

Temple Emanuel Virtual B'nai Mitzvah Details and Logistics

The clergy team of Temple Emanuel is excited to continue celebrating the important moment of Bar and Bat Mitzvah during these strange and difficult times. Through our virtual B'nai Mitzvah ceremonies, we remain committed to the values that ground and inform our entire B'nai Mitzvah process – joy, personalization, and a deep connection to our history and tradition. Below are some of details of the process for our virtual B'nai Mitzvah ceremonies. As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to Cantor Sacks – sacks@emanueldenver.org – Steve Brodsky – brodsky@emanueldenver.org – or Patricia Lackner – lackner@emanueldenver.org.

Guest Information

Guests are invited to attend our virtual B'nai Mitzvah ceremonies by watching the streamed ceremony. We have two viewing options:

- Temple Emanuel Denver Website Channel 2 – <https://www.emanueldenver.org/watch-live-2>
- Temple Emanuel Denver B'nai Mitzvah Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Emanuel-Denver-Bnai-Mitzvah-103895837984920>

The Temple Emanuel Denver Website offers a viewing experience without a Facebook login but does not include an opportunity to comment during the ceremony or read comments by others. The Temple Emanuel Denver B'nai Mitzvah Facebook Page includes the ability to comment and read comments by others during the ceremony itself.

SUGGESTED TEXT FOR INVITATIONS (just copy and paste)

Join us for a live-streamed ceremony as we celebrate STUDENT NAME becoming a BAR/BAT Mitzvah. Guests are invited to watch and participate at [Temple Emanuel Denver Website Channel 2](https://www.emanueldenver.org/watch-live-2) or [Temple Emanuel Denver B'nai Mitzvah Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/Temple-Emanuel-Denver-Bnai-Mitzvah-103895837984920).

Family Participating in Ceremony

All family participating in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah will join through the Zoom call. This Zoom call is reserved for family members with speaking parts only – grandparents and those family members having an “Aliyah” – saying the Torah blessings. Your officiating cantor will send you the Zoom link to your service in the weeks leading up to your ceremony. We suggest that all family plan to join the Zoom call 30-45 mins before your scheduled service time (e.g. 8:15/30am for a 9:00am ceremony; 10:45/11:00am for an 11:30am ceremony, etc).

Family Honors

Our virtual ceremonies continue to offer the opportunity for family members to participate and be honored as part of the ceremony. Our virtual ceremony includes:

- The Torah Pass for Grandparents and Parents – reformatted as a blessing that grandparents and parents speak out loud to the student
- Aliyot/Torah Blessings – the chance for different family members to bless the Torah before and after the student reads the Torah portion
- Parent Blessing – a space for parents to offer personal words to their student

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Preparation and Rehearsals

• Rehearsals

All students will have two rehearsals during the week of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah – Thursday afternoon for the cantor and student and Friday morning for the rabbi, cantor, student, and all participating family members. Your officiating cantor will send you the Zoom links for all rehearsals in the weeks leading up to your ceremony. During these rehearsals, we will review all ceremony materials and get everyone settled into proper Zoom protocol – sound, lighting, camera angles, etc.

• Preparation

Each student will receive a personalized annotated electronic siddur that includes all of their materials for their ceremony.

Audio/Visual Recommendations for Ceremony

Here are some best practices to ensure that your student and your family look and sound their best during their Zoom ceremony:

- Use a laptop or desktop computer instead of a phone or tablet.
- Update your Zoom to the latest version available (we can help you check if there are any updates available for your version).
- Please choose a location in your home with where you are well lit – a light in front of you is best. Do not film with a window or any other bright light source behind you, it will cause your face to be in shadow.
- Please position the computer so that the camera is at face level or slightly above face level.
- Please be mindful of the background – try to avoid distractions (fans, art work, etc.)

Recordings

A recording of your ceremony will be archived on the [Temple Emanuel Denver B'nai Mitzvah Facebook Page](#). This video will include all the comments made on Facebook during the ceremony.

We will also post just the video of the ceremony (no comments) on the [Temple Emanuel Denver Service Recordings Page](#).

The clergy will review all other details and questions during check-ins and meetings leading up to your ceremony. Please feel free to ask us any questions. The best way to reach any member of the clergy team is to contact Patricia Lackner and ask for a phone/Zoom appointment – lackner@emanueldenver.org. Patricia is also extremely knowledgeable about our options and our program – please feel free to ask her your questions as well!