

The Freehof Institute of Progressive Halakhah

**Progressive Halakhah Live**

The High Holidays: Live or Recorded?

August 5, 2020

*Presenters:*

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Cantor Yvon Shore, Director of Liturgical Arts, HUC-JIR, Cincinnati  
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During this coronavirus pandemic, many synagogues, particularly non-Orthodox ones, have moved their worship services online. The technology that allows us to do that presents some interesting opportunities and challenges to the rabbis, cantors, and lay leaders responsible for organizing those services. The ability to pre-record and to play back sections of the liturgy is particularly useful to us as we try to create and produce aesthetically satisfying worship experiences for our communities. This is especially true as we think about planning services for the *yamin noraim*, where our musical arrangements in particular become more complex. That's the *opportunity* afforded by this technology. The *challenge* is to the traditional Jewish conception of the nature of *t'filah b'tzibur*, of what it means to daven together as a community. In what follows, Leon and I will focus briefly upon some aspects of this challenge. Our goal is not to tell anyone that they should or shouldn't pre-record parts of the HH liturgy but simply to help us all think and talk about this question Jewishly and not simply aesthetically. And by "Jewishly," of course, we mean *halakhically*, since *halakhah* is the language through which Judaism traditionally has defined such things as *t'filah* and *t'filah b'tzibur*.

[Video](#)

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