

ROSH HASHONAH MORNING SERVICE

President's remarks

Song: Haveynu Shalom Aleichem

May We Greet Each Other with Peace and Good Will

Responsive Reading: Rosh Hashonah is...

Reader: Rosh Hashonah is...

A time to pause

A time to reflect

A time to rest

Together: This moment, this time, this place, we are together.

Reader: Rosh Hashonah is...

Being together with oneself, one's family and one's friends.

Together: This moment, this time, this place, we are together.

Reader: Rosh Hashonah is...

A time to share thoughts

A time to look back

A time to look forward

Together: This moment, this time, this place, we are together.

Reader: Rosh Hashonah is...

A special feeling

A special moment

A returning home

Song: Return Again

Return again, return again, return to the land of your soul.

Return again, return again, return to the land of your soul.

Return to who you are, return to what you are

Return to where you are... Return and return again

Shu'vah shuv, shu'vah shuv, shu'vah shuv le'eretz naf-sh'chah

Shu'vah shuv, shu'vah shuv, shu'vah shuv le'eretz naf-sh'chah

Shu'vah l'atz m'chah l'ma-tzav-chah

Shu'vah la ma-kom sh'ah... Ta shom shu'vah shuv

Return again,

Return again, return again

Responsive Reading: Let Us Rejoice

Reader: Each of us enters this service with a different need.

Together: May we in our common need and striving gain strength from one another. We share our joys, lighten each other's burdens and seek the welfare of our community.

Reader: Let us rejoice in the light of day, in the glory and warmth of the sun, in the awakening of life to duty and love.

Together: We rejoice in the light of day.

Reader: In the earth with its hills and valleys, its widespread fields of grain, its fruit and hidden treasures.

Together: We rejoice in the beauty of the earth.

Reader: In the love of fathers and mothers who have nurtured our lives, with those blessings we have gone forth to our own work in the world.

Together: We rejoice in the love of parents.

Reader: In the children who bless our homes, whose eager minds and hearts are the promise of tomorrow.

Together: We rejoice in our children.

Reader: In friends who share our sorrows and joys, in our community, and the promise of youth, and in the serenity of old age.

Together: We rejoice in the strength within ourselves.

Reader: There is music in all hearts: if we listen we can hear each other's song.

Responsive Reading: Tradition and Candle Lighting

Reader: Since ancient times, gathering together has been the tradition on this day. We light these candles to help us remember our Jewish heritage.

Together: *Baruch ha-or sheh-b'chol eh-chod.*

Blessed is the light that is in each of us.

Baruch ha-or b'olam.

Blessed is the light that brings joy into the world.

Baruch ha-or ha-atid.

Blessed is the light of the future.

Baruch ha-or shel Rosh Hashonah.

Blessed is the light of the new year.

Reader: Rosh Hashonah is the first day of the Jewish New Year -- a day when Jews all over the world celebrate together and remember the year just past, and to think about the year to come. This is a day when we express our hope that we shall be blessed with continued life, happiness, and peace. Welcome to a New Year!

Together: Why does Rosh Hashonah happen in the fall of the year?

Reader: About 2,000 or 3,000 years ago, the Hebrew people were farmers. The fall was a time of change for them. During most of the year, the farmers worked very hard to grow food. The fall was the time to harvest and celebrate the earth's fruits. Once the crops were harvested, there was more time to rest and think about what had

happened during the year, how they had treated each other, and whether their actions were right or wrong. They could also think about what they could do to make the next year a better one. After several hundred years, this time became the holiday known as Rosh Hashonah, and was thought to be the time of year that God judged each person's behavior of the past year.

Together: Is it good that we too celebrate our new year in the fall?

Reader: The fall is a time of change for us too. It is a good time to start a new year. We return to our busy schedules of study and work and to begin to face the challenges ahead -- of meeting new friends and teachers, learning new things, growing into better people, and preparing for the winter ahead. Before starting our busy schedules again, we can take time to think about the last year, to decide what was good and not so good, and to gather thoughts for the year to come.

Together: We accept the challenge of the New Year. We accept the challenge of learning, and of growing.

Song: Hava Nashira

Let Us Sing Together, Sing Alleluia.

Ha-va na-shir-a, shir' ha-le-lu-ya.

