



**Wimbeldon & District Synagogue**

**Rosh Hashana Children's  
Service**

**For 4 to 7 Year Olds**



Good morning everyone and welcome to our Rosh Hashana service.

Rosh Hashana – what do you think that Rosh Hashana means?

Rosh means head and Shana means year. So Rosh Hashana means head of the year, or New Year.

Every year at Rosh Hashana we wish each other a good or happy new year or Shana Tova.

So let's begin by wishing each other a good or happy new year. Turn to the person either side of you and say:

**Shana Tova**

**Happy New Year**

That's all very good, but how about we each say what our name is. Then we can wish a Shana Tova to each other using our name.

Now that we know that, we can sing our first song which is Sheer Shalom.

Sheer shalom, shalom - sheer shalom, shalom - sheer shalom, shalom - sheer shalom.

Because Rosh Hashana is the beginning of new year it is about beginnings.

Everything has a beginning.

People enter the world as babies, flowers grow from seeds, a story begins as an idea, a painting begins as a drawing.

The world also had a beginning. God created the world. He created heaven and earth, trees and grass, the sun, moon, stars and other galaxies, animals, birds and fish. The last thing God created before Shabbat was man and woman, Adam and Eve.

Once a year, on the 1st and 2nd of Tishrei, which coincides with the beginning of the school year, we celebrate this beginning that God made with Rosh Hashanah.

In fact Rosh Hashanah has four different names which tell us about the four different parts of the Holiday.

How about each of you reading one of the names and what it means?

1. **Rosh Hashanah** – “Head of the Year” - We celebrate Rosh Hashanah as the birthday of the world, seeing God as the Creator.
2. **Yom Hadin** – “Day of Judgement” - Stories tells us that on this day, God thinks about all of the things we have done over the last year and decides what reward we deserve - if any.
3. **Yom Hazikaron** – “Day of Remembrance” This is a day for remembering. Because God remembers every living creature on this day and we try and remember the past year and our actions.
4. **Yom Teruah** – “Day of Blowing the Shofar” This is the name given to Rosh Hashana in the Bible, since the shofar is the most important symbol of the Holiday and is meant to wake us up to the things we could do better.

The Jewish New Year is time for each of us to look inside ourselves and take an honest look at the past year. We notice what things we need to improve and try and decide how we're going to work on them.

Let's say a prayer now about how we are going to work on the things for next year.

Please God I do try to be good, but sometimes it is hard.

When I am playing and Mummy or Daddy want me to come and help them and I don't want to.

When someone upsets me in the playground and I get cross. But I do want to be good and kind and helpful and thoughtful.

And I do try and I know I could try harder. I don't want to be perfect, but I do want to be better.

So please God, for next year help me to do a little more on the good side and a little less on the not so good.

----- Amen -----



At this time of year many people go to Jerusalem to pray. And when they pray they go to a special place called the Kotel. Does anyone know what the Kotel is?

It is the western wall. This wall is the last remains that we have of the Temple that we built in Jerusalem more than two and a half thousand years ago. For Jews the world over it is a very special place and it is where we face whenever we pray.

As I said, many people pray there now because they believe that there is something special in the bricks and the walls themselves.

And they also write their prayers down and put them into the bricks themselves. So what we are going to do is read some prayers that we have prepared already and decide which are the ones that we want to put on our wall.

Let's sing another song now.

We are going to sing Rosh Hashana Is a Brand New Year.

And now let's have a story. One we can all read together.

There once was a man who was quite forgetful. When he got up in the morning, he never remembered where he had left his clothes.

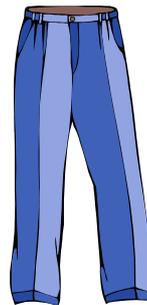
One night he thought of a plan. He took paper and pencil and he wrote down exactly where he put all his clothes.

The next morning he was very pleased. He took the piece of paper and read the list.



"Cap". There it was.

"Trousers". He found them.



"Shirt." There it lay.

