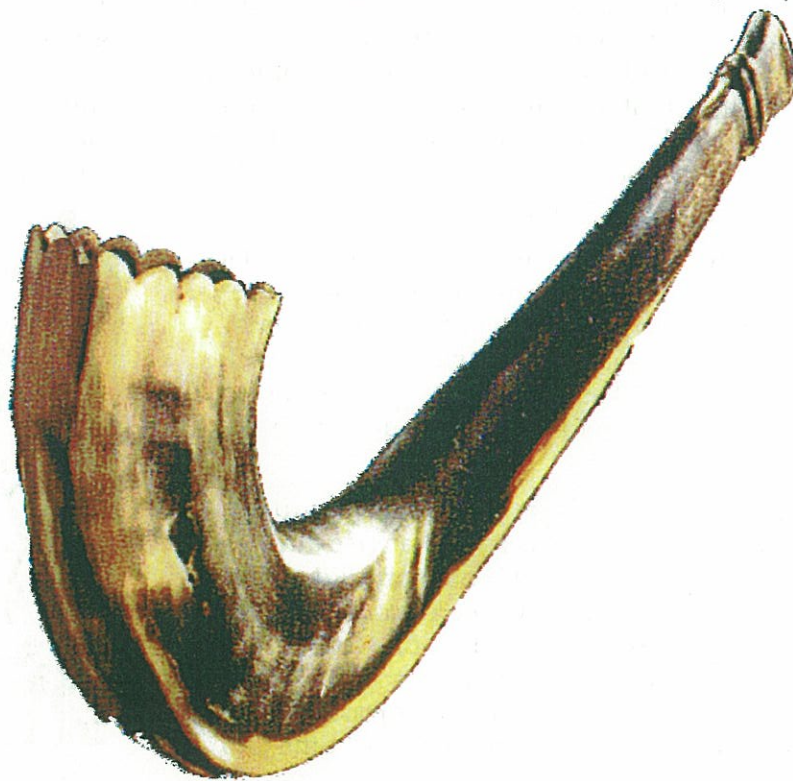


Yom Kippur

Family Service



READER:

Behold how good and pleasant it is for people to come together in unity and peace.

SONG: *Hiney ma tov*

Hin-nay mah tov oo-mah-nah-eem
Sheh-vet a-kheem gam yah-khad (repeat)

READER:

If people are going to live together in a community, it's important to have ideas about what's right and what's wrong. We know lots of rules. For instance, cars must stop at a red light so we can cross safely. People mustn't hurt each other, or take things that don't belong to them. In a room like this, we must sit quietly so that everyone can hear what's going on

Let us think a little about all the ideas that guide our lives.

READER:

In the Torah, the stories that were told about Moses and the beginnings of the Jewish people, there are 613 rules! There were the things they thought were important if they were to live together as a people. Long ago, the Jewish sages and their students studied these and came up with even more things that were important to remember, and they studied those things too, and so on. Sometimes, they got so busy studying that they forgot *why*, the rules had been invented... The rules were really there so that people, like you and I, could live happily together!

A very old story tells of a man who came to a place where some Jewish people and their leader were studying. The man said, "I'll convert, I'll become Jewish, if you will teach me all your rules while I stand on one foot." Their leader laughed and said, "It would take you years to learn our rules." He sent the man away.

The man went on and came to another group of Jewish people were studying with a wise and gentle teacher named Hillel. The man said again, "I'll convert, I'll become Jewish, if you will teach me all your rules while I stand on one foot." Hillel said to him, "What is hateful to you, do not do to others. That is our most important rule. All the other rules follow from it. Now come join us and learn."



ALL:

When we are not sure how to treat others, we can remember Hillel's rule. We can ask ourselves, "How would I want to be treated? How would I feel?" This can help us to treat others the way we would like to be treated ourselves.

INTROSPECTION

READER:

Once a year, at this time, we pause to think about the rules that make our lives pleasant. We think back over what we did and how we acted during the past year. We think about those times we are proud of -- and also about those times we are not so proud of.

READERS FROM THE CONGREGATION:

Did we love our family?
or sometimes forget to say a kind word?

Did we share?
Or just think of ourselves?

Did we help?
Or let someone else do the work?

Did we reach out to someone who was lonely or unhappy?
Or pretend not to notice?

Were we fair to others?
Or were we sometimes dishonest?

Do we decide for ourselves what is right and wrong?
Or do we just follow what others do?

SILENT MEDITATION

MUSIC: *Olvee-nu Mal-kenu*

READER:

Sometimes people are good, and they do just what they should. But the very same people who are good sometimes Are the very same people who are bad sometimes. It's funny, but it's true. It's the same, isn't it, for me and you.