

WELCOME

[This service is written to be read in a circle-in-the-round. Members of the circle are invited to take a turn or pass, as they wish.]

SONG¹: The Time is Now

 The time is now, let's gather round..

Reader: On Yom Kippur, the most solemn day of the year, our thoughts join with those of other Jews and friends throughout the world.

Reader: We put aside petty concerns and vain desires. We ask ourselves important questions. What is our life, and how do we use our strength?

Reader: What is our wealth and to what purpose our power? How can we control the course of our lives? What is our future?

Reader: Sanctified in the long memories of the Jewish people, we stand united with generations past.

Reader: Amid the uncertainties of life, we seek peace within ourselves and with other people.

SONG: HINEY MA TOV

Behold how good and pleasant it is when people live together in peace.

 HEAR, O ISRAEL

Reader: Judaism begins with the commandment:
 Hear, O Israel!

 But what does it really mean to hear?

¹ The complete words and music for the songs can be found at the end of this service.

Reader: People who attend a concert with
their minds on themselves,

Hear - but do not really hear.

Reader: People who walk amid the songs of the birds and
think only of what they will have for dinner,

Hear - but do not really hear.

Reader: People who listen to the words of a friend, or a
spouse, or a child, and do not catch the note of
urgency: "Notice me, help me, care about me,"

Hear - but do not really hear.

Reader: People who listen to the news
and think only of how it will affect them
personally,

Hear - but do not really hear.

Reader: People who stifle the sound of their conscience and
tell themselves they have done enough already,

Hear - but do not really hear.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Reader

Lighting of the candles can be a time for pause. Here,
together, let us share in this one, simple act. Let the bright
images of countless candlelightings stream in through the
opening windows of our minds. Together we share familiar
sights and sounds. Suspend time, dissolve place, let feelings
be without fight or struggle. Community is this moment, and we
may be relieved of the constant watchfulness of our ever
active minds.

Together

Turn our thoughts toward this day's place in tradition. Turn
my thoughts towards my place in this world. What is a good
life? For what shall I live? Will I begin a new year as I put

this year to rest? How shall I see this year, a year hence?

Reader: Candles 1 and 7

Nair hallel ziv Yom Kippur.

Congregation:

The flames celebrate the splendor of Yom Kippur.

Reader: Candles 2 and 6

Nair hallel ziv ha-olam.

Congregation:

The flames celebrate the splendor of this world.

Reader: Candles 3 and 5

Nair hallel ziv sheh-b'chol eh-chad.

Congregation:

The flames celebrate the splendor in each of us.

Reader: Candle 4

Nair hallel ziv ha'chayim.

Congregation:

The flames celebrate the splendor of life.

Light is sown for the righteous,
and gladness for the upright in
heart. Look upon the light.

It burns for us.

It burns for the hope in our
hearts that will help us see
the way to the year to come.

SONG: WHERE IS MY LIGHT?

...My strength is in me and in you...

REFLECTIONS

Reader: On this day we come together - friends, families,
neighbors - united by a common need and a common bond.
Our need at this season is to renew our lives - to go
forward stronger, wiser, kinder than we were before
this day. Our bond is the kinship of our shared
humanity and our shared interest in the roots of Judaism.

Reader: Tradition imbues this day with an atmosphere of dread and
foreboding. We choose to temper that mood with the warmth
and beauty that are also intrinsic to the history of the
Jewish people. If this is a day of remembrance, it is
also a day of renewal. If this is a time for atonement,
it is also a time for hope. If this is a time of
assessing our worth as individuals, it is also a time to
reaffirm our kinship with Jews throughout the ages and
with all of humanity.

Reader: The starting place is within. While there is yet time,
before the last Shofar blast of Yom Kippur, our sages
tell us that we have the means to change our destinies
for the year.

Reader: Self-reflection, self-evaluation, and self-correction
have the power to change the character of our lives.

Reader: **T' SHOOVAH**: Self-Reflection.

The starting place is within. The Hebrew word T'shoovah
really means "return" and not repentance. T'shoovah implies a
returning within, to examine the reality of who we are -
spiritually as well as intellectually. Returning to our inner
reality can give us the power to create what changes we must

make to survive. T'shoovah asks us for self-reflection and for insight. That is the starting place, the only one there is.

Congregation: We are ready to pause and reflect.

Reader: **T' FEELAH**: Self-evaluation.

The starting place is within. We know there is a world and a universe outside our reach - powers beyond our knowing, powers beyond our beseeching. What we can know is what is within. We can commit ourselves to knowing who we are and evaluating what we are able to do. That is the starting place, the only one there is.

Congregation: We are ready to evaluate our thoughts and actions.

Reader: **TZEDAKAH**: Self-correction.

The starting place is within. We know that time moves us all, whether we wish it to or not. We know that things change, whether we will them to or not. We know that things happen, whether we want them to or not. What we can will, knowing where we are now, is how we are going to change. This is the starting place, the only one there is.

Congregation: We are ready to plan for change.

Reader: That which does not change sours,
like a standing pool.

Reader: That which does not change becomes its past,
without a future.

Reader: That which does not change is like a mist,
hidden in the present.

Reader: Those who change without choosing, are servants to the
whim of time.

Reader: Let us then be mindful and timely;
(For as Hillel said, "If not now, when?")
Let us then pledge:

T'shoovah, oo t'feelah, oo tzedakah

"The time of Increase," said the sages, "does not endure.
Therefore, it must be utilized while it lasts."

REFLECTIONS ON OUR CHARGES:
We Cannot Merely Pray

Reader: We cannot pray to end war,
For we know that we must find our own path to peace
Within ourselves and with our neighbor.

Reader: We cannot pray to end starvation,
For we have already been given the resources
With which to feed the entire world,
If we would only use them wisely.

