

Shabbat Chol Ha-mo’ed Sukkot

19 Tishri 5786 / 10 & 11 October 2025

Erev Shabbat

18:30 ‬‬ Erev Shabbat Service (in the Beit Tefillah)

Led by our Alyth Rabbis including the blessing for all those who marked their Bnei Mitzvah with our community in 5785.

Sukkot Sleep Out

For school years 4-8. Our annual and highly anticipated Sukkot Sleepout returns for its 33rd year. An opportunity to raise money for Homeless Action in Barnet, which runs the only night shelter in Barnet.

Shabbat Morning

9:00 ‬‬ Sleep Out Service (in the Leