



## Greetings from Rabbi Meyer

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To my Dear Congregation:

The prophet, Isaiah, called out to his people, “Shalom, shalom la-rachok v’la-karov – Peace, peace to those far and near.” The phrase itself is somewhat puzzling, and the sages of our tradition noted that generally one calls out first to those who are in close proximity, and then later, to those who are more distant. But the prophet’s words first go out to those who are far, in the hope, our sages teach, of bringing them near.

So, too, for all of us! This High Holyday season, we are physically distant (as the now infamous phrase would have it). But here at Temple Emanu-El, it is our hope, goal, and strategy to bring us all near to one another in spirit, mind and heart. Although we would like to be in our familiar seats, surrounded by friends, family and community, this year must of course be different. Our services will be streamed for remote worship, and aside from a possible gathering for Tashlich, our gatherings will be virtual.

Still, you will see many familiar aspects to our preparations for the New Year, including a Roll of Remembrance for Yizkor and for keeping in our Holy Ark for the coming year. And we are again offering Family Services in addition to our congregational worship. Recognizing the value of entering our House of Prayer at the New Year, we have created the opportunity for our members to spend a few minutes privately in the Sanctuary on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. In the midst of the challenges, stress and disquieting aspects of these times, I hope and pray that Temple Emanu-El – YOUR Temple – will continue to bring you comfort, meaning, joy and spiritual elevation as we welcome the New Year from both far and near.

L’shanah Tovah –

David J. Meyer, Rabbi