

ROSH HASHANAH

CHILDREN'S SERVICE



Har Sinai Temple
Pennington, New Jersey

Rosh Hashanah Children's Service

B'ruchim Ha'baim – Welcome to God's house!
Welcome to a New Year!

Let us begin our service today by singing a song of greeting to God, greetings to each other, and greetings to the New Year.

In Hebrew, we greet someone by saying ***Shalom Aleichem***.

* *

Now we have sung to God, and our hearts are open. Now we are ready to welcome the New Year. A New Year? Why new? The sun keeps rising in the morning and goes down every night.

The flowers bloom in the spring and fade in the fall.

We study and we play. We wake and we sleep.

Every day seems different and yet somehow the same.

What is new then about today? What is new is something we cannot see. For it has to do with things inside ourselves –

**How we think,
How we feel about ourselves,
How we feel about others,
And how we want to act.**

If we change what is inside, if we can make our thinking and feeling like new – then we will have a different day, a different year. Then today will truly be a Rosh Hashanah – the beginning of a New Year.

Today we try to open our hearts and start a new year for ourselves.

**May it be a better year,
With more love and less anger,
With more helpfulness and less selfishness,
With more cheerfulness and less complaining.**

Let us pray to God together to help us start just such a year. Let us first praise, Adonai, our God, for as we praise God, we come closer to God and to the good things in life.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַיּוֹם הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh.

We praise you, Adonai, Creator of the universe,
for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for bringing us to this holy day.

We rise for the Bar'chu

Bar'chu et Adonai hamvorach.

Baruch Adonai

hamvorach l'olam va-ed.

בָּרְכוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרֵךְ.

בָּרוּךְ יְיָ

הַמְּבָרֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Praise Adonai to whom praise is due!

Praised be Adonai to whom praise is due, now and forever!

A long, long, long time ago, God made the world. That means that Rosh Hashanah is the birthday of the world. God placed in it beautiful skies and oceans and mountains, flowers and birds, pandas and polar bears, giraffes, eagles, and ants. But there were no people, and the world was a lonely place. So, God made people to live in the world, to care for the plants and animals. God wants us to be good to each other and to work with God to make the world better.

Our God, we pledge on Rosh Hashanah to continue Your work in this New Year. We are proud to be your partners.

This Is Very Good

When God made the world
God made it full of light
The sun to shine by day and the moon and stars by night
God made it full of life; lilies, oaks and trout
Tigers and bears, sparrows, hawks, and apes.
And God took clay from earth's four corners
To give it the breath of life
And God said:

Chorus:
This is very good, this is very good
Man, woman and child, all are good
Man, woman and child, all are good
Man, woman and child resemble God.

One God! One world of living creatures!
One family, all of us, born of God's love.
What shall we pray for?

Always to remember the love of God.

What shall be the answer to our prayer?

Our love for God's children.

Sh'ma Yisrael

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל,
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְהוָה אֶחָד!
בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ
לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

*Sh'ma Yisrael,
Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad!
Baruch shem k'vod malchuto
l'olam va-ed.*

Hear O Israel, Adonai is our God, Adonai is One!
Blessed is God's glorious majesty, forever and ever.

V'ahavta – You Shall Love

*V'ahavta et Adonai Elohecha,
b'chol-l'vav'cha, uvchol-nafsh'cha,
uvchol-m'odecha.
V'hayu had'varim ha-eileh,
asher anochi m'tzav'cha hayom,
al l'vavecha.
V'shinantam l'vanecha,
v'dibarta bam b'shivt'cha b'veitecha,
uvlecht'cha vaderech,
uvshochb'cha uvkumecha.
Ukshartam l'ot al-yadecha
v'hayu l'totafot bein einecha.
Uchtavtam al m'zuzot beitecha
uvisharecha.*

