

**READER:** This Rosh Hashanah, we enter this sanctuary as individuals.

**ALL:** Some of us are filled with gratitude and joy,

**READER:** And we rejoice with them.

**ALL:** Some ache with sorrow,

**READER:** And we hope that our presence will bring comfort.

**ALL:** Some are frustrated and embittered,

**READER:** And we listen to their hopes and aspirations.

**ALL:** Some crave understanding,

**READER:** And we offer them friendship and compassion.

**ALL:** May we, in our common need, share our joys, lighten each other's burden and gain strength from one another, praying as one community.

CS, adapted

## EMBRACING

**READER:** How do I prepare for worship?  
How do I pray?  
In what words?  
In what language?  
In what silence?

**ALL:** How do I create silence powerful enough to contain the fullness of my heart?  
How do I sing to the Universe?  
How do I cry out my longing?

**READER:** Questions...  
Searching...  
Ancient threads  
woven into the tapestry of spiritual life.

--GABE & ET, abridged

COMMENT:

The name "Rosh Hashanah" is not used in the Bible to discuss this holiday. Torah refers to the holiday as Yom Ha-Zikaron (the day of remembrance) or Yom Teruah (the day of the sounding of the shofar). The holiday is decreed in Leviticus 23:24-25 [וַיִּקְרָא] -Vayikra]:

24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying: In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall be a solemn rest unto you, a memorial proclaimed with the blast of horns, a holy convocation. 25 Ye shall do no manner of servile work; and ye shall bring an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

COMMENT:

More Jews attend services during the High Holidays than at any other time of year.

Welcome! No matter where you've been or how often you step into a synagogue, we're glad you're here. Finding connection and engaging in community are what B'nai Havurah (and Judaism) are all about. Our Reconstructionist congregation offers numerous access points to an enriched Jewish life. We've created this machzor to aid in your journey today. Spanning over 3,000 years of Jewish creativity, it contains liturgy and writings that are joyous, reflective, and beseeching. Allow yourself to be drawn-in. Come - let's go on this leg of the journey together! -- EL, JW