

Things to know about Rosh Hashanah Services at Beth Jacob Synagogue, 2021

- The hours of prayer are made of many different services. Each has its own highlights.
- It's fine to come and go. Attend the parts that speak to you. Many Jews have fond memories of gathering with friends outside the building. That, too, is part of this day.

Highlights of each section of the daytime service, September 7 & 8:

Preliminary Service (9:00 a.m.- 9:20 a.m.): Into the mood: the first section of the service, Birchot haShahar (the Morning Blessings) and P'sukei d'Zimra (Verses of Song) contain wonderful congregational singing, mostly to the same familiar melodies we use on Shabbat.

Shacharit (9:20 a.m. -10:00 a.m.): Shacharit, the morning service, follows the themes of gratitude, both for nature and for social mores and rules. We declare that there is one Source of everything: nature and society, darkness and light. That Source entered into our history to bring us from enslavement to freedom, and we turn to that spirit in prayer and meditation, as we rise to say the Amidah.

Torah Service (10:a.m. - 11:15 a.m.) We move to the Torah service, exploring with ancient ceremony the story within our sacred text. Generally, there is a d'var Torah (talk about the Torah text) after the chanting from the Torah and before we begin the Shofar service.

Shofar Service (11:15a.m.-11:30 a.m.): With 100 blasts of the Shofar, we enter the ceremony specific to Rosh Hashanah. That sound! It reverberates through our history, through our souls.

Musaf (11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.): Then we move to Musaf, where the themes of the holiday are rendered in both words and Shofar blasts.

Malchuyot-- Sovereignty!

Zichronot-- Memory.

Shofarot --The blasts that have accompanied us in all the places we have been.

Think about your favorite parts of the service. Notice how you're feeling at this New Year, on this Awe-inspiring Day. Let your own voice join in the songs as the morning awakens. Or come for the holy busyness of the Torah and the Shofar. Or enjoy the broad sweep of history and soul in the Musaf themes.

L'shanah tova tikatevu v' tichatemu!

May you be written and sealed for a good year!

Rabbi Shana Margolin