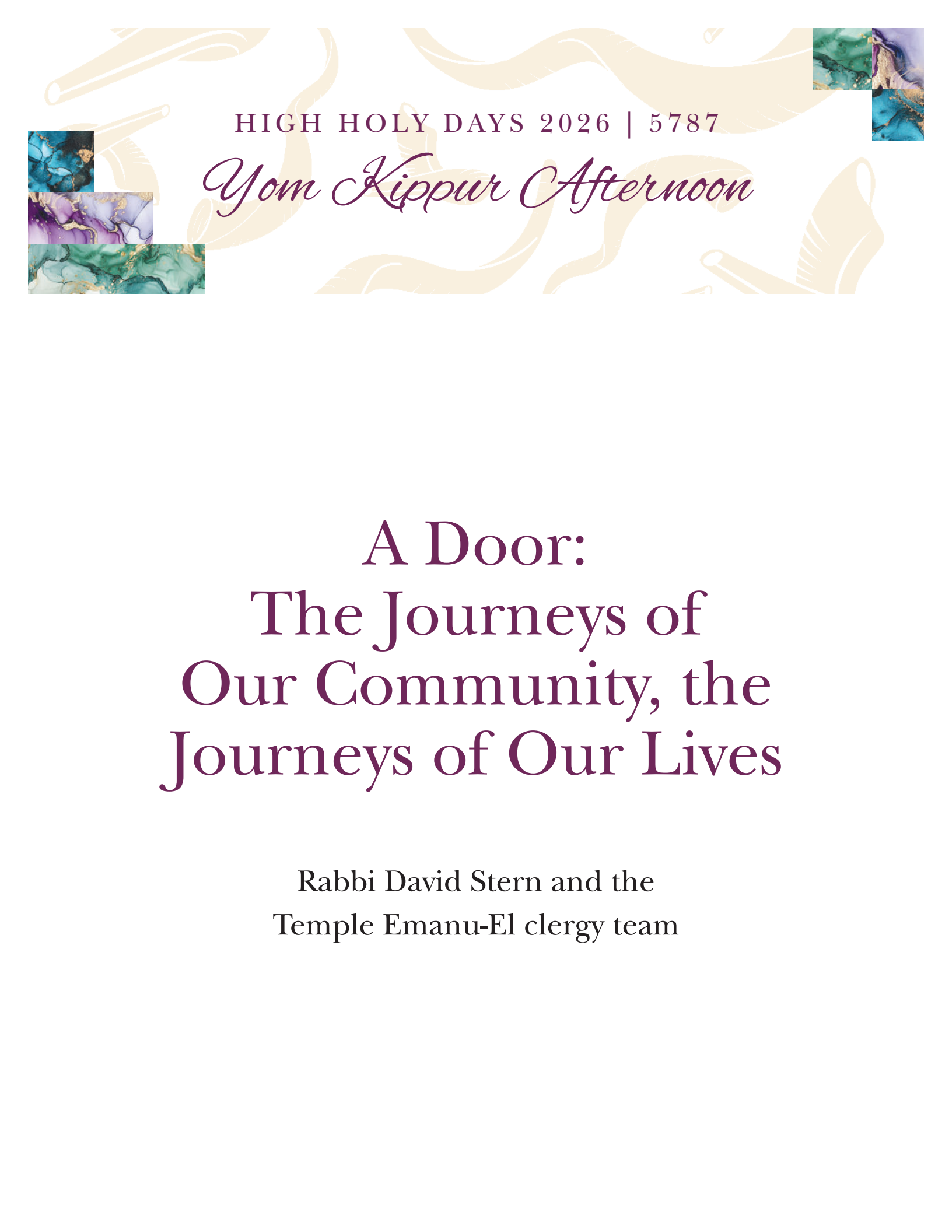




HIGH HOLY DAYS 2026 | 5787

Yom Kippur Afternoon

A Door:
The Journeys of
Our Community, the
Journeys of Our Lives

Rabbi David Stern and the
Temple Emanu-El clergy team

Hinei Mah Tov

Music by Elana Arian

Hinei mah tov u'ma naim

הִנֵּה מַה טוֹב וַיֵּמָּה נְעִים

Shevet kulanu gam yachad.

שֵׁבֶת כָּלָנוּ גַם יַחַד

Gather us in peace,
Gather us in joy,
Gather us in strength,
We are one.

A Door

Idit Barak

A human being needs at least one door
To open what he has closed
To enter in order to discover
To exit in order to search
To close in order to let go

A human being needs one door
To hang a sign upon
And call it by its name

A human being needs a door
That he may knock on with a soft hand
To hear someone on the other side of it
Call out: Come in!

