

Columbia Jewish Congregation
Rosh Hashanah - Day 1



1 Tishrei 5781 ★ September 19, 2020



Wherever you are in your journey, you are welcome here

5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, Maryland 21045
410-730-6044 www.columbiajewish.org

FROM RABBI SONYA STARR

Dear Chevri/Friends,

To state the obvious, all the holy days of the month of Tishri (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah) are going to look, sound and feel different this year. To be honest, different does not need to be less than. Sometimes we choose to do something different to shake ourselves out of a rut, to learn from our mistakes, to evolve into another level of spirituality. Plato said "Necessity is the mother of invention." We only hope that this year, necessity, will allow us to create experiences, that are spiritual, meaningful, profound, creative and life affirming. After all isn't that what the month of Tishri is about?

Before I explain the different choices we made in creating the High Holy Days, I want to first thank the religious practices committee (Bill Levine, Dan Shernicoff, Eliana Holgate, Evan Wasser, Roni Berkowitz) led by John Evans, and our Gabbai, Joe Bergstein. You all put in so much more time and effort than you ever signed up to do. You have been amazing, thoughtful, creative, wise and respectful partners during this difficult time. Thank you!

Since March, we have been balancing what was Jewish and Sacred with what was COVID-19 safe as applied to Shabbat services, holidays, b'nai mitzvah and yes high holy days. It has been a moving target as new information has arrived. In the end, the aspects of our life that were discussed the most were: social distancing, mask wearing, microphone usage, exposure from singing and shofar blowing, inside versus outside gatherings, amount of time on a computer screen, and what technology do we need to acquire, rent and/or use to reach out of our comfort zone to you. All the while remembering the mitzvah of Kiddush Hachayyim which I shared with you first in June, Kiddush Hachayyim reminds us that our job is to sanctify life. And so this year we transform our High Holy Days into another kind of experience in order to live to see another day when we hope we will be able to again safely meet in person.

In order to minimize your time sitting at your streaming device in one sitting, we have

prerecorded birchot hashachar and pesuki d'zimra, an extended Drosh for second day Rosh Hashanah in the form of a round table discussion and the haftorot for Yom Kippur morning and afternoon. Please make the time to benefit from what they have to offer..

Clearly the Torah service has been completely altered to meet the needs of COVID 19. There will be no marching the Torah around. The Aliyah will be given to the Torah reader, someone who lives in their house, or someone who will do the Aliyah from their seat in the congregation. The Torah readers will wear masks while chanting because they are sharing a microphone and chanting. Both are considered contagions. The person who dresses the Torah will be from the same family as the person who lifts it or the Torah lifter will dress it as well. All those involved in the Torah service will wear gloves just for the Torah service.

And then there is the blowing of the shofar. The blowing into the air by far is the highest risks. There are synagogues that are not blowing the shofar at all this year. We are lucky our sanctuary has two outside doors in addition to the one that leads to the lobby. I will be standing outside the one door, Cantor Kintisch will be standing near the other one, and you will hear but not see the shofar blown. The mitzvah is to hear the shofar. Thank Gd you will fulfill that mitzvah.

Usually there are two places in the Rosh Hashanah service that we blow shofar. The first is by itself right after the Torah service. You will hear it then! The second is melded into the musaf/second Amidah. Because of the complexity of both honoring this Amidah and blowing shofar, we will not be blowing the shofar this second time.

Neilah, the last service at the end of the Yom Kippur day will be outside weather permitting to allow more people to come to the synagogue to appreciate this beautiful service. Like all of our outside services, you will bring your own chair, prayer book and mask. In order to not share microphones, we are asking that all contributions to

this service be handed in ahead of time. Neilah will be on Zoom as well.

One of CJC's calling cards is our sincere attempt to get as many people involved in the service as possible. Due to our need to make sure there are never more than 50 people in the sanctuary socially distancing themselves and masked, we will be giving more honors to fewer people. Please know that we appreciate everyone and all you give to our community. You are not taken for granted or less than.

The other calling card is the desire to have as many opportunities for you to have your spiritual needs met. For this reason, tot services, Jr. Congregation, teen hangouts, discussion groups and adult social time will be all on zoom allowing you to share your voice and experience with each other.

