

## HIGH HOLIDAYS 2020

It has been several months since we have been together in person at TI but there has been a great deal of activity in thinking about and planning the High Holidays for this year. A COVID-19 Taskforce has been meeting regularly to discuss what gatherings would be acceptable in the face of the virus. In addition, the Ritual Committee has met and discussed what aspects of the holidays are most important to maintain and to give guidance to help shape the holidays for this year. Assessment of the virus and its impact on our community is constantly evolving so our plans may change but we wanted to share an overview of what we are planning for the High Holidays this year.

On the first day of Rosh Hashanah, as well as on Yom Kippur, a small group will make a minyan in the sanctuary and broadcast a Zoom service to the rest of the congregation. This group will most likely be made up of two or three families and the leaders of the services. It will be just a minyan or slightly over. The people who are in the sanctuary will be spread out to the corners of the room; the service leaders will each lead from a different podium; and only one person will handle the Torah. All of these precautions are intended to minimize the risk of any spread of the virus through our small gathering. In addition to those in the sanctuary, we will have people participating from their homes.

On the second day of Rosh Hashanah, we will have a different Rosh Hashanah experience that will be completely run on Zoom. This experience will include the key elements of a Rosh Hashanah service but will look different than we are accustomed to. On both of these days, as well as Yom Kippur, we expect to have several other options available. On the second day of Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre, and Yom Kippur morning, Rabbi Avis Miller and Larry Paul will lead parallel services via Zoom. We will also offer special youth and family activities.

In addition to our services, you can expect a range of other High Holiday-themed activities to engage in. During the month of Elul, preceding the holidays, there will be a number of events to help us all prepare for the work we are meant to do during this

time of the year. There will also be some gatherings outdoors in public where we will perform tashlich and hear the shofar blown. For all of these events, we will keep in mind physical distancing guidelines and no one who does not feel comfortable in public spaces should feel any pressure to attend in person. Our objective is to continue to share these gatherings by Zoom as well. Since Zoom will be the primary access point for people to participate in High Holiday services this year, we will be reaching out to make sure people have the ability to connect. If you know someone who is not connected to, or comfortable with, Zoom technology, please let Rabbi Werbow know. We want services to be as accessible as possible, even under the current conditions.

More details for all of the High Holiday services and events, as well as those for Sukkot and Simchat Torah, will be publicized shortly. We look forward to celebrating the holidays as a Kehilah Kedosha, as a holy community.