וְאַהֲבַתָּ אֶת יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ,
בְּכָל-לִבְבְּךָ, וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁךָ,
וּבְכָל-מְאֹדְךָ.
וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה,
אֲשֶׁר אֲנֹכִי מְצַוְּךָ הַיּוֹם,
עַל-לִבְבְּךָ.
וְשִׁנַּנְתֶּם לְבַנְיָהּ,
וּדְבַרְתֶּם בָּם בְּשִׁבְתְּךָ בְּבֵיתְךָ,
וּבְלַכְתְּךָ בַּדֶּרֶךְ,
וּבְשֹׁכְבְךָ וּבְקוּמְךָ.
וְקִשַּׁרְתֶּם לָאוֹת עַל-יָדְךָ
וְהָיוּ לְטֹטְפוֹת בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ.
וְכָתַבְתֶּם עַל מְזוֹזֹת בֵּיתְךָ
וּבְשַׁעֲרֶיךָ.

You shall love Adonai your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your being. Set these words, which God commands you, upon your heart. Speak of them in your home and on your way, when you lie down and when you rise up.

You shall love Adonai your God. There is a story about these words. Once a famous rabbi was asked: “Rabbi, which is the best way to love God?” The Rabbi answered: “The best way to love God is to love others. Then you will also love God, and God will love you.”

What is it then that we need today?

More love and understanding

For our parents,

For our friends,

For our teachers,

For people in need of love.

The Torah teaches: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” How can we do this? Long ago, a great teacher named Hillel told us how. He said: “Do not do to others, what you do not want them to do to you.”

In other words: If we do not want others to speak harshly to us, **then let us not speak harshly to them.**

If we want others to treat us fairly and kindly, **then let us first treat them fairly and kindly.**

If we want others to understand us, **Then let us first try to understand them.**

This is the way to friendship and fellowship. This is the way to each other and to God. So then, let us think once more about the words: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Let us pray to God to make us more loving and understanding of others.

Ge'ulah - Redemption

Once we were slaves in Egypt and God took us out and set us free. On the way out of Egypt, the Children of Israel sang a song, the *Mi Kamocha*. By remembering that we were slaves, and knowing that now we are free, we are better able to understand the *mitzvot*.

If we remember the bitterness of slavery, we can begin to help everyone become free.

Mi Kamocha – Who Is Like You?

Mi-chamochah ba-eilim, Adonai!

Mi kamocha nedar bakodesh,

nora t'hilot, oseih-fele?

מִי־כְמוֹכָה בְּאֵלִים, יְיָ!
מִי כְמוֹכָה נֶאֱדָר בְּקֹדֶשׁ,
נֹרָא תְהִילֹת, עֹשֶׂה פְלֵא?

Who is like You, Adonai?
Who is like You, glorious in holiness,
awesome in splendor, worker of wonders.

TEFILAH

Rosh Hashanah is a holy day of circles. Round challah with raisins and apples with honey are sweet circles. We praise you, God, for helping us to start the circle of *teshuvah*, the circle of forgiveness, that we will finish on Yom Kippur.

Eternal God, on this Rosh Hashanah, we know that the world is not yet what it could be. We still have work to do. There are lonely and sad people. There are people who are hungry and sick. Some people don't have homes to live in.

We cannot fix the world in one or two or even ten years. By next Rosh Hashanah, let us be able to say that we did something this year to improve our world. Then our prayers for peace, goodness, and blessing will find an answer.

Silent Prayer - Peace

Oseh shalom bimromav,
hu yaaseh shalom aleinu
v'al kol Yisrael,
v'al kol yoshvei teiveil,
v'imru: Amen.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרְוּמָיו,
הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל,
וְעַל כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל,
וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

May the One who makes peace in the high heavens
make peace for us, all Israel and all who inhabit the earth. Amen.

TORAH SERVICE

Please Rise

Avinu Malkeynu – Our God above,
we pray for a good New Year.

Avinu Malkeynu – Our God above,
help us to be good and the year will be good.

Avinu Malkeynu – Our God above, help us to be new, and the
year will be new.

Avinu Malkeynu – Our God above,
in this new year give us more love and understanding.

Avinu Malkeynu – Our God above,
grant peace to all people on earth.

