

# SA WORSHIP

MAGAZINE 

JUNE 2020



## LEADING WORSHIP DURING SOCIAL DISTANCING

### DIGITAL RESOURCES

- Music on Zoom calls
- Smart device recording
- Facebook worship
- Rhythms of online worship

introducing

SAWMS  SEARCH

ISSUE NO. 7

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Like many of you, I have been working from home. "Social distancing" and "isolating" are terms that are all too familiar and I would just love to spend some time with friends and family who live outside my home.

The situation we find ourselves in is challenging and difficult for many reasons, but I do believe that there can be a silver lining found during this time.

I am working from home, as is my wife, which is a blessing. My two children are trying to do schoolwork and not burst with energy because of being stuck at home. So this is not going to be an article about all the things we should be doing and catching up with while we have "more time" because, I think, this is not the reality for a lot of the people reading this.

The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed us out of our routines and into a space where our worship services are mostly digital. Going beyond our comfort zone is a healthy thing for us to do as leaders but we usually do this in small increments and not in the all-encompassing fashion that we have had to because of the current restrictions we find ourselves serving in.

A lot of us have moved past the initial panic of "what do we do now?" and we are thinking ahead. Maybe we are thinking about how to get things back to "normal." While it is natural to want to return to the familiar and cherished experiences that we have craved in our isolation, I believe that this is an extremely rare opportunity.

As leaders, the opportunity to step back and completely stop is very difficult to come by. We are busy, with good things and tedious things, that take up our time and ability to evaluate all we are doing. How often do we have the opportunity to think about what we would like "normal" to be? If we are looking for a silver lining from this situation, I believe that this is the brightest of all.

I do not want to comment on your ministry but here are a few questions for you to think about as you ponder what "normal" needs to be.

Was what we normally did in the past, the best we could offer in worship to God? What things frustrated us about the things we normally did?

What was a normal part of our ministry that brought us closer to God?

How did I behave normally as a leader? Is there anything that I should change?

How would I normally have planned for the future, or encouraged and grown other leaders to serve?

When did I normally stop to thank the people that I minister with for the way that they serve?

What was my normal routine for feedback and evaluation from the congregation that I serve?

Was my normal devotional life growing and feeding my faith?

Maybe this is our best opportunity to think about:

**What do we want normal to be in our ministry?**

# SAWM SING SEARCH

The logo for The Salvation Army, featuring a red shield with a white border. Inside the shield, the words "THE SALVATION ARMY" are written in white, with "THE" at the top, "SALVATION" in the middle, and "ARMY" at the bottom.

This is a call out to Salvationist songwriters. At SA Worship Magazine, we want to hear from you! We want to energize and revitalize our corps with NEW worship songs written by Salvationists for Salvationists. These can be new melodies put to the rich lyrics of our Songbook or totally original content.

Here is what you need to know:

Submit songs to  
[simon\\_gough@can.salvationarmy.org](mailto:simon_gough@can.salvationarmy.org)  
by  
Friday September 4, 2020

Submissions can be written music  
and/or audio recordings.  
Written music is not a necessity.

Lyrics must be sent as a PDF  
or Word document.

Include your name and contact information-  
as well as your Corps, Division  
and Territory.

In our last edition, Commissioner Floyd Tidd said that:

*"We, as a movement, have been gifted with music and we have always been a contemporary music worship movement even from the earliest days of using, or taking, contemporary tunes and putting words that give the message of gospel, words of devotion, against those tunes. Instrumentation that was contemporary to the day was part of our worship and embraced from the beginning within The Salvation Army. I think we stand on the brink of an opportunity to embrace all of that even further."*

