

**WELCOME TO
TEMPLE ADATH
YESHURUN!**

*If you are visiting us for the first
time or have questions about what is
happening, you may find the
answers in this*

**Guide for the
Perplexed**

*All you want to know about
worship in our Synagogue!*

Dear friend,

If you are visiting with us on Friday evening or Saturday, you are here for a Shabbat or Sabbath service. The appropriate greeting from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday is "**Shabbat Shalom**" or "**Gut Shabbes**" - Hebrew and Yiddish greetings for a Sabbath of Peace or a Good Sabbath. Here are a few hints about participating in and enjoying the experience of Jewish worship. There is no need to feel lost or uncomfortable. Many of the prayers may be familiar to our visitors, and members of the congregation will be happy to help you follow along in the prayerbook.

Synagogue Etiquette

Kipah - It is the custom in our synagogue for all men to cover their heads with a kipah, (also called a yarmulke in Yiddish) or skull cap, in the Sanctuary as a traditional sign of respect. Women may also wear a kipah if they so choose. Kippot (pl) are available at the Sanctuary entrance.

Tallith - Only Jewish adult men (and in increasing numbers, women) wrap themselves in the tallith or prayer shawl. (In Jewish tradition, one is an adult after age thirteen.) We are commanded to do so by the Torah. One wears a tallith at morning services and when participating in the Torah service in the evening.

Children - We encourage children to attend services and sit with their families since we should all raise a joyful voice to God. But when some voices get more joyful than others and disturb other worshippers, we ask that parents take them outside for a few moments, remembering, though, that voices from the lobby travel into the Sanctuary.

Photographs - thou shalt not snap or click in the Sanctuary during worship. Please, no picture-taking during services!

Entering and leaving the Sanctuary. It is expected that worshippers will remain in the Sanctuary for the entire service. If it is necessary to leave at some point, please do so only when the congregation is seated.

WHAT'S WHAT AND WHO'S WHO

Bimah - The raised "stage" in the front of the Sanctuary is called the *Bimah*, the Hebrew word for high place.

Ark - In the center of the Bimah is the Holy Ark, or *Aron Hakodesh*. This is where the Torah Scrolls are kept. The curtain on the front of the Ark is a hand-woven tapestry whose design represents some of the ritual objects used on different holidays during the year. You may be able to recognize the *Chanukiah* - eight-branched candelabra; or the *Shofar*, ram's horn; a piece of *matza*; *kiddush* cup.

When the Ark is opened, it is customary for the congregation to stand.

Torah - Our synagogue has five Torah Scrolls in the Ark. Each of them is handwritten on parchment and each contains the full text of the Five Books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) in Hebrew.

Eternal Light - Above the Ark is the *Ner Tamid*, or Eternal Light. Commanded to keep a light burning continually, we light a new candle each week from the flame of the last candle. .

Menorah - the seven branched candelabra is lit whenever the Sanctuary is being used for a worship service. It reminds us of the original Menorah that stood in the Temple in Jerusalem.

Rabbi - The Rabbi is the spiritual leader of the congregation - teacher, judge, scholar - who usually leads the worship service and would love to answer your questions after the service.

Cantor - The Cantor, a "sweet singer of Zion", chants prayers songs and scriptural texts during services. Specially trained and ordained, the Cantor draws upon a rich heritage of Jewish music that has been carried through many centuries from many lands.

President -The president of the congregation, or a member of the Board of Directors of the congregation, usually sits on the Bimah in a position of honor, aids

in the Torah service and makes announcements to the congregation.

THE SHABBAT SERVICE

The worship service usually begins with an opening hymn, prayers, Psalms or a reading to set the mood for prayer.

SH'MA and its blessings - The first part of the service is the "call to worship" which precedes the "Sh'ma," the affirmation of Jewish Faith: "Hear, O Israel, The Eternal One is our God, the Eternal God alone." Paragraphs before and after it, in Hebrew or English, speak of God's creative power and love for Israel.

AMIDAH - The next major section is the Amidah, usually said while standing. It consists of seven different prayers on Sabbaths and Holidays, each on a specific theme, and includes the prayers for the Sanctification of the Sabbath or Holiday. It concludes with the prayer for peace.

TORAH SERVICE - The highlight of a Sabbath Service is the reading of the Torah, read sequentially through the year. On Friday evenings it is our custom to read just one section from the Torah portion of the week, while on Saturday we read several. Each section is prefaced and followed by a prayer, referred to as an "Aliyah." An additional portion (Haftarah) from the prophets is also read when there is a Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH - The joyous occasion when a child assumes adult status in the Jewish community is marked by the child's participation in the service, reading from the Torah and chanting or reading a passage from the Prophets (Haftarah).

SERMON - Following the Torah service is the sermon or an interpretation or explanation of the Torah portion for the week.

ALENU and KADDISH - These two prayers conclude the service. The Kaddish is a prayer by which we honor the memory of deceased loved ones and friends through praise of God and affirmation of life.

HAVDALAH is the service with which we end the Shabbat Saturday evening. Using symbols of wine, candle and spices, we bid a reluctant farewell to the Sabbath Day. The appropriate greeting after Havdalah is "**Shavua Tov**", wishing each other a good week.

We hope you enjoyed participating in our service. Members of the congregation would be happy to try to answer any of your questions.

SHALOM!