Instructions: This midterm exam is intended to be "open book" and "open notes." All the information you need to answer these questions has been covered in class or in the readings assigned in your syllabus. You will notice that the word "brief" occurs repeatedly in these questions. Your answers need not be lengthy. The purpose of this exam is to give you a reason to review a lot of what we've learned this semester. Please email your completed midterm by Wednesday, December 30, 2020 to Trish Ivey at: clergyoffice@bethisrael.org.

• **Introduction/Blessings**
  - The Hebrew word for "blessing," *berakhah*, is related to the Hebrew word for "knee," *berekh*. Explain that connection.
  - One of Rabbi Folberg's seminary professors once described Judaism as "the highly developed art of taking nothing for granted." Explain the connection between this understanding of Judaism and the rabbinic teaching that we should try to recite "100 blessings every day."

• **Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur**
  - Moses Maimonides' understanding of the sounding of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah famously begins with the words, "Awake, you sleepers, from your sleep! Rouse yourselves, you slumberers, from your slumber, you who are caught up in your daily routine..." Explain what he means by this understanding of the shofar.
  - Give a definition of the word *teshuvah*. Why are the ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur described as "The Ten Days of Teshuvah?"
  - What is the purpose of fasting on Yom Kippur?

• **Sukkot**
  - List and briefly describe the major ritual practices of Sukkot.
  - How might contemporary Jews connect Sukkot with environmental stewardship or other social justice issues?

• **Simhat Torah**
  - The Hebrew word *Tanakh* is an acronym that means The Hebrew Bible. List the three parts of the Hebrew Bible and describe briefly what each part contains.

• **Shabbat**
  - Briefly describe your current relationship to Shabbat. What are some positive *mitzvot* (practices that you have tried doing) or negative *mitzvot* (things you have tried refraining from) that you’ve undertaken in honor of Shabbat?

• **Liturgy**
  - What are the major rubrics (sections) of a Jewish worship service?
o In what way is the *Amidah* rubric shortened on Shabbat and holidays, and why?

- **Israel**
  o How is the “official” status of Orthodox Judaism in Israel a product of Israel’s parliamentary political system?

- **Jewish Denominations**
  o Briefly list and describe the historical forces that spurred the founding of Reform Judaism in 19th century Germany.

- **Hanukkah**
  o One Talmudic understanding of the significance of placing a *Hanukkiah* in the window is that it is a *pirsoma d’nisa* (Aramaic), meaning “proclaiming the miracle” of Hanukkah. To you, personally, what is the emotional/philosophical/political significance of lighting a *Hanukkiah* in your own home, and/or in your own window?