Ha-va na-shir-a, shir' ha-le-lu-ya.

Ha-va na-shir-a, shir' ha-le-lu-ya.

Responsive Reading: The Honoring of High Holy Days

Reader: The honoring of our holy days is an opening of the heart, we find a moment of security, a moment when the world is as we want it to be -- simple and caring.

Together: We think of generations gone and generations to come, the caring of parents and the warmth of tradition. Of what is good in humankind, what is worth keeping, what is a child in ourselves, and the meaning of being an adult.

Reader: There are values worth preserving; traditions which bring comfort.

Together: The honoring of our high holy days is an opening of the heart. A moment when the world is simple and caring. When the world, even now, is part of future and past. When the coming and going of life is part of what was, what is, what will be.

Reader: Who will hand on what we have learned? and how? and when? Who will preserve what we have discovered, what we hold dear?

Together: There are moments when we hear the call of our higher selves, the call that links us to each other. Then we know how blessed we are with life and love. May this be such a moment, a time of deeper attachment to that which is most special to us and in our world, for which we give thanks.

Reader: Each person is limited by nature and by circumstance.
Whether I have done well or poorly over the past year, only my heart
can tell.

Together: May the rest and quiet of this hour refresh our inner life,
and bring us tranquility. May we find contentment and peace, our
desire for possessions abated, our hope for advantage subdued.

Song: Ay-fo O-ree

Where Is My Light ? Sherwin Wine

Ay-fo o-ree? O-ree bee.
Ay-fo tik-va-tee? Tik-va-tee bee.
Ay-fo ko-chee? Ko-chee bee.
V-gam b'chah.

Where is my light? My light is in me.
Where is my hope? My hope is in me.
where is my strength? My strength is in me.
And in you.

Parable

Reader: Rabbi Chayim of Tsanz used to tell this parable.
A man wandering lost in the forest for several days, finally
encountered another. He called out: Brother, show me the way out
of this forest! The man replied: Brother, I too am lost. I can tell you
only this: the ways I have tried lead nowhere: they have only led me
astray. Take my hand and let us search for the way together. Rabbi

Chayim would add: So it is with us. When we go our separate ways, we may go astray; let us join hands and look for the way together.

Song: *Hiney Mah Tov*

How Good and Pleasant it is for People to be Together in Unity

Hin-nay mah tov oo-mah-nah-eem

Sheh-vet ah-cheem gahm yah-chad.

Hin-nay mah tov oo-mah-nah-eem

Sheh-vet ah-cheem gahm yah-chad.

Silent Reading: The Meaning Of Rosh Hashonah In Our Lives

What is good has been explained. This is what is required of you:

To act justly

To love mercy

And to walk humbly.

Justice is more than maintaining law.

Justice without mercy is cruelty.

Mercy is more than granting pardon.

Mercy without humility is pretense.

Humility is more than stepping aside.

Humility is daring not to be ahead of others.

Responsive Reading: The Meaning Of Rosh Hashonah In Our Lives

Reader: Was there love inside our home? Or was the affectionate word left unsaid?

Congregation: Was there real companionship within our family? Or was there living together, yet growing apart?

Were we a help to our mates?
Or did we take them for granted?

How was it with our friends?
Were we there when they needed us?

Were we sensitive to the rights and feelings of those who worked with us?

Did we mind only our own business
Or did we feel the heartbreak of others?

Silent Reading

I have seen violence scar the face of our planet...
I turned away.

I have witnessed the pain and suffering of others...
I turned away.

I have seen friends reach out in pain...
I turned away.

I too have been in pain...

I did not speak.

I have wanted to speak out in rage against injustice...

And did not .

I have wanted to share words of love...

But I held back.

Still, there were moments of outrage, pain, and joy...

When I did speak, when I did reach out, when I did not turn away.

May I always have the courage to do what must be done.

Responsive Reading: What We Can Do In The Coming Year

Reader: Free will is given to every human being. If we wish to incline ourselves toward goodness and righteousness, we are free to do so. And, if we wish to incline ourselves toward evil, we are also free to do that. From the Bible we learn that we humans, with our knowledge of good and evil, are unique among Earth's creatures. Of our own accord, by our own faculty of intelligence and understanding, we can distinguish between good and evil, doing as we choose. Nothing holds us back from making this choice between good and evil -- the power is in our hands.

