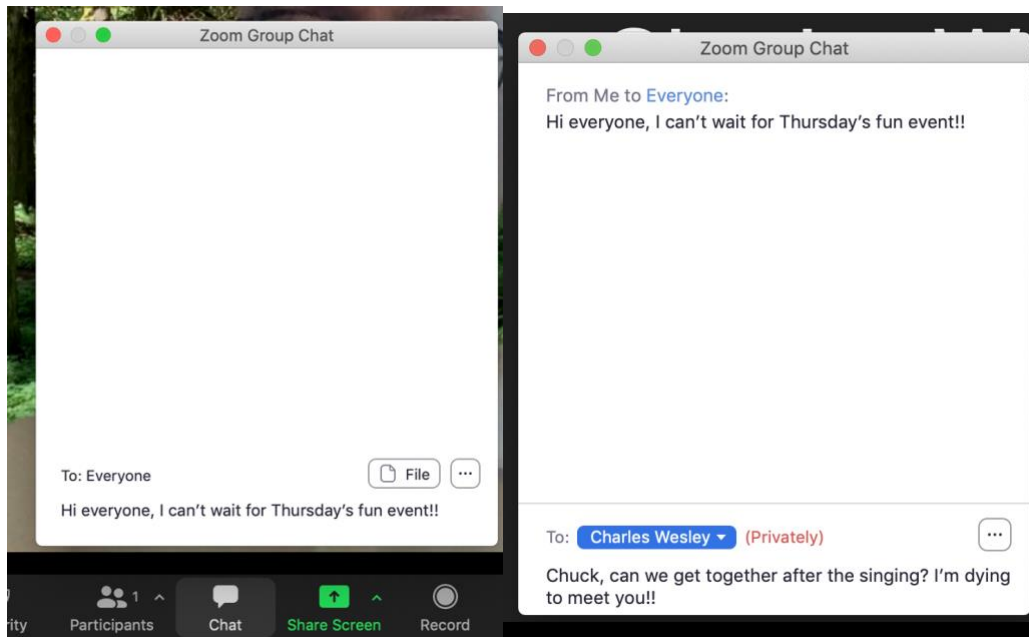


## Great Hymns of the Faith: Online! Tips for Making the Most of the Program

We're so glad you'll be joining us for one of our Great Hymns of the Faith at the "virtual" Alton L. Collins Retreat Center! This will be a fabulous time of celebrating congregational song together—but it will be even more fabulous if you are able to follow these tips:

- If you've never been on a Zoom call before, we strongly recommend that you do a trial run first. [This link gives you step-by-step instructions.](#)
- If you have any technical difficulties getting connected with Zoom on Thursday morning, email [director@collinsretreatcenter.org](mailto:director@collinsretreatcenter.org). Dan Benson will be monitoring that email; he'll get back to you with assistance.
- Once you're connected, it will be important to be able to see everyone—you'll be joined by around 75 or 80 other hymn lovers, and we want to "see each other's face" (in the words of a famous Charles Wesley hymn!). You can toggle back and forth between "gallery view" and "speaker view," but you probably want to choose "gallery view" in order to see lots of little squares on your screen, each with a face inside! If you're on a phone or a tablet, you may have to just tap on your screen in various places to find the icon that will change your view. On a computer, it is likely in the upper right-hand corner. 
- Computers vary, but you'll probably be able to see 25 squares on your screen—however, that won't be all of us! You should see an arrow about mid-way down on the right margin (or use the arrow key on your keyboard). This will allow you to scroll through the screens to see everyone. Your own picture plus the picture of whoever is talking (this will be Laura!) will always show up on whichever screen of squares you're viewing.
- You can imagine that 80 people all trying to talk at once would be pretty chaotic, so to solve that problem, your microphone will automatically be muted. This will also prevent random noises from barking dogs, stray spouses wandering through, or ringing doorbells or phones (people who spend a lot of time on Zoom are well-acquainted with all of these!). But never fear, even though your mic will be off, we do want your participation, so read on...
- Zoom has a chat feature that's a bit like sending text messages, only without having to type with your thumbs! You can send a message to everyone at the event ("Greetings from southern California!") or you can select just one participant and chat with that person ("Wow, Charles Wesley, I didn't know you'd be here!"). To read or send a chat message, look for the icon that's shaped like a cartoon speech bubble and click or tap on it. But when you send your chat message, make sure that you are sending it to the audience you intend: either "Everyone" or just to the specific person you want to talk with (there will be a red label marked "privately" when it's a private chat). Here are two examples:



- You can also use the chat to ask about any technical problems or questions during the event. Dan, along with Todd Bartlett (the executive director of Camp & Retreat Ministries) will both be keeping an eye on the chat box, and one of them will respond to your chat to help with your issue. But if you type in the chat box about a problem, be sure to be watching in the chat for the response! (Or just email Dan at [director@collinsretreatcenter.org](mailto:director@collinsretreatcenter.org))
- And finally, one more way to use the chat feature is to make a comment or question about the program itself (for instance, “My Episcopal hymnal uses a different tune for these words; why is that?” or “I think this hymn text has a strong eschatological bent!”). We definitely want to encourage participation, so feel free to make comments!
- Another way we’ll solicit participation is through the Zoom Poll. At the very end of the event, there will be a few quick questions that will each pop up on a Zoom Poll. All you do is click the answer you agree with, and Zoom will instantly tabulate the results. And we might even sneak in a polling question or two during the program itself, just to give you some practice.
- Singing together builds community; that’s certainly an important facet of the in-person Great Hymns series. And we won’t neglect community building just because we’re on Zoom! You’ll have an opportunity to spend a few minutes talking with other hymn lovers in a small group, which will give you a little taste of what it’s like when we gather in person, meeting new friends and discovering connections with one another.

Remember, your packet of music and the link to join the zoom event will arrive in your email box the day before the event, so be watching. In the meantime, please don’t hesitate to let us know if you have any questions.

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