



## Model Poetry-Based Alternative Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur Experiences

Rosh HaShanah Readings  
Mount Zion Temple of St. Paul, Minnesota  
Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker  
Developed by Michael Kuhne

### Timeline

- We will start the reading at \_\_\_\_\_, which will allow latecomers to be seated. Try to be in the \_\_\_\_\_, however, by \_\_\_\_\_
- There will be a very short (3-5 minutes) introduction
- If read from beginning to end, all of the readings run about 30 minutes total
- We won't rush the time between readers, however, so the total time - readings plus passing time between readers - will be close to 45 minutes

### Guideline and Instructions

- A program similar to the table below will be made available to those attending.
- Readers should bring copies of their *machzor* OR a print copy of the reading (see below if you need a copy).
- There will be two reading stands (music stands) available for you.
- We will begin with a discussion of the readings, how they were chosen and arranged, and the goal of the session: to give the words of the *machzor* life and human vitality. This will be kept this short.
- As one reader readies to read, the next reader should come to the front and be ready to read. Have your portion bookmarked. If you don't have a copy of the *machzor*, PLEASE let me know, and I'll make a copy of your portion for you.
- Announce the name of the reading, the author, the page number, and the section from which the reading comes (all of this is listed in the table below). Once the page number is announced, those in attendance with the *machzor* will be finding the reading; wait to begin until the sound of rustling pages ceases.
- Read SLOWLY. Take your time! Be as dramatic as the reading suggests and you feel comfortable. Our job is make the words come to life for ourselves and those in the room, so relish the words.
- Other than the introduction to your reading, do not comment; instead, allow the listeners to render their own interpretation.
- When one reader finishes, the next reader should take his or her time to begin reading. Ideally, we'll allow one minute to pass between readers. That doesn't seem long, but when you are up there as the next reader, it will seem like an eternity. Don't rush; allow the previous reading to settle on the ears and in the minds of those in the room.

<b>Rosh Hashanah Reader</b>	<b>Reading, Author, Page</b>	<b><i>Machzor</i> Section</b>
	<p><b>“Start Fresh” lyrics by Judith-Kate Friedman (7)</b></p> <p><b>For Individual Reflection (16)</b></p>	<p><b>Erev Rosh Hashanah At the Threshold of a New Year</b></p>
	<p><b>“Why does Rosh Hashanah precede Yom Kippur?” Rabbi Wolpe (119)</b></p>	<p><b>Morning Service Morning Blessing</b></p>
	<p><b>“In the middle” Barbara Crooker (69)</b></p> <p><b>“I was never able to pray” Edward Hirsch (69)</b></p>	<p><b>Erev Rosh Hashanah Standing Before God</b></p>
	<p><b>“I, may I rest in peace” Yehuda Amichai (71)</b></p>	<p><b>Erev Rosh Hashanah Standing Before God</b></p>
	<p><b>“Why I Wake Early” Mary Oliver (145)</b></p> <p><b>“I am the Blossom” Jane Kenyon (147)</b></p>	<p><b>Morning Service Sh’ma and Its Blessings</b></p>
	<p><b>“You have stayed long enough” (33)</b></p> <p><b>“My Fiftieth Year” W. B. Yeats (63)</b></p> <p><b>“Appendix to the Vision of Peace” Yehuda Amichai (215)</b></p>	<p><b>Erev Rosh Hashanah Sh’ma and Its Blessings</b></p> <p><b>Erev Rosh Hashanah Standing Before God</b></p> <p><b>Morning Service Standing Before God</b></p>
	<p><b>“Introduction to Aleinu: From Sanctification to Adoration” Ruth Brin (81)</b></p> <p><b>“Rabbi Israel Salanter” (81)</b></p>	<p><b>Erev Rosh Hashanah Concluding Prayers</b></p>
	<p><b>“Miracles” Walt Whitman (127)</b></p>	<p><b>Morning Service Morning Blessings</b></p>
	<p><b>“On Probability and Possibility” Lewis Thomas (127)</b></p>	<p><b>Morning Service Morning Blessings</b></p>
	<p><b>“I try to walk” Rabbi Wolf (159)</b></p>	<p><b>Morning Service Sh’ma and Its Blessings</b></p>