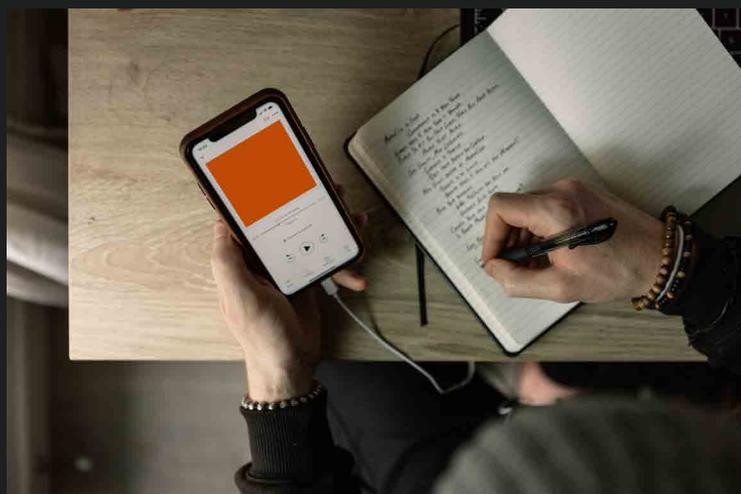


At SA Worship Magazine, we agree with the Commissioner and, in an attempt to "embrace all of that even further," SA Worship Magazine is going to be running a song search. The songs we are looking for are ones that can be used in our corps and ministry units all over the Army world. The Salvation Army is involved in so many different ministries around the world and worship looks different in all of those places. There are also things that bind us as The Salvation Army, no matter where we are. Commissioner Tidd made mention of what will help guide our selection of

songs:

*"I think that we need to continue to encourage writers, Salvation Army writers, who understand a Wesleyan Salvation Army perspective on Scripture and the world in which we live, and the mission that is uniquely Salvation Army."*

We want songs that point people to praise and worship God but are also statements of our commitment to His mission. This is what some of our great Salvation Army songs of the past have included, and although we want to bring the melodies and instrumentation into a modern setting, we want that passion for the "Heart to God and Hand to Man" that has been evident in our musical heritage to remain.



*"Saying [in our worship music]' God, we are committed to Your mission.' This becomes a sung commitment back to God rather than just a praise of God."*

Songs that are selected will have their music:

- typeset and published
- recorded
- made freely available for anyone to download and use at [www.saworshipmagazine.com](http://www.saworshipmagazine.com)

# BE A STUDENT OF THE WORD

*“True knowledge begins with spiritual knowledge, knowledge of God, and that is to be found in God’s revelation of Himself in the Bible and in Jesus’ own life and work, the work of the Savior.”*

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” The adjective diligent is described in the Collins English Dictionary as being “careful and persevering in carrying out tasks or duties.” As worship leaders in the Salvation Army, diligence is something we are familiar with, although we may not pay attention to it. Despite it all, spiritual knowledge needs to be a fundamental part of our daily walk with the Lord. If God’s Word is not being revealed to us by His Spirit, so that transformation into Christ’s likeness continually takes place, how can we lead others in that same journey? How can we share and lead others in what we do not know?

As God’s servants at the corps, we must be prepared every week to ‘rightly divide the word of truth.’ That spiritual process is developed as we study God’s inerrant truth. If we are slothful in studying God’s Word privately – a daily seeking of God’s truth, being revealed to us by His Holy Spirit – we are not practicing spiritual diligence. God’s Word must be read, meditated upon, journaled, rightly interpreted through the illumination of His Spirit, and memorized. Dr. Melvin Worthington, professor of Worship Studies at Liberty University, indicates the importance of being a ‘student of the Word.’

Study of the Scriptures is very important to the child of God. If you’re going to worship properly, you must know the Scriptures; it is suggested that you read the scriptures, reflect on the Scriptures, research the Scriptures, record the Scriptures on a daily journal, you receive the Scriptures by faith, you respond to the Scriptures, you remember the Scriptures, you retain the Scriptures, you review the Scriptures, you reproduce the Scriptures, and you rely on the Scriptures.

