

# Yom Kippur Home Service

It is customary to have a hearty, festive meal before going to the Synagogue on *Yom Kippur*. While *Kiddush* is not said, *Hamotzi* and *Birkat Hamazon* should be said at the meal. When the meal is over, the following ceremonies take place at home:

1. *Tzdakah* is given.

2. A memorial candle, large enough to burn throughout the fast is lit in memory of departed ones.

3. The candles are lit.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ  
לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל יוֹם הַכִּיפּוּרִים.

*Barukh ata adonai elohelnu melekh ha'olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitz-votav, v'tzi-vanu l'hadlik ner shel yom tov.*

Blessed are You, *Adonai*, our God, Ruler of the universe, Who has sanctified us through Your commandments and commanded us to light the Festival candles.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁחַחֲסֵינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

*Barukh ata adonai elohelnu melekh haolam, she-he-he-yanu v'kiy'manu v'hig-i-anu laz'man ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You, *Adonai*, our God, Ruler of the universe, Who has kept us in life and sustained us and enabled us to reach this season.

4. In preparation for *Yom Kippur*, parents & children are invited to reflect over the previous year. By asking forgiveness from each other for wrongs they have committed, the family can begin the New Year with a clean slate.

Traditionally, on *Yom Kippur*,  
Jews refrain from eating/drinking,  
bathing, anointing the body with oil,  
perfume or cologne, sexual relations,  
and wearing leather shoes. These spiritual  
practices which heighten our senses  
and expose the frailty of our bodies  
help us more intensely focus on  
the task of *tshuva* (repentance).

5. Children are blessed.

Parents place their hands on their child's head and say:

To sons: **יְשִׁמְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאַפְרַיִם וְכַמְנַשֶּׁה.**

*Y'sim-kha elohim k'ephra-yim v'khim-nashe.*

May God make you as Ephraim and Menashe.

To daughters: **יְשִׁימְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּשָׂרָה, רִבְקָה, רָחֵל וְלֵאָה.**

*Ysim-meikh elohim k'sara, rivka, rahell v'leah.*

May God make you as Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, & Leah.

For all children, continue with the Priestly Blessing:

יְבָרְכֶךָ ה' וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ.  
יָאֵר ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיְחַנֶּנֶךָ.  
יֵשָׂא ה' פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיִשֶּׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.

*Y'va-rekh'kha adonai v'yish-m-rekha. ya-elr adonai panav elle-khah v'yi-hu-neka. yisa adonai panav eile-khah v'ya-selm l'kha shalom.*

May the *Adonai* bless you & keep you. May *Adonai's* goodness shine on you and be gracious to you. May *Adonai* turn with favor to you & give you peace. Amen.

A traditional greeting for *Yom Kippur* is

**גְּמַר חַתִּימָה טוֹבָה**

*G'mar Hatimah Tovah*

A good & final sealing in the book of life.

At the "break-fast," *hamotzi* and *birkat hamazon* should be recited

More information on the Jewish Holidays, is available in our Beth El Library, on our web site at [www.bethelsynagogue.org](http://www.bethelsynagogue.org), at local Jewish gift shops and by consulting with our rabbis.