We now give honor to the Torah, for in it are written words of
wisdom and words of love. If we observe its ways, we can be
happy, and all people can live together in peace.

*Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu,
Adonai Echad!*

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ,
יְיָ אֶחָד!

Hear, O Israel, Adonai is our God, Adonai is One.

...

*Echad eloheinu, gadol adoneinu,
kadosh v'nora sh'mo.*

אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ, גָּדוֹל אֲדוֹנֵינוּ,
קָדוֹשׁ וְנוֹרָא שְׁמוֹ.

One and magnificent is our God; God's name is holy, *inspiring awe*.

*Al sh'loshah d'varim haolam omeid:
al haTorah v'al haavodah
v'al g'milut chasadim.*

עַל שְׁלֹשָׁה דְּבָרִים הָעוֹלָם עוֹמֵד:
עַל הַתּוֹרָה וְעַל הָעֲבוּדָה
וְעַל גְּמִילוֹת חֶסֶדִים.

On three things the world stands: on learning, on worship, and loving deeds.

BLESSING BEFORE THE READING OF THE TORAH

BAR'CHU et Adonai ham'vorach.

Baruch Adonai ham'vorach l'olam va-ed.

Baruch atah, Adonai

Eloheinu, Melech haolam,

asher bachar banu mikol haamim,

v'natan lanu et Torato.

Baruch atah, Adonai, notein haTorah.

בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ.
בְּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמְּבָרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ
אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים,
וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרָתוֹ.
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

BLESS ADONAI who is blessed.

Blessed is Adonai who is blessed now and forever.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has chosen us from among the peoples, and given us the Torah. Blessed are You, Adonai, who gives the Torah.

Genesis 22: 1 – 3

- וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וְהָאֱלֹהִים נִסָּה אֶת־אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהֵי אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הַגִּידִי אֶת־בְּנִי אֶת־יִחִידְךָ אֲשֶׁר־אֶהְיֶה לָּךְ וַיִּצְחַק וְלֹד־לְךָ אֶל־אֶרֶץ הַמִּדְבָּר וְהָעֵלָהוּ שָׁם לְעֹלָה עַל אֶחָד הַהָרִים אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֱלֹהִים וַיִּשְׁפָּם אַבְרָהָם בַּבֶּקֶר וַיַּחְבֵּשׁ אֶת־חַמְלֹו וַיִּקַּח אֶת־שְׁנֵי נַעֲרָיו אֹתוֹ וְאֵת יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ וַיִּבְקַע עֵצִי עֹלָה וַיִּקַּם וַיִּלֶּךְ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־אָמַר־לוֹ הָאֱלֹהִים: בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וַיִּשָּׂא אַבְרָהָם

1 Some time afterward, God put Abraham to the test. He said to him, •
2 “Abraham,” and he answered, “Here I am.” And He said, “Take your •
son, your favored one, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of
Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the heights
3 that I will point out to you.” So early next morning, Abraham saddled •
his ass and took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. He split
the wood for the burnt offering, and he set out for the place of which
4 God had told him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the •

These are the words which we read from the Torah in Hebrew. They tell us how God tested Abraham, and how Abraham showed his trust in God. He trusted God with everything, even with the life of his own son Isaac. Because of this, Abraham heard God’s voice which said: “Abraham, because you have trusted Me, and have listened to My voice, I will reward you. Your children and their children will become a people, a great people. Great not in numbers, but great in faith. They will be called children of Abraham, and they will teach faith to all humankind. They will be a blessing to the world. That will be your reward.”

This was God’s promise to Abraham. We who are here today are his children, the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah. By trusting God as Abraham did, we may indeed be a true blessing to humanity.

BLESSING AFTER THE READING OF THE TORAH

BARUCH atah, Adonai
Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
asher natan lanu Torat emet,
v'chayei olam nata b'tocheinu.
Baruch atah, Adonai, notein haTorah.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי
אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנוּ תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת,
וְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם נָטַע בְּתוֹכֵנוּ.
בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

BLESSED ARE YOU, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe,
who has given us a Torah of truth, implanting within us eternal life.
Blessed are You, Adonai, who gives the Torah.