If we are going to lead God’s people in Biblical worship at the corps, how much more is this truth relevant for us. “Since worship leaders are those who lead the people of God in encountering Him in corporate worship, then above all things, we ought to study Him.” Dr. Robert Morgan, author of *Mastering Life Before It’s Too Late*, adds, “In order to be a Biblical worship leader, then it’s important for us to be a Biblical Christian, which means we are Christians who are personally committed to the study of the Bible.” Our understanding of who He is and who we are in Him is displayed in the songs we choose to sing, the Scriptures we read, and the prayers we offer to our Heavenly Father in corporate worship. God desires that we remain consistent in our pursuit of knowing Him in a personal way, and the study of such knowledge is what we know as theology.

As God's storytellers, we have to be theologians at heart! We are charged with sharing the whole counsel of God from Genesis to Revelation, and that will not be possible unless we are students of the Word. It is not enough to be talented and skillful in our instruments or creative abilities when leading our corps family in corporate worship. God's Word must be known in the depths of our being; "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Author Matt Boswell notes, "Worship leaders are singing theologians. We communicate truth with poetry and verse; we organize doctrine with rhythm and rhyme; we proclaim the good news through melody and harmony. With every stanza of every hymn, we are articulating and teaching what we believe, intentional or not...the commitment to be a worship leader is a commitment to theological growth." Thus, worship theology is a subject matter that music and creative arts local officers in The Salvation Army need to invest personal time and resources in studying. Through our search, God's nature will be revealed; His character, attributes, His perfect plan, purpose, and provision for Creation in a sinful state will be disclosed. Worship theology will show us who we are and why we exist as His image-bearers. It will give us the proper, foundational perspective for our Christian worldview in contrast to other secular worldviews. It will help us lead our corps family in Biblical worship.

Have you ever given it a thought? As music and creative arts local officers, why do we do what we do? With what knowledge do we do what we do? Here is an even more direct question: Are we studying God's Word diligently and daily to minister God's revelation of Himself to our corps family? We are living in uncertain times as a result of a health pandemic of global proportions. However, this involuntary Sabbath is an excellent opportunity for us to reassess our diligence as God's Kingdom messengers. We have been entrusted with the ministry and message of reconciliation (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19) that we read in the Scriptures. Praise be to God that the Holy Spirit gives us wisdom and creativity to interpret the gospel through music and creative arts.

In 2014, the Pew Research Center surveyed 35,071 adults and found that only 35% read Scripture weekly, not even daily. Although this was taken six years ago, do you fall in that dire category today? Ask yourself, have I been seeking to study this book of instruction continually? Have I been meditating on it day and night so that I am sure to obey everything written in it? True knowledge of God requires it. Therefore, dig into God's Word. Ask God's Holy Spirit to incline your heart to thirst for His Word. Set time aside to encounter God through His revealed Word, to hear from our Saviour Jesus Christ. Next time, we will dig a little deeper into the significance of the meaning of knowing God. Stay safe and keep on trusting God's unchanging hands.

**WRITTEN BY ADELY CHARLES**

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- 9/ JOSHUA 1:8 (NLT – PARAPHRASED)

***“There are no unique postures and times and limitations that restrict our access to God.”***

***Ravi Zacharias***

# DIGITAL RHYTHMS OF WORSHIP

Miramar Salvation Army in New Zealand has taken a different approach from the online Sunday service and created a digital hub for their congregation. Kris Singh has been instrumental in developing the online resource for the corps. When asked about what they had put together, Kris said:

