

IN CASE OF TECH PROBLEMS THAT REQUIRE STALLING

Read from the white box. Instructions are in blue--don't read those aloud..

Smile at the congregation. Take a breath. Read slowly and with a spirit of fun:

Once upon a time, your Sunday service team would carefully plan and rehearse to make sure that the service had as few glitches as possible. This was how we expressed care for our community—by giving you as smooth an experience as we could.

In this new world, that's often not possible. And in this new world, our GLITCHES are an expression of our care for our community.

We don't believe that all bad things happen for a reason. But glitches like this one? They *definitely* happen for a reason. They happen because we are trying something hard—really hard. Multi platform worship is beyond our level of comfort and expertise. But we do it anyway.

We do it because we so desperately want to be together, and we believe that peoples' needs for in person community are valid and important. We do it because even as some of us gather, others cannot be here in the room with us—and we want them to be included in congregational life.

And so I encourage you to think of moments like this one more than just an unfortunate glitch. What we are doing now—this Sacred Pause For the Sorting Out of Technology... It's not a pause in our worship service, it is a *part* of our worship.

Worship is an expression of values. And in *this* moment, we are expressing the value of inclusion before perfection. Of reaching beyond our comfort in service of our shared community.

We leave no-one behind. And what we are doing right now... *It is a practice*. In every sense of the word.

I invite you to share three breaths with me, as we relax into this moment.

Smile at congregation, lead them three breaths, and smile at them again. Check in with tech person. If more time is needed, read poem on reverse.

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FOR FURTHER STALLING:

Read from the white box. Instructions are in blue--don't read those aloud..

Origin *By Rev Lynn Ungar*

In the beginning the world
was a great big mess.

To hu v' bo hu is the original Hebrew.
Topsy tervy, the grandest celestial
mish mosh of time and space.

Creation is the imposition of order:
light from dark, day from night
water from air and so on.

Sometimes it works.
Sometimes your carefully crafted
plans tick down the rails of your decisions,
running neatly on time.

Sometimes not.
Creation is a blessing.
The careful construction of beauty
and the delicate elucidation of truth
is a blessing.

Bending this malleable world
toward justice and peace
and your vision of what could be
is a blessing.

But. The nature of the universe is chaos.
Never forget where you came from.

Smile at congregation. If more time is needed, say:

And now, in this pause, I invite you to take a moment and greet the people around you. For those of you on zoom, take a moment to send a chat message to someone you know or have yet to meet.

Then consult with your worship team and decide next steps.

About the authors:

Lynn Ungar is a UU Minister, Religious Educator, and Author. You can find more of her poetry (which is FANTASTIC for worship) at LynnUngar.com

Liz James runs Mirth and Dignity, a UU not for profit focussing on Digital Ministry. She also co-hosts a UU humour podcast called "The Cracked Cup" with Rev Anne Barker, and has a Digital-Ministry-how-to podcast called The Reacher's Handbook.



Interested in humour based worship resources? Check out UUHystericalSociety.com for readings, full downloadable services, and more.