Thankfully, Tashlich and Sukkot are celebrated outside. We will continue to do so this year just without food.

Simchat Torah will honor the Torah through songs, poetry, and teachings. We will return to the

FROM CANTOR BENJAMIN KINTISCH

Together, Apart

I write to all of you with fondness in my heart, even as we experience the bittersweet feelings of this most unusual High Holiday season.

It has been a real joy for the past three years to serve as your Cantor. I have enjoyed singing, dancing, playing music, and celebrating with many of you. I have been honored to also support you during sad moments and through pastoral care.

High Holidays have always been a highlight of the year for me. It is the time of year when our choir shines brightest, and when many musicians play with the band or for solo opportunities. When we gather in a big room together, the sound of all of CJC singing as one community is splendid. Sadly, I won't be able to experience that particular joy this year, my final year serving as your Cantor.

This year, as we know all too well, will be very different. We won't have big crowds in a room. We

dancing, klezmer band, unrolling the Torah and carmel apples b'ezrat Hashem, next year.

I am sure there are other changes I forgot to explain. If you there is a choice we made that you disagree with or do not understand, please feel free to get in touch with me.

Throughout the High Holy Day Period we ask Gd to have compassion on us, to forgive our missteps, to remember our intentions. This year I ask that of you.

But mostly I ask you to sing loudly, engage completely, think deeply, learn and teach Jewishly and feel intensely. For ultimately what is the month of Tishri about? It is about us as one community celebrating the gift of life, the community we cherish, and relationship we have with each other and Gd.

May we all be sealed in the book of life for good health, purpose, peace through justice, and compassion for ourselves and others. Amen

won't have the choir singing together at all. Even our band has been minimized with safety considerations in mind.

And yet, despite these limitations, we will be **together, apart.**

While we will not be in the same room, we will be **together, apart.**

While we cannot sing in one strong communal voice, we will sing from our respective homes, **together, apart.**

While we cannot pray in one voice, we will pray from our homes, **together, apart.**

So much of what makes synagogue life special is how we gather for the activities I listed above: celebrations, worship, community meals, learning, mourning and more.

We have found ways over the past six or seven months to creatively “meet” when we can via Zoom and using other technology, and that has been a wonderful thing. Nonetheless, I know that I miss seeing our fellow congregants in person – and that is hard.

My prayer is that this time of **together, apart** does not last too much longer. I hope and pray that the health crisis related to COVID-19 may be managed such that we can be in person together soon. Until then, I wish you and your family a beautiful and meaningful High Holiday season, even as we celebrate **together, apart**

ORDER OF SERVICE Rosh Hashanah Day 1		
HaMelech	Pages 270-274	
Hatzi Kaddish	Page 276	
Barachu and Yotzer Or	Pages 278-280	
	Pages 284, 286 Pages 294 - 298	Silently
Ahavah Rabah	Pages 300-302	
Shema	Pages 304-312	
Tehilot L'ayl Elyon	Page 318	
For those who are praying the Silent Amidah	Pages 324-332, 364-382	
Silent Alternative Meditation	Pages 383-386	
Instrumental	Pre-recorded	Laura Halsor
Kaddish Titkabal	Page 462	
Torah Service	Pages 464-466, 470	
Torah Reading		
Genesis 21:1-4	Page 481-482	Evan Wasser
Genesis 21:5-8	Page 483	Evan Wasser
Genesis 21:9-12	Page 483	Cantor Ben Kintisch
Genesis 21:13-17	Page 485	Pearl Laufer
Genesis 21:18-21	Page 487	Pearl Laufer
Genesis 21:22-27	Page 487	Tom Laufer
Genesis 21:28-34	Page 489	Stuart Berlin
Mishabeirach for Peace: May We See The Day	Supplement 1	Lisa Pomerantz
Lifting & Dressing the Torah	Page 546	John Evans
Mishaberek l'cholim	Back Cover	
Shofar service	Page 592	
Returning the Torah to the Ark	Page 598	
Etz Chaim He	Page 606	
Drash		
Kavanah		Cantor Ben Kintisch
Musaf Amida Avot and Gevurot	Pages 324-330	
Haaderet	Page 336	