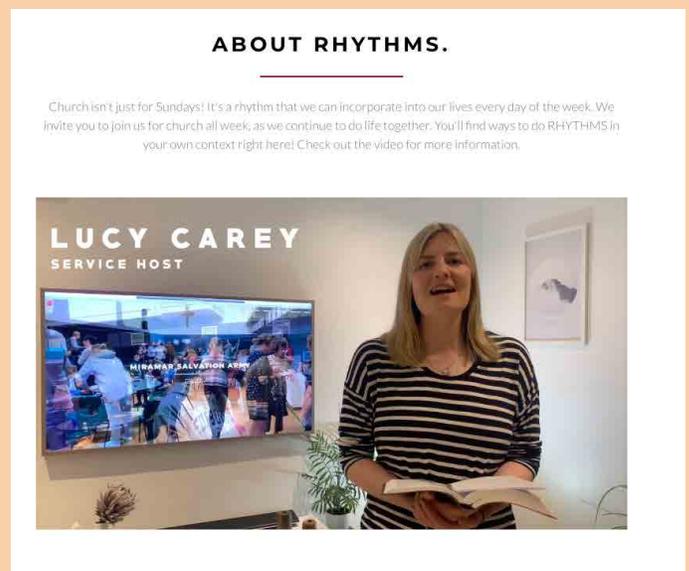
"I'm quite proud of what my corps have done to connect with our people throughout the week. We decided that rather than trying to stream a Sunday morning experience, we'd hone in on what makes Sundays special for our people, and try and make church something we do during the week. We called it "Rhythms" check it out here:

<http://miramarsalvationarmy.co.nz/rhythms/>

***"We decided that rather than trying to stream a Sunday morning experience, we'd hone in on what makes Sunday special for our people, and try and make church something we do during the week."***

We use a combination of different platforms and methods to connect our people to what's important to them in a church gathering. The ones we publish publicly are "Meditation Monday" and "Worship Wednesday." I think this is a model that can easily be adapted for other corps. We know that the Samoa region has adopted Rhythms quite successfully for their people."

At SA Worship Magazine, we want to share more initiatives and creative thinking such as this so that corps and leaders can continue to learn from each other. If you have something you think is worth sharing, please get in touch with us.





## ONE WAY TO MAKE YOUR SMART DEVICE RECORDINGS BETTER

Social distancing protocols mean that we are not able to meet in our churches for worship. Worship services have moved online and worship leaders and teams are recording themselves leading worship and posting to social media and websites for their congregations. You may want to do the same, but you think to yourself; I don't have a studio or the money to buy all the gear. You don't necessarily need it all.

A lot of people are recording on their smart phones, and if this is the way that you can resource your community with worship, then that is a good start. While the video quality is often out of our control, with variable internet speeds and connections, the sound quality is often poor through a phone. The microphones built into smart phones are very small and intended to clearly pick up subjects who are talking into them from very close range. If you want to help with the quality of your recordings, the first thing you can get is a microphone. Adding just a microphone gives you the biggest return on your investment for producing videos from your smartphone. You can also add a tripod, lenses or lights to further enhance your recording.

There is a huge variety of microphones that you can use to get better quality audio into your phone. A lot of them clip onto the phone or a mount in which the phone sits. There are a few that have been highly recommended in many of the sites that SAWM researched.

On the pricey end, there is the **Shure MV88**.



On the more affordable end for good quality, try the **iRig Mic Cast**.

We are not going to review these microphones here because we don't have access to them, but there are plenty of reviews online.

These mics are specifically designed for phone use but you can use any microphone designed for use on video cameras or DSLR cameras if you have TRS to TRRS converter.

When you look at the plug for your headphones you can see that it has three rings. Most camera microphones only have two. This converter, the **Rode SC4**, can allow you to plug a camera microphone into your smart phone (you may need other adapters eg. Lightning bolt to 3.5mm for apple phones).

Adding an external microphone to your smartphone recording setup is a cost effective way to improve the overall quality of your recordings. There are a huge range of products available, so dig around and find something you like.





# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

In this interview, Josh Turner talks to Carlos Navarro (the newest member of The Singing Company) about his journey from learning an instrument to becoming a leader in his division, and now becoming a member of a territorial worship team.

