



International Council of Christians and Jews
2021 Virtual Conference
When all this is over, how do we want the world to be different?

WORKSHOP

Monday, June 21, 03:00 p.m. UTC:

ADJUSTING RELIGIOUS PRACTICE DURING THE PANDEMIC

Ana Petrache, Allyson Zacharoff

The COVID-19 pandemic has influenced all human activity. Its effects are especially felt for such socializing events as religious and spiritual practices, rituals, and festivals – due to social distancing and lockdowns, many of them were unable to take place for months and were either moved online or cancelled altogether. Such adjustments had to be made across all faiths and religions and in this workshop we will present some case studies about *how* the pandemic has affected and changed the way people live their religiosity in Christian and Jewish communities.

For many lay people, the lockdown offered the experience of becoming the master of ceremony for individuals' own religious practice. This workshop will offer some discussion about home rituals and how they were performed in place of public prayers, and will also consider how clergy/congregations as well as individuals adapted. We will also focus on the relationship between technology and religious rituals. Finally, we will wonder *if* such adjustments will have a lasting effect in the future.

We intend to use breakout rooms and larger discussion during this conversation. The breakout rooms will provide an opportunity for workshop participants to discuss and deepen some of their answers to the above questions, share the kind of attitude they have themselves or they have seen among others in reaction to the changes necessitated by the pandemic (hope, loneliness, increased introspection), and then participants will gather again in the larger group and present thoughts back in the plenary.

Petrache, Ana

Italy, Dr Ana Petrache, a Russell Berrie Fellow in Interreligious Studies at The Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, was Adviser at State Secretary for Religious Affairs in Romania (2017-2019) and Researcher at a Research Institute of the University of Bucharest (2016-2017)

Zacharoff, Allyson

USA, Allyson Zacharoff, current rabbinical student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., a Russell Berrie alumna, she blogs about her interfaith life on christmasandkreplach.blogspot.com