

## II. CHANTED AMIDAH:

Reader:

**On Rosh Hashanah we listen, on Yom Kippur we respond:**

READER:

**Hineni!** Here I am! Right at the center of things, learning a little from the mistakes of others, and more from my own, seeking to make sense out of life. **Hineni!** To say, "Here I am!" is at-one-ment.

ALL:

**We heal ourselves and the world by embracing ourselves and our world, moving from the impersonal "I-It" and the antagonistic "Us-Them" to the compassionate "I-Thou."**

READER:

**At-one-ment will not bring an end to suffering, will not fill the bellies of the hungry or empty the rifles of the violent.**

ALL:

**But it will awaken us to their hunger and their pain, and to our own hungers, hurts, and violence. By seeing ourselves as parts of a divine Whole we move into a deeper appreciation of life; we gain the perspective that allows for the pain of life even as it seeks to ease that pain. -- RMS**

LEADER:

**In traditional services, the cantor enters from the back of the sanctuary, and as he moves toward the *bimah*, he sings **Hineni!** and offers himself as an interlocutor, to plead on behalf of the congregation for mercy and forgiveness. In our service, we each plead for ourselves but we make our pleas while standing in community with each other. You will see ushers waiting at the back of the room. As they stand at the end of your row, please rise. We will stand up row by row, back to front. When all are standing, let us call out together, as one:**

ALL:

**הִנְנִי *Hineni!* Here I am!**