Maimonides, 12th Century.

Reader: Cultivate this choice in ourselves.

Together: And it will take root
Cultivate it in the family,
And it will grow.
Cultivate it in the community,
And it will multiply.
Cultivate it in the nation,
And it will be abundant.
Cultivate it in throughout the world,
And it will flourish.

Song: Blowin' in the Wind, Bob Dylan

How many roads must a man walk down
Before you can call him a man?
Yes and how many seas must a white dove sail
Before she sleeps in the sand?
Yes and how many times must the cannonballs fly
Before they're forever banned?
The answer my friend is blowin' in the wind
The answer is blowin' in the wind.

How many times must a man look up
Before he can see the sky?
Yes and how many ears must one man have
Before he can hear people cry?
Yes and how many deaths will it take til he knows
That too many people have died?

How many years can a mountain exist
Before it's washed to the sea?
Yes and how many years can some people exist
Before they're allowed to be free?
Yes and how many times can a man turn his head
Pretending he just doesn't see?

Stories of Our People

Reader: We read in the Bible the story of the poor widow, Naomi, her daughter-in-law, Ruth, and their cousin Boaz.

“It came to pass in the days when the judges judged, that there was a famine in the land of Judah. A certain man of Bethlehem, Elimilech, took his wife, Naomi, and his two sons to live in the land of Moab. There the sons married Moabites, not Hebrew women -- one named Orpah, and the other named Ruth. Misfortune followed misfortune, for within ten years, Elimilech and his two sons died, leaving Naomi with her daughters-in-law.”

“Hearing that the land of Judah once again had food, Naomi set out for her homeland but urged her daughters-in-laws to remain: ‘Go, return each of you to the land of your mother. Let each of you find happiness in the house of your new husband.’”

“Both young women wept to leave Naomi, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth answered, saying, ‘Entreat me not to leave thee;... for whither thou goest I will go; and where thou

lodgest, I will lodge. Thy people shall be my people, and thy God, my God. And where thou diest, I will die... for naught but death will part thee and me.’ When Naomi saw that Ruth had made up her mind, they traveled to Bethlehem in Judah at the beginning of the barley festival.”

“Now, Naomi was related through her husband to Boaz, a very wealthy man. One day, Ruth being hungry and worried about the health of the old woman, told Naomi, that she would go to the edge of the fields to glean the bits of grain left after the harvest. And so it was her good fortune to glean in the field of Boaz and to be seen by him when he was just returning from Bethlehem. He asked his servant who had charge of the reapers, ‘Whose maiden is this?’”

“The servant replied, ‘The Moabite maiden who came back with Naomi and begged to glean and gather sheaves when the reapers had done their work. So she has continued from morning until night and has not rested a moment in the field.’”

“And Boaz ordered his servants to leave ample sheaves for Ruth, and said to Ruth, ‘Listen, my daughter. do not glean in any other field nor leave this place, but stay here with my maidens. I have told the young men not to trouble you. When you are thirsty, go to the jars and drink of that which the young men have drawn.’ Ruth bowed low and said to him, ‘ Why are you so kind to me to take interest in one who comes from another land?’ And Boaz replied, ‘I have heard what you have done for your mother-in-law.’”

Parents and Children

Reader: As parents, our hearts are filled with gratitude on this day. Our lives have been blessed with the precious gift of children, through whom we have become partners in the ongoing creation of life.

On this and every day of the New Year, we hope that we may be worthy of our responsibilities. May we so live that our sons and daughters, by our example, will grow to become men and women of integrity. May we exhibit, in our homes and occupations, the strength and wholesomeness to walk in our ways.

May we build a world of enduring peace and justice, that our children and their children may enjoy happiness and contentment.

Celebration of Life

Reader: Here, today, gather together,
We celebrate creation and life.
We ask how our lives change,
How we may change the quality of our lives.

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

Memorial Service

Reader: Many of our loved ones no longer walk the earth. We miss them. Nothing we say can compensate for their absence. Yet, as the color of autumn leaves defies the death of summer, may the pleasant deeds of loved ones remain in our memory, sweeten our thoughts, and diminish our sorrow.