	<b>“The Israelites Walked” Mark Nazimova (161)</b>	
	<b>“Keeping Quiet” Pablo Neruda (197)</b>	<b>Morning Service Standing Before God</b>
	<b>“I am waiting” Lawrence Ferlinghetti (289)</b>  <b>“Autumn Sonnet” May Sarton (290)</b>	<b>Morning Service Concluding Prayers</b>
	<b>“About the Closing Songs” (295)</b>	<b>Morning Service Concluding Prayers</b>



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**Yom Kippur Readings**  
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**Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker**  
**Developed by Michael Kuhne**

### Timeline

- We will start the reading at \_\_\_\_\_, which will allow latecomers to be seated. Try to be in the \_\_\_\_\_, however, by \_\_\_\_\_
- There will be a very short (3-5 minutes) introduction
- If read from beginning to end, all of the readings run about 30 minutes total
- We won't rush the time between readers, however, so the total time - readings plus passing time between readers - will be close to 45 minutes

### Guideline and Instructions

- Copies of the order of the readings (title and author), page numbers, *machzor* section, and readers will be made available to those attending.
- Readers should bring copies of their *machzor* OR a print copy of the reading (see below if you need a copy)
- We will begin with a discussion of the readings, how they were chosen and arranged, and the goal of the session: to give the words of the *machzor* life and human vitality. This will be kept short.
- As one reader readies to read, the next reader should come to the front and be ready to read. Have your portion bookmarked. If you don't have a copy of the *machzor*, PLEASE let me know, and I'll make a copy of your portion for you.
- Announce the name of the reading, the author, the page number, and the section from which the reading comes (all of this is listed in the table below). Once the page number is announced, those in attendance with the *machzor* will be finding the reading; wait to begin until the sound of rustling pages ceases.
- Read SLOWLY. Take your time! Be as dramatic as the reading suggests and you feel comfortable. Our job is to make the words come to life for ourselves and those in the room, so relish the words.
- Other than the introduction to your reading, do not comment; instead, allow the listeners to render their own interpretation.
- When one reader finishes, the next reader should take his or her time. Ideally, we will allow one minute to pass between readers. That doesn't seem long, but when you are up there as the next reader, it will seem like an eternity. Don't rush; allow the previous reading to settle on the ears and in the minds of those in the room.

<b>Yom Kippur Readers</b>	<b>Reading, Author, Page</b>	<b><i>Machzor</i> Section</b>
	<b>“Yom Kippur Sonnet” Jacqueline Osherow Poem (8)</b>	<b>Kol Nidre - Entering into Yom Kippur</b>
	<b>TBD</b>	
	<b>“The Peace of Wild Things” Wendell Berry (43)</b>	<b>Kol Nidre- Sh’ma and its blessings</b>
	<b>“For every exile” Jacqueline Kudler Poem (41)</b>  <b>“Whatever is Foreseen in Joy” Wendell Berry (69)</b>	<b>Kol Nidre- Sh’ma and its blessings</b>  <b>Kol Nidre- The Day’s Holiness</b>
	<b>“It Doesn’t” Mary Oliver Poem (75)</b>  <b>“Walkers with the Dawn” Langston Hughes Poem (133)</b>  <b>“Uses of Sorrow” Mary Oliver Poem (141)</b>	<b>Kol Nidre - Standing Before God</b>  <b>Morning Service - morning blessings</b>  <b>Morning Service - morning blessings</b>
	<b>“If even some events” Louis Newman, prose (154)</b>	<b>Morning Service - morning blessings</b>
	<b>Those Who Dwell Rachel Carson (181)</b>	<b>Morning Service - Sh’ma and its blessings</b>
	<b>“You Chose Us, With Love” Rabbi Hertzberg (231)</b>	<b>Morning Service - Standing Before God</b>
	<b>“Seven Social Sins” Gandhi (305)</b>  <b>“The Way It Is” Stafford (635)</b>	<b>Morning Service - Vidui and S’lichot</b>  <b>N’ilah Service - Standing Before God</b>

	<b>“The Gift of Awe” Samplings as a poem (373)</b>	<b>Afternoon Service - Standing Before God</b>
	<b>“Father” Ted Kooser (589)</b>	<b>Yizkor: Seven Lights of Yizkor</b>
	<b>“Let Evening Come” Jane Kenyon (583)</b>	<b>Yizkor: Seven Lights of Yizkor</b>
	<b>James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner. Prose (523-4)</b>	<b>Yom Kippur: These I Remember</b>
	<b>“Love After Love” Poem Walcott (667)</b>	<b>N’ilah Service - Conclusion of the Day</b>