## **Who influenced you early on? Who taught you to play guitar?**

My Dad was my biggest influence. I remember from an early age that he was always leading worship at our church, and I wanted to play with him. When I was around age eight or nine, my Mom gave me a guitar, but I didn't really have anyone to teach me. YouTube really didn't exist like it does today. My Dad played guitar and piano but I only saw him play piano on Sunday, as he worked weekdays from five a.m. to eight p.m. When he got home, he would be too tired to teach me. After months of waiting and asking someone to teach me, I discovered that my Mom knew some basic guitar. She pulled out an old book of handwritten lessons and from that book I spent the next two years playing three chords: D, G, and A, without anyone to tell me what to do next.

## **How did you get started playing in your worship team?**

After my first two years of playing guitar, I began to watch one of the members of our worship team at church. I studied how and what he played and would try and memorize everything. Then during the week, I would try to remember and imitate what he had played. As our worship team began to grow, my Dad would allow me to play along at practice, but from another room. I did that for two more years. So, after two years of playing D, G, and A chords, and then two years of mimicking from a back room, I finally got my big chance to play with our church worship team when our normal guitar player was ill and couldn't come. That was really my first taste of being in a worship team. It wasn't easy. People didn't see the hours and years that I put into practicing guitar. For me, my guitar wasn't a hobby. It became a place where I met with God. When I struggled, I would come back to the songs that we played in the worship team to help me connect with God.

## **What made you want to be part of the Territorial Worship Collective (TWC)?**

My first musical experience with The Salvation Army was attending the Central Music Institute in 2017. The amazing thing about that week was that I had never seen so many young people involved in leading worship. Another occasion that influenced me was our division's monthly prayer and praise nights.

Seeing worship bands at both of those events made me want to be a part of something that involved other youth who shared my passion for music. When the Territorial Worship Collective started, I was excited for the opportunity to get involved with youth my age from across the territory. I learn from, and with them. I like that the focus of the Territorial Worship Collective (TWC) is to train up worship leaders from all across our territory.

### **What did you learn during your time with TWC, that prepared you to be a leader in your division?**

I had never led a group before and was comfortable playing my guitar from the back of the band. So when I was asked to lead for the first time, I tried to remember some of the principles that you, Josh, had taught me at CMI and with TWC. I thought about what Eric Himes has done with The Singing Company and tried to model that with my group. Concepts like how to manage the group, how to become “arrangers,” how to prepare to teach a song, and how to mentor the people in your group. These are some of the things I’ve taken to the group I lead monthly for divisional prayer and praise nights.

### **What are you looking forward to about ministry with a territorial group like The Singing Company?**

The Singing Company is an amazing blending of musicians of Asian, African, Hispanic, and Caucasian descent. It really doesn’t matter what we look like or what we listen to; we are all a part of the Body of Christ. This demonstration of diversity extends to the music also. We can worship in a variety of ways. It can be as a praise band of piano, guitar, drums and bass, a songster group, a brass band, or whatever type of musical group you have. I think the thing I look forward to the most is leading worship with a diversity of expression, and bringing this to the congregation.

### **Do you have any advice for people just starting out?**

Don’t give up. You may spend two years learning three chords and that’s okay! Or you may spend two years practicing in the back of the hall. Don’t give up. God will use your gifts when the time is right. You may feel like you are spending hours and hours doing the same thing over and over, and you may feel like you are not getting better. . . don’t give up! Most importantly, keep the focus off yourself, making sure you are dedicating your gifts and talents to the Lord.



# OPTIMIZING YOUR AUDIO FOR LIVE MUSIC ON



Many of us are using Zoom for online gatherings and meetings. Some of us are also using Zoom for corporate worship services. In its default settings, Zoom is optimized to provide great quality audio for speech. When we get into playing live music on a Zoom call, we can have a more difficult time getting the same quality output.

This is due to the compression and noise reduction that Zoom puts on your audio after it comes into the microphone. As mentioned earlier, the default settings are for speech but they can be changed to make a big difference to how your live music sounds.