Those whom the years bound to us with ties of deep affection live on in the hearts and minds. May we also remember those we never knew, whose lives have been a blessing to humanity. Let us rise for a moment of tribute to those whom we have lost, but whose lives continues in the grace of memory.

ALL RISE.

Congregation: May their memory be an everlasting blessing to us. Today we grant renewed life to their finest ideals. Let us act as their personal representatives to the living. Where they lifted the burden of worry from another person, we can give encouragement and help. Where they brought cheer and care, let us bring cheer and care. That is how they live in eternity, as we build for them a memorial more enduring than stone.

Song: Zay-Kher Tsa-Dee Keem

The Remembrance of Good People is a Blessing

Shofar Service

Reader: In ancient times, the Hebrew people announced the start of the new year by blowing a shofar, a musical instrument made of a sheep's horn. The shofar is a symbol with numerous meanings and is the chief symbol of Rosh Hashonah. It reminds us of ancient times when piercing blasts of the ram's horn called together families and tribes. It recalls the story of Abraham's testing and the last minute substitution of a ram for his son, Isaac, in sacrifice. It reminds us of the right of freedom for all people when, in the Jubilee years of Biblical times, it was blown and slaves were released and property was redistributed to the poor. In our own time, the shofar sounded in 1967 at the liberation of the Western Wall of Jerusalem. and the ancient prophets predicted that, in the future, when all of Israel's scattered tribes are reunited, the shofar will herald that joyous day. And may it sound one day soon when all of the tribes of the world are at peace.

Shofar: short blasts.

Reader: On the first day of the New Year, the Hebrew people blew the Shofar especially loud and long to get the attention of their God, and to ask their God to remember them and be kind to them in their new year. They blew it again to tell people to think carefully about the year just past, and to be sorry for the things that they had done wrong.

The Shofar call for the New Year has four parts which are repeated several times, and a fourth very long blast at the end. They are:

TEKIAH (the shofar sounds)

In every corner of the world, throughout millenia past, the people of Israel have gathered together to celebrate Rosh Hashonah. Together, joined with Jews all over the world, we raise our voices and celebrate the New Year.

SH'VA-REEM (the shofar sounds)

The shofar calls out to us to renew who we are and what we live for. On this Rosh Hashonah, we try to transcend the ordinary. But the shofar is for more than this one day. It is with us whenever we awaken our senses.

T-ROO-A (the shofar sounds)

The shofar reminds us that we can change, but that change requires effort. Today we ask ourselves how committed we really are. This is a day to begin, to choose life.

T'-KEE-A G'-DO-LAH (the shofar sounds)

The shofar signals a striving to be wiser and to live out our ideals. In our tradition the next ten days are called the Days of Awe when we examine the year that was and resolve to improve the year that is to come. Before we meet again, on Yom Kippur, we ask that each of use reflect on the questions we are distributing, so that we truly strive to be wider and to live out our ideals.

Reader: Call out to the Shofar's notes and it will answer.

Together: TEKIAH (Shofar), SH'VA-REEM (Shofar), T-ROO-A
(Shofar),
TEKIAH (Shofar), TEKIAH (Shofar), SH'VA-REEM (Shofar), T-ROO-
A (Shofar),
TEKIAH (Shofar), T'-KEE-A G'-DO-LAH (Shofar)!

Reader: The sound of the shofar is a call to conscience. Listen to the voice within. Let us be silent for a moment and remember the sounds of the Shofar. Let us think about the old year and plan for a better new year.

Closing

Reader: May we build a world of enduring peace and justice, that our children and their children may enjoy happiness and contentment.

On this Rosh Hashonah we have thought together, we have raised our voices in song, we have been silent together. We are thankful for this hour which we have spent with one another, and we hope that we do not forget tomorrow what we have learned today.

May we create for ourselves a year of health, happiness, and peace.

SONG: Shalom Chaverim (sing twice)

Greetings of Peace to Our Friends

Reader: Please join us for apples and honey after the service. The honey symbolizes our hope for sweetness in the year ahead.

Parts of this service were adapted from a service by Rabbi Daniel Friedman,
Congregation Beth Or, Deerfield, Illinois.