

Pride 2023

During PRIDE, now more than ever, it is important to create an inclusive worship space for your lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/aromantic (LGBTQIA+) siblings in Christ. While COVID-19 has shifted daily experiences, the way that we relate to one another, and work and social lives, it is also a time to be creative in the ways that we gather with one another through faith. Here are just a few ways to live out your welcome if you are celebrating PRIDE season online this year:

- Communicate in your welcome or introduction that your faith community is LGBTQIA+ friendly or Reconciling in Christ (RIC)
- Begin your service by reading your Welcome Statement
- Include a link to your Welcome Statement in your bulletin or on your slides
 - Encourage ministers, clergy, or rostered leaders to wear a PRIDE themed stoles or vestments
 - Include LGBTQIA+ affirming symbols in your worship spaces or within your slides (i.e. Pride flags or the RIC logo)
- Consider including LGBTQIA+ people in your Prayers of the people; ReconcilingWorks has created some for you at [RWKS.org/PRIDE](https://www.reconcilingworks.org/PRIDE)
- Emphasize the welcome and belovedness of those who are LGBTQIA+ in your liturgy, especially at the table;
- Include pronouns on screen names as well as with introductions
 - If using Zoom, individuals can rename by either clicking the three dots on their image, or by finding their name and clicking more.
 - It can be helpful to teach at the beginning of worship or gatherings how to rename and why we use pronouns
- Incorporate LGBTQIA+ voices in leadership of the service
- Pay attention to language of hymns, prayers, and liturgies around reinforcing binary language; some language to be mindful of include
 - Brothers/Sisters, Men/Women; and replace with
 - Siblings, Beloveds, Folx, People, etc.
- Integrate music that is inclusive in its language as well as its theology
- Consider what messages are communicated implicitly, including but not limited to who is speaking, and what voices are being represented and unrepresented
- Reach out and seek pulpit supply from LGBTQIA+ pastors, rostered leaders, and seminarians

ReconcilingWorks has created a variety of resources and opportunities for you and your faith community to get engaged in PRIDE festivities virtually, including a PRIDE worship resource, children's activities, shirts, and more! Click the links below, or check out the website to learn more at: [ReconcilingWorks.org/PRIDE](https://www.reconcilingworks.org/PRIDE)