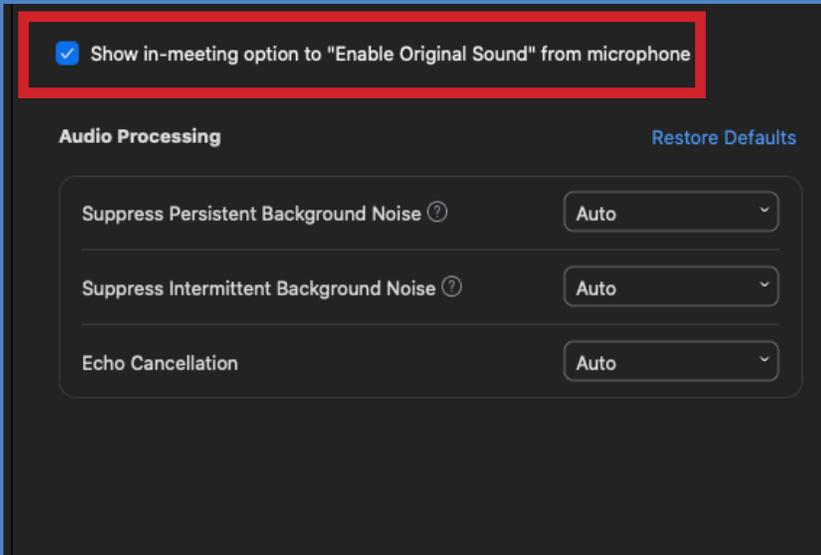
In the bottom left of your Zoom call feed is the audio option. Click on the arrow next to the microphone and select Audio Settings.

Then make sure the Automatically Adjust Volume is NOT checked.

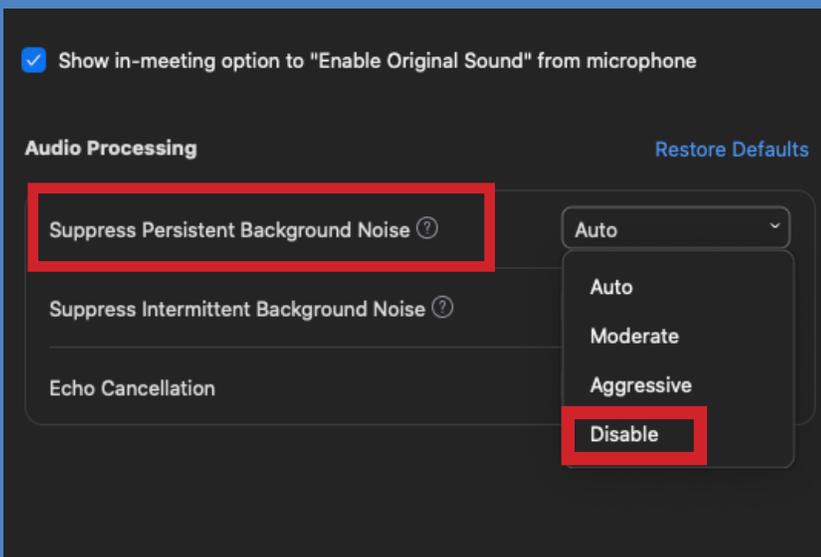
You can now select how much signal comes into the Zoom call when you are playing music. You want to make sure there is not too much input signal coming into the computer or it will distort. You can use the slider marked input volume below the indicator bar to manage your gain but make sure you test this before you start playing.

A composite image showing the Zoom audio settings interface. On the left, a dark overlay menu is shown with options for selecting a microphone and speaker. The 'Audio Settings...' option at the bottom is circled in red. On the right, the 'Settings' window is open to the 'Microphone' tab. The 'Input Level' indicator bar is highlighted in red, showing a green bar. Below it, the 'Input Volume' slider is also highlighted in red. The 'Automatically adjust microphone volume' checkbox is unchecked and highlighted in red. At the bottom right of the settings window, the 'Advanced' button is highlighted in red. The bottom of the Zoom call window shows icons for 'Mute', 'Stop Video', 'Security', and 'Pa'.

