

Important Change for the Second Day of Rosh Hashanah

Like many synagogues across the country, Har Zion boasts many more empty seats on the second day of Rosh Hashanah than on the first. This is largely because the second day is typically a repetition of the first and can feel redundant. However, any opportunity to be together as a sacred community is an opportunity to uplift us and bring us meaning and joy. So, this year, on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, we will offer something new; it will not be an exact repeat of the first day with one thousand fewer people and one thousand empty seats. If you are part of our Har Zion community this year for the second day of Rosh Hashanah, you will experience a more intimate, more participatory High Holy Day service. There will be opportunities for discussion and interactive study with Rabbi Haaz and with the people sitting around you.

To facilitate the intimacy necessary for greater participation and interaction, we will experiment on the second day of Rosh Hashanah with closing the doors to the Gorson, Fishman and Tobin Auditoriums and having open seating. Just as you are asked to be flexible with your place in the Sanctuary on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, we too will be flexible and will lead parts of the service from the floor instead of the bimah. We are eager for the opportunity to engage in the second day of Rosh Hashanah together, to dig deeper into our prayers, and to be closer to our loved ones and friends. Thank you for your open-mindedness, your support, and your willingness to explore opportunities with Rabbi Haaz and Hazzan Vogel to enhance our High Holy Day experience at Har Zion.