ORDER OF SERVICE		Rosh Hashanah Day 1
Unetaneh Tokef	Page 348-352	
Kedusha	Page 356-358	
Kedushat Hayom	Page 364-368, 372	Silently
Yismachu	Page 372	
Aleynu	Page 612-614	
I Am Giving You Love with My Whole Heart	Supplement 2	Caitlin Pomerantz
Hayom	Page 633	
Be Thankful	Supplement 3	Brianne Pomerantz
Hayom	Page 651-652	
MahZor Lev Shalom	Supplement 4	Lisa Pomerantz
Hayom	Page 666	
Silent Prayer	Pages 668-670	
Sim Shalom and B'Sefer Hayim	Page 672	
Hayom	Page 674	
New Year's Prayer	Supplement 5	Brianne Pomerantz
Words from President		Alan Pomerantz
Aleynu	Page 1202-1206	
Mourners Kaddish	Page 1216	
Return	Supplement 6	

Supplement 1 --May We See the Day

- Jules Harlow

May we see the day when war and bloodshed cease,
When a great and wondrous peace embraces the
world.

When one nation shall not threaten another
And we shall not again experience war.

Bless us O Lord with peace
We are greedy for gain, pursuing profit
While soldiers pursue each other far away

Nations squander their young men's lives on a spree
Even Abraham was stopped, he did not sacrifice his
son

Help us seek peace, O Lord, and pursue it.
Hungry children starve our souls
Naked children expose us.
Salughtered children kill our hopes

We are wretched in their parent's sorrow.

Heal us O Lord, help us turn to each other
Let us make no peace with hunger or oppression,
Let us make no peace with hatred or fear.
Let love and justice flow like a mighty stream,
Let peace fill the earth as the waters fill the sea.
May the curses of the old year end
May the blessings of the New Year begin.
Amen.

Supplement 2 -- I am Giving You Love with My Whole Heart

- Mary Ford-Grabowsky

I am giving You worship with my whole life,
I am giving You assent with my whole power,
I am giving You praise with my whole tongue,
I am giving You honor with my whole utterance.

I am giving You humility with my whole desire,
I am giving You love with my whole heart,
I am giving you my soul, O Gd of all gods.

Supplement 3 -- Be Thankful

Be thankful that you don't already have everything
you desire,
if you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful whe you don't know something.
For it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.
During those time you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations
Because they give you opportunites for
improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge
Because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for you mistakes
They will teach you valuable lessons.

Supplement 4 -- Mah Zor Lev Shalom

Soundless, no outward signs or token: this, indeed, is how time passes, often escaping notiec altogether.
Unaware of time passing, we are part of nature; aware of time passing, we are apart from nature.

Discovering that time is short, the task long, and the Task-Assigner demanding (Avot 2:15), small wonder that we
arrange a blare of trumpets, a blast of the shofar, to awwaken us to the passage of that precious, finite,
irreversible measures of our lives.

According to Maimonides, the message of the shofar is precisely this:

"Awake, O you sleepers, awake from your sleep! O you slumberers, awake from your slumber!"

Hence, only we mortals, ringing bells and sounding alarms, startle ourselves awake.

Happy, indeed, are those who comprehend in wakefulness teh shofar's sound.

Supplement 5 -- New Year's Prayer

Let us live each day in the mostloving ways, the
Gd-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need,
regardless of race, color or creed.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and
love. May Gd's blessings shower upon you and
bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and
peaceful new year.

Supplement 6 -- Return

- Joe Buchanan

I will take a long look at me
And think about what it is I see
Have I been good to you?

Did I do all that I said I'd do?
Remembering the words I've used
Thinking about the times I was rude
If I am thankful for this gift
Let me say it with deeds, not just lips

CHORUS:

It's going to be a brave new year
Starting right now, right here
And I will be strong and stand up tall
Reach out for others when they fall
And I will rejoice in my faith

And remember that love is why we're made
Be the very best that I can be
For the world and for me

Every day, we live our lives
Some days we let ourselves slide
And we forget our way
Thankfully it's not too late

Avinu Malkeinu, Honeinu V'aneinu
I may have done wrong at times I know
But through my actions I will show

(CHORUS)

Teshuva....Teshuva....Return....Return (x2)

(CHORUS)

Teshuva....Teshuva....Return....Return (x2)