Dear Friends:

First and foremost, we are writing with blessings of good health. More than one year into the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to be reminded each and every day of our individual and collective vulnerability. We join you in praying fervently for an end to this current health crisis, and take this moment to offer our gratitude to all of the doctors, nurses, and front line first responders who have been toiling tirelessly to help keep us as safe as possible. We are struck by our community's outpouring of kindness throughout this past year and we trust that you won't hesitate to call on us if there is anything at all that we can do to be supportive during this challenging season.

As we approach Passover, we are conscious that this holiday, in particular, speaks to the power of hope, resilience, and the fundamental Jewish belief that life can always be transformed for the better. The story we will gather together to tell in just a few short days is the embodiment of that transformation. From *avdut* to *cheirut*, our rabbis say -- from slavery to freedom. This year, let the hope that our ancestors had as they lived in hardship be our own. May we never lose sight of the possibility of a world renewed, where we are all safe to celebrate together, in person, and in peace.

In the coming days, we are offering a number of opportunities to gather online to mark Passover as a synagogue community, including:

- Yom Tov Morning service marking the First Day of Passover, Sunday March 28th, at 10 AM
- <u>Second Night Congregational Seder</u> (led by us), Sunday March 28th, at 5:30 PM this event is free, but <u>registration</u> is <u>required</u>
- Erev Shabbat/Erev Yom Tov service marking the Seventh Day of Passover (including the recitation of Yizkor), Friday April 2nd, at 6:15 PM

If you're planning your own (Zoom or in-person) seder experience, you might check out:

- https://www.haggadot.com/, an easy-to-use (and free) resource to create your own haggadah
- Contemporary Passover readings/reflections on: <u>COVID-19</u>, <u>Racial Justice</u>, <u>Climate Change</u>, <u>LGBTQ inclusion</u>, and <u>Interfaith Inclusion</u>
- For a fun Spotify Passover playlist you can cook or clean to, clickhere.
- More Passover recipes than you'll know what to do with can be found here, here, and here.
- With thanks to several temple members who asked us to share some of their favorite Passover resources: the around-the-world *charoset* recipes that are <u>here</u>, the Passover-themed cocktails that are <u>here</u>, and the ecologically-themed *haggadah* that is <u>here</u>.

Wherever you are spending your seder, please know that we will be thinking of you. From our respective homes to yours: may you and your loved ones only know the blessings of good health, renewal, hope, and freedom.

Chag Sameach - Happy Passover,

Rabbi Jeffrey Brown and Cantor Chanin Becker

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