Returning the Torah to the Ark

God says: “I have given you something wonderfully good; do not forget it.”

It is a tree of life to those who hold onto it, and those who support it are happy. Its ways are pleasant ways, and all its paths are peace.

Eitz chayim hi lamachazikim bah,
v'tom'cheha m'ushar.
D'rachehah darchei no-am,
v'chol n'tivotcha shalom.

עֵץ חַיִּים הִיא לַמַּחֲזִיקִים בָּהּ,
וְתִמְכֶיהָ מְאֹד.
דַּרְכֶיהָ דַּרְכֵי נְעִים,
וְכֹל נְתִיבוֹתֶיהָ שְׁלוֹם.

Hashiveinu Adonai eilecha v'nashuvah,
chadeish yameinu k'kedem.

הַשִּׁיבֵנוּ יי אֵלֶיךָ וְנָשׁוּבָה,
חַדֵּשׁ יָמֵינוּ כְּקֶדֶם.

Shofar Service

Now we will listen to a new voice – but it is not the voice of any person. It is the voice of the Shofar. Though the shofar is a horn, its music is not like any music we know. The sounds we make are new and different sounds – just as different and new as Rosh Hashanah itself. We will now hear four sounds, but before we do so, we ask God to open our ears so that we may truly understand the voice of the Shofar.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Who gives us commandments and calls us to hear the sound of the Shofar.

The first sound is TEKIAH!

Loud and strong, it says: Listen!

Listen to the voice of God on this Rosh Hashanah, **TEKIAH!**

The second sound is SHEVARIM!

A low note and a high note; because whether we are big or small, all our voices are heard by God. **SHEVARIM!**

The third sound is TERUAH!

Little broken notes which say: Pay attention to the little things.
TERUAH!

And the fourth and final sound is TEKIAH GEDOLAH!

The greatest of them all. One single blast which stands for all the others. It tells us to listen to the voice of the one God, now and forever. **TEKIAH GEDOLAH!**

ALEYNU

Let us adore the ever-living God and give praise to the One who spread out the heavens and established the earth, whose glory is revealed in the heavens above, and whose greatness is manifest throughout the world. You are our God, there is none else.

We therefore bow in awe and reverence before the One who is Sovereign over all, the Holy and Blessed One.

Vaanachnu kor'im

umishtachavim umodim,

lifnei Melech, malchei ham'lachim

HaKadosh Baruch Hu.

וְאַנְחֵנוּ כּוֹרְעִים
וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים וּמוֹדִים,
לְפָנֵי מֶלֶךְ, מַלְכֵי הַמְּלָכִים
הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא.

May the time soon come when all people will try to understand each other. When they know that God is our loving creator and that all people are children of God, then will peace and friendship come to the world. Let us do our little share and do the very best we can.

Conclusion

We have come together on this Rosh Hashanah. We have prayed together; we have sung together; we have been silent together. We thank you, O God, for this time which we have spent with you and with each other, and we pray that we may not forget tomorrow what we have thought about today. In nine days, it will be Yom Kippur. Be with us during these Days of Awe. May the hopes and prayers which we have said together today be pleasing to You, so that we will be blessed with a good and peaceful year. AMEN

לְשָׁנָה טוֹבָה תִּכְתְּבוּ—וְתִחַתְמוּ!

L'shanah tovah tikateivu—v'teichateimu!

May you be inscribed—and sealed—for a good year!

The custom of eating apples and honey:

Rosh Hashanah is a day not for sadness but for hope. For this reason, we eat an apple dipped in honey today. This custom speaks of our hope that the coming year will be of growing sweetness, and that we ourselves will learn ways of being sweeter in all that we say, in all that we do.

Baruch atah, Adonai
Eloheinu melech haolam,
borei p'ri ha-eitz.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ,
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
בוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ.

Source of blessing, Eternal our God,
Your majestic power creates the fruit of the tree.