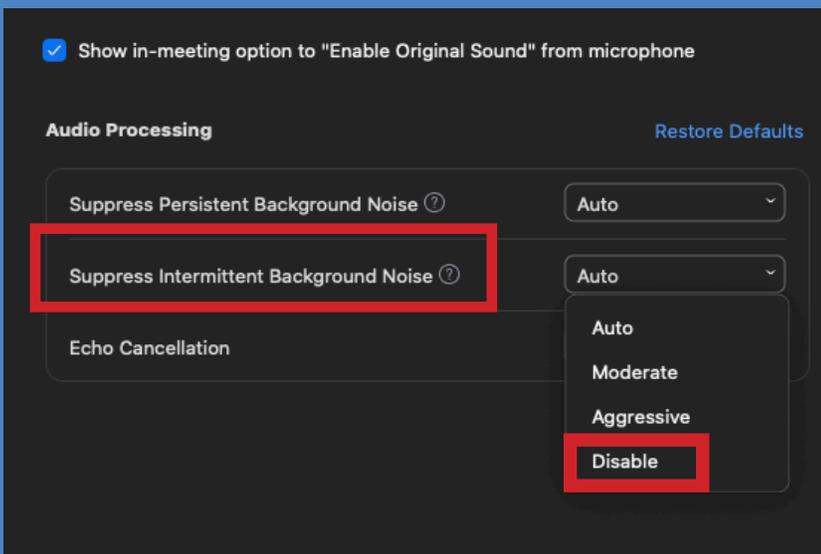
Then go to the bottom right of the Audio Settings box and select Advanced. When you have selected Advanced, you will do three things:



1. Make sure the Show in Meeting option is checked.



2. In the box next to Suppress Persistent Background Noise, click the down arrow and select Disable.



3. In the box next to Suppress Intermittent Background Noise, click on the down arrow and select Disable.

With these settings, you should be able to get a more true sound from your microphone and not have the internal processing that Zoom applies to optimize speech.

Guitar Players of the Salvation Army

Private group

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**TONIGHT!**  
 THE SINGING COMPANY  
 presents:  
 AN ONLINE HYMN SING  
 With Eric Himes





# WORSHIP ON

As worship services go digital, here is a guide to where you can find the latest offerings from some of the territorial worship teams around the world.



**The Singing Company** from the USA Central Territory has probably been the most active, hosting regular online hymn sings.

<https://www.facebook.com/SingingCompany/>



From the Netherlands and recently featured in SAWM, **Boundless** have posted two professional videos that look and sound great. Definitely worth watching!

<https://www.facebook.com/BoundlessWorshipNL/>



**Guitar Players of the Salvation Army** (a page on Facebook) is worth checking out as many worship teams from the UK are posting weekly worship songs here. It also includes a lot of discussion and sharing of resources.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/265729513948420/>



**Unbound** (USA Eastern Territory) has released two videos in this time of lockdown which are part of a greater worship playlist on their Facebook page. *Cornerstone* and *Risen* are the two newest songs but this is a playlist that is full of great tracks, including some from their rooftop worship night.

<https://www.facebook.com/unboundtsa/>



**NEON** (Canada and Bermuda Territory) have launched their Smartphone Sessions. A cover of *Raise a Hallelujah* and *Great Are You Lord* are posted. Keep a look out for more to come.

<https://www.facebook.com/NEON-Worship-1423025797734874/>



**transMission** (USA Southern Territory) has released the first track from their upcoming album. The lyric video for their original song *Unfailing God* is now available. In true transMission style, you can already find the chart, multitrack stems and instrument tracks for this song at their new website.

<https://www.facebook.com/satransmission/>



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