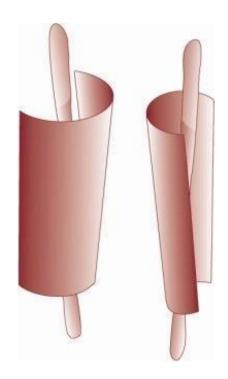
## Temple Isaiah

Lexington, MA



## B'Mitzvah Handbook: Shabbat Service Outline and Glossary

## Temple Isaiah Shabbat Morning Service Outline

The following is what typically happens at most services:

The B'Mitzvah typically conducts the service by either reading the first or second half of the service. Each section includes approximately 3 - 4 Hebrew prayers.

One or two family members or friends designated by each family, open the Ark (it is not necessary that those called for this honor be Jewish). The rabbi takes the Torah out and hands it to one parent who hands it to the next, and together they hand it to the B'iMitzvah. The B'Mitzvah, followed by parents and clergy, carries the Torah through the congregation.

The B' Mitzvah reads/chants
Torah and translates.

In addition to the B'Mitzvah, each family is accorded two aliyot to the Torah. If desired, two or three people may do a blessing together. Each aliyah includes both the blessing before and after the reading.

The B'Mitzvah shares a d'var Torah, a teaching about the Torah or Haftarah portion. The B'Mitzvah reads/chants the Haftarah in Hebrew and English, and typically recites/chants either the blessing before or after the Haftarah.

The Torah is returned to the Ark. This is another opportunity for one or two family members or friends, designated by each family, to open and close the Ark (again, it is not necessary that one called for this honor be Jewish).

Rabbi offers a d'var Torah/charge and blesses the child before the Ark. One or both parents address the B'Mitzvah about the significance of this day. This is an opportunity for parents to offer a blessing to their child, much in the same spirit as the traditional Mi Shebeirach blessing. [Please see packet 4 for a further guide to developing a personal Mi Shebeirach for your child.]

The B'Mitzvah remains on the bima to be presented with a certificate and books from a member of the Board of Trustees and representatives from LEFTY.

Aleinu and Kaddish are recited.

The service concludes with the rabbi giving a benediction.

## **Terms From the Shabbat Service**

In order for you to more fully understand and enjoy the service, here is a brief "glossary" of some of our phrases and customs:

**Aliyah** ("Going Up") - the honor of being called to the *Torah* (plural: *Aliyot*). A few family members and friends receive this honor, reciting the special prayers that precede and follow the reading of the Torah portion.

Ark (aron hakodesh) - The sacred enclosure where the Torah scrolls are kept.

**Bima** - the raised platform where the service is conducted.

*Haftarah* - a selection from the Prophets on a theme related to the *Torah* portion.

**Kippah (Yarmulke)** - the head covering worn during prayer and study as a sign of reverence.

*Mitzvah* (plural: *Mitzvot*) - the commandments that Jews do in order to live a Jewish life and to sanctify life.

*Ner Tamid* - the Eternal Light which hangs over the ark. It symbolizes God's eternal presence in the synagogue.

**Shabbat** - the Sabbath, the day of sacred rest. It begins Friday evening at sundown and concludes with sunset on Saturday.

**Siddur** - the prayer book used for Jewish worship. Since Hebrew is read from right to left, the sequence of pages is the opposite of that found in English text. Our *Siddur* is called *Mishkan T'filah*.

*Tallit* - the fringed prayer shawl worn by Jews who have reached thirteen years of age. It is worn during morning prayers and *Torah* services.

**Tefilah** - the Hebrew word for prayer. Also the term for the second section, the heart of the service.

**Torah** - Literally, "teaching" or "direction" the Five Books of Moses or Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). During each *Shabbat* service and on some holidays, a portion is read directly from the *Torah* scroll.

**Torah Service** - consists of three parts: removing the *Torah* (the Five Books of Moses) from the Ark, reading of the week's *Torah* portion and returning the *Torah* to the Ark. Following the *Torah* service, a corresponding selection from the *Haftarah* (reading from the Prophets) is read.