And so it was until he was fully dressed.

"That's fine," he said.

"But now, where am I myself?" he asked very puzzled.

"Where in the world am I?"

He looked and looked, but he could not find himself.

Let's all think about what that story means and what would have helped him to find himself.

Let's sing our next song about making peace – so we have a peaceful year too.

This song is one we sing in the Synagogue every Saturday.

And it's a song about peace.

Osay shalom bim romav.

Who y'sayshalom alaynu, v'al col yisrael v'imruy, imruy amen.

y'sayshalom - y'sayshalom - shalom alaynu v'al col yisrael

y'sayshalom - y'sayshalom - shalom alaynu v'al col yisrael.

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May he who makes peace in the heavens, make peace for us and for all of Israel.

## The Rosh H'Shana Torah Service

Now we are going to begin the torah service. And we are going to begin it with our most important prayer of all – the Shema.

<i>Sh'ma Yisra-eil:</i>	שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל:
<i>Adonai Eloheinu,</i>	יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ,
<i>Adonai echad!</i>	יְהוָה אֶחָד!

*Hear, O Israel: the Eternal One is our God,  
the Eternal God alone.*

<i>Baruch Sheim</i>	בָּרוּךְ שֵׁם
<i>k'vod malchuto</i>	כְּבוֹד מַלְכוּתוֹ
<i>l'olam va-ed!</i>	לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד!

*Blessed is God's glory forever and ever!*

## Shema

You shall love God in every way  
you can:

וְאַהֲבַת אֵת  
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ  
בְּכָל-לִבְבְּךָ,  
וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁךָ,  
וּבְכָל-מְאֵדֶךָ.

Treat the Torah with respect.  
Love its words.

וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים  
הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר  
אָנֹכִי מְצַוְךָ  
הַיּוֹם עַל-לִבְבְּךָ.

Teach the Torah to your children.

וְדַבַּרְתָּ בָם  
בְּשִׁבְתְּךָ בְּבֵיתְךָ  
וּבְלַכְתְּךָ בַּדֶּרֶךְ.

Talk about the Torah at home and  
everywhere.

Make it an important part of your life.

וּבְשֹׁכְבְךָ  
וּבְקוּמְךָ.

Say the Shema when you lie down to sleep  
and as you rise up to begin the new day.

וְקִשְׁרֹתֶם לְאוֹת  
עַל־יְדֵיךָ,  
וְהָיוּ לְטֹטְפוֹת  
בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ.

Do what the words in the Torah say to do.  
Think about them where-ever you are.

Put a mezuzah on your doorpost.  
Touch it to remind you to live by  
the wisdom in the Torah.

וְכַתְּבֶתֶם עַל־מְזוּזוֹת  
בֵּיתְךָ וּבְשַׁעְרֶיךָ.

Our next part of our torah service is called the Amidah.

Does anyone know what the word Amidah means?

So now let's all stand up for our Amidah prayers and we start with a song.

Ktlht dygy ypw xtpt ytp# ynd)

*A-do-nai s'fa-tai tif-tach, u-fi ya-gid t'hi-la-te-cha.*

Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Blessed are you, Lord our God and God of our fathers, God of Abraham, God of Isaac and God of Jacob, great, powerful and awesome God, generous in love and in kindness, and possessing all.

He remembers all the good our ancestors have done, and therefore loves and looks after us.

God, you are like a King, who delights in life and remembers us for a good life, a King who helps us, saves us and looks after us, shielding us from harm.

Blessed are you Lord, the shield of Abraham.

*Now let's take the Torah from our Ark and walk with it around the room.*

Now the story we read from the Torah today is about the birth of Isaac.

Now a long time ago, when our ancestors were alive, the first person to be a Jew, Abraham, and his wife Sarah were living in a place called Haran with his nephew Lot. Now Abraham and Sarah were very old and they had not any children of their own, which made them both very sad, because they liked children and wanted to have a family.