Reader: We cannot pray to root out prejudice,
For we have already been given eyes
With which to see the good in all people,
If we would only use them rightly.

Reader: We cannot pray to end despair,
For we have already been given the power
To clear away slums and to give hope,
If we would only use our power justly.

Reader: We cannot pray to end disease,
For we have already been given great minds
With which to search out cures and healings,
If we would only use them constructively.

Congregation:
Therefore, we search instead
For strength, determination, and will power
To do, instead of to pray,
To become, instead of merely to wish.

SONG: NO ONE IS AN ISLAND
*...We need one another, so I will defend
Each one as my brother , sister, and my friend..*

Reader: Yom Kippur is a day to assert the unity of the human race.
Human values cannot be demonstrated in solitude, and the
basic principles of our lives acquire meaning only as part

of human relationships.

Reader: The Mishnah says, "One man alone was brought forth at creation to teach us that he who destroys one soul destroys a whole world." We must be kind to ourselves and not destroy our own souls, for if we do, an entire world is gone. The Mishnah says, "He who preserves one soul within humanity preserves a whole world." We must preserve our own souls, love ourselves, see the world in ourselves, before we can truly be a part of all humanity. For this we celebrate Yom Kippur.

And Then by Judy Chicago

(Each succeeding couplet is read by a additional reader joining the preceding ones.)

Reader 1: And then all that has divided us will merge
And then compassion will be wedded to power.

Reader +2: And then softness will come to a world that is harsh and unkind
And then both men and women will be gentle.

Reader +3: And then both women and men will be strong
And then no person will be subject to another's will.

Reader +4: And then all will be rich and free and varied
And then the greed of some will give way to the needs of many

Reader +5: And then all will share equally in the earth's abundance
And then all will care for the sick and the weak and the old.

Reader +6: And then all will nourish the young

And then all will cherish life's creatures.

Reader +7: And then all will live in harmony with each other and the earth

And then everywhere will be called Eden once again.

CONTEMPLATION

Group Activity and/or Private Reflection Time

MEMORIAL SERVICE

SONG: MiShebeirach

*May the love we shared with those who came before us
Help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing.*

Reader: All of us have lost people whose lives were precious to us. It is fitting for us to mourn their loss, to remember with regret the pain, the sorrows, and the disappointments that darkened their lives.

Reader: But we can also remember them with joy. We honor their strength, their patience and good humor, and their enduring love. In all that they gave us and taught us - the values they passed on to us and our families - our loved ones have achieved a form of immortality.

Reader: Even as we miss them, we know that those we loved live on, in ourselves, our children, and our memories.

Reader: No longer can we tell our loved ones who have died of our love and appreciation for all they have done and all they have meant to us. By making their lives part of our lives, we express our gratitude for their love.

Reader: The memory of those we love can help us reaffirm our conviction that life has meaning.

Reader: As we remember our loved ones, we affirm our commitment to life, to nourish and protect it.

Reader: May the memory of those we loved in life sweeten our thoughts and our deeds. May the grace of their presence reach out to touch our hearts and inspire our days.

SONG: ZAY-KHER TSADIKIM

May the memory of good people be a blessing for us.

Reader: As loved ones live on in our memories, our only chance of immortality is in the memories of those who follow us.

Reader: Let us resolve to end the silent deaths, the deaths of hope and spirit that sap the richness of life before its time.

Reader: Through our deeds, and our influence on the lives of others, we survive death and decay to become a part of the human dream.

Reader: The history of the Jewish people is long, filled with accounts of menace and isolation, emphasizing our need

for connection and peoplehood.

Reader: We cling to each other for affirmation and mutual support. In this world, all people face adversity, and all people can cause harm. As humans we are threatened by common dangers - in part of our own creation: nuclear holocaust, environmental threats, hunger, disease, persecution, loneliness.

Reader: Even when the suffering of Jews becomes a memory, we must honor our history of suffering by caring for those who still suffer.

Reader: We live because our ancestors supported each other, summoned the strength to live, refused to die. In every generation, Jews have found new ways to celebrate life.

Reader: What is firmly established cannot be uprooted.
What is firmly grasped cannot slip away.
It will be honored from generation to generation.

Reader: This is what is asked of you:
to act justly,
to love mercy,
and to walk humbly.

Congregation:

Cultivate these, plant and nourish them,
care for their growth

Cultivate these in your self,
and they will take root.

Cultivate these in the family,
and they will grow.

Cultivate these in the community,
and they will flourish.

Cultivate these in the nation,
and they will be abundant.

Cultivate these throughout the world,
and they will be everywhere.

Read Silently:

We watch the past create the now,
and wish to plant before we plow.
We hear goodbye in each hello,
and wish to stay when we must go.

We speak of peace in time of war,
and watch the rich receive the poor.
A day makes night a fugitive,
the living dream, the dreaming live.

Merle Good

SONG: May the Light of Love
 Here's to loving friends and family..
 or
 Turn, Turn, Turn
 To everything there is a season..

CONCLUSION

Reader: This is the day of decision, when not
 deciding is a decision. May we choose
 to find a way to love ourselves in
 order that we may love others, to
 forgive ourselves in order to reach out

and touch others

SHOFAR

Reader: TEKIAH - THE BLAST

Congregation: A time to begin...
To begin anew,
to renew myself.

Reader: SHEVARIM - THE BROKEN

Congregation: We shall begin anew.
We shall begin anew together,
and this time holds newness begun.

Reader: TERUAH - THE ALARM

Congregation: Let that newness begin in me.
Find me this time,
find that self of me that begins.

SONG: HAYVENU SHOLOM ALEICHEM

Let there be peace for you and me.

Congregation:

TEKIAH GEDOLAH