דלת

אדם זקוק לפחות לדלת אחת
לפתח את מה שסגר
להכנס כדי לגלות
לצאת בשביל לחפש
לסגר על מנת להניח

אדם זקוק לדלת אחת
לתלות עליה שלט
לקרוא לה בשם

אדם זקוק לדלת
כדי שיוכל לנקש עליה ביד רכה
לשמע מישהו בצדה השני
עונה לו: יבוא

“The reason that second commandment, “Thou shall not make for yourself a graven image” [follows the commandment of “I am the Lord your God”] ... is because a graven image is cut according to specific dimensions, perfect, lacking nothing. ...this is to teach us that nothing is revealed to man completely.” (Rabbi Mordechai Yosef Leiner of Izbica (1800-1854), *Mei HaShiloach*)

On the individual-religious plane, prior to this approach we generally equated certainty and steadfast faith as being more “religious.” In fact, according to the “Theological Uncertainty Principle” of the Mei HaShiloach ... the exact opposite is true. Uncertainty is an essential part of the God-created spiritual topography which we inhabit. It is precisely in the landscape of uncertainty where we develop as religious beings. (Commentary of Rabbi Herzl Hefter on *Mei HaShiloach*)

Awaken

Music and text by Cantor Ellen Dreskin

Awaken my soul to all its potential
A letter unique in an infinite scroll
Both a guest and a gift in this life I am living
May I be for a blessing as I come and I go.

Awaken my heart to all its potential
A letter unique in an infinite scroll
Both a guest and a gift in this life I am living
May I be for a blessing as I come and I go.

Awaken my life to all its potential
A letter unique in an infinite scroll
Both a guest and a gift in this life I am living
May I be for a blessing as I come and I go.

Otherwise

Jane Kenyon

I got out of bed
on two strong legs.
It might have been
otherwise. I ate
cereal, sweet
milk, ripe, flawless
peach. It might
have been otherwise.
I took the dog uphill
to the birch wood.
All morning I did
the work I love.

At noon I lay down
with my mate. It might
have been otherwise.
We ate dinner together
at a table with silver
candlesticks. It might
have been otherwise.
I slept in a bed
in a room with paintings
on the walls, and
planned another day
just like this day.
But one day, I know,
it will be otherwise.

The Facts of Life

Pádraig Ó Tuama

That you were born
and you will die.

That you will sometimes love enough
and sometimes not.

That you will lie
if only to yourself.

That you will get tired.

That you will learn most from the situations
you did not choose.

That there will be some things that move you
more than you can say.

That you will live
that you must be loved.

That you will avoid questions most urgently in
need of
your attention.

That you began as the fusion of a sperm and an
egg
of two people who once were strangers
and may well still be.

That life isn't fair.

That life is sometimes good
and sometimes even better than good.

That life is often not so good.

That life is real
and if you can survive it, well,
survive it well
with love
and art
and meaning given
where meaning's scarce.

That you will learn to live with regret.
That you will learn to live with respect.

That the structures that constrict you
may not be permanently constricting.

That you will probably be okay.

That you must accept change
before you die
but you will die anyway.

So you might as well live
and you might as well love.

You might as well love.

You might as well love.

Kobayashi Issa

1763-1828

This world of dew
is only the world of dew—
and yet ...oh and yet ...

Translated from the Japanese by Robert Hass.

Czesław Miłosz

1911–2004

Encounter

We were riding through frozen fields in a wagon
at dawn.
A red wing rose in the darkness.

And suddenly a hare ran across the road.
One of us pointed to it with his hand.

That was long ago. Today neither of them is alive,
Not the hare, nor the man who made the gesture.

O my love, where are they, where are they going.
The flash of a hand, streak of movement, rustle
of pebbles.
I ask not out of sorrow, but in wonder.

Translated from the Polish by Robert Hass and the author.

Mourners

Ted Kooser

After the funeral, the mourners gather
under the rustling churchyard maples
and talk softly, like clusters of leaves.
White shirt cuffs and collars flash in the shade:
highlights on deep green water.
They came this afternoon to say goodbye,
but now they keep saying hello and hello,
peering into each other's faces,
slow to let go of each other's hands.

Ken Y'hi Ratzon
Music by Elana Arian

May I/you/we be safe, may we be free,
may I/you/we find space, space to just be.

Ken y'hi ratzon (2x)

כֵּן יְהִי רָצוֹן

May I/you/we find our way back home.

Ken y'hi ratzon (2x)

כֵּן יְהִי רָצוֹן

May I/you/we be find our way back home.

Painting a Mountain Stream (excerpt)

Howard Nemerov

The eye travels on running water,
out to the sky, if you let it go.
However often you call it back
it travels again, out to the sky.

The water that seemed to stand is gone.
The water that seemed to run is here.
Steady the wrist, steady the eye;
paint this rhythm, not this thing.

blessing the boats

(at St. Mary's)

Lucille Clifton

may the tide
that is entering even now
the lip of our understanding
carry you out
beyond the face of fear
may you kiss
the wind then turn from it
certain that it will
love your back may you
open your eyes to water
water waving forever
and may you in your innocence
sail through this to that

T'filat Haderech

Music by Elana Arian

Amen, amen, amen. Amen, *v'imru*: Amen. (2x)

Holy One of blessing, wrap us in perfect peace
Guide our steps steadily forward as we go on our way.
Bless us with compassion as we walk new paths ahead.
Bless us with strength for the journey, and we say: Amen.

May we be protected, may we feel held and free.
May we have patience and wisdom as we go on our way.
Bless us with knowing that we are never alone.
Bless us with love for the journey, and we say: Amen.