Anyway one day God talked to Abraham (in those days God often talked to people he was especially fond of and God had a very special affection for Abraham and Sarah). And God said to Abraham:

“Look, I think you should go from here. I want you to go to a land called Canaan. You don't know it, but it is a good place and when you get there I am going to make you the father of a great nation.”

Well Abraham was a bit surprised about this. He was very old and rather thought that his days of being a father had passed him by. And anyway he would have settled for just being a father to one child let alone a whole nation.

But he knew that God knew more than him and God had always been good to him, so he went to Canaan with his wife Sarah and his nephew Lot and all his servants and his animals – his sheep and goats.

When they all got to Canaan after a long and slow journey that took many years (it was a very long way to go) they put up their tents. They had lots of food for the animals and lots of water and they lived well there.

But, after some years, what with the food being plenty and the goats and sheep being happy there, they found that there were too many of them to live in the same place and so Lot and Abraham agreed to part company. Lot went down to the valleys where the grazing was good, and Abraham went with Sarah and his servants up into the hills where it wasn't so good, but where Abraham liked it.

And God spoke to him again and said;

“Abraham. I said that I would make you the father of a whole nation of people and I will. Wait. You'll see.”

So Abraham waited, and he saw.

What he saw one hot day when he was sitting outside his tent, resting in the shade (he was now a very old man) were three men coming towards his tent. Now he knew that they were coming towards his tent because his tent and his herds and his servants and Sarah were the only people for miles around.

So he went out to meet them and he offered them the hospitality of his tent, some food, something to drink, a chance to rest in the shade and a chance to wash their feet (if you live in a hot country and have walked a long way there is nothing more refreshing and relaxing than to have your feet washed in cool water).

Once they had eaten and drunk their fill (and had their feet washed by Abraham) the men said to him and Sarah, “we have brought you a message from God, You and Sarah are going to have a baby.”

Well Sarah laughed out loud at this and said “we're both much too old to have children” even though she longed to have a child of her own.

Well the strangers left and the months went past and Sarah did indeed have a baby and Abraham and Sarah were very happy in their old age.

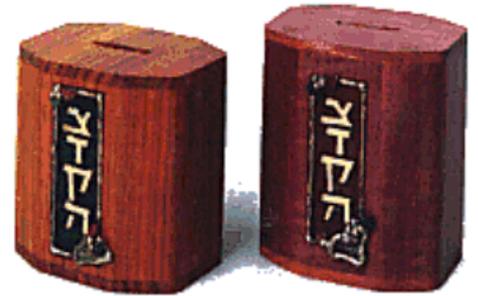
And they called their child Isaac.

We are now going to redress the Torah and parade it around the room and put it back in the ark.

One of the things that we talk a lot about at this time of year is Tzedakah.

**תְּצַדִּיק**

Does anyone know what Tzedakah means?



As Jews at the centre of our faith is Tzedakah. We strongly believe in looking after others not so able to look after themselves. In fact, some Rabbis of old said that above all else, this Tzedakah was the most important thing for us to do.

According to them, what we get out of giving is so powerful that the person we give to actually does us a favor by allowing us to perform tzedakah – to give to them.

The word "tzedakah" is actually not quite the same as charity. It really means fairness more than charity. It is not about feeling good about giving to the poor, it is about doing the right thing. Simply being fair.

And it is not just about giving to Jews. God expects us to give to anyone in need.

Another thing we do at this time of year is eat apple and honey.

Does anyone know why we eat apple and honey?

So now we are going to have a little snack of apple and honey to celebrate the new year.

And before we eat we will say this special baracha.

C(h yrp )rwb Mlw(h Klm wnyhl) yy ht) xwrb

*Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam borei p'ri ha'etz*

As we eat the fruit of the trees, we pray that the new year will be a sweet and happy one for all of us.

Finally, to end our service, let's say the special greeting to each other that we say only at Rosh Hashana:

**“May we be written and signed in God's book for a good year!”**

That closes our service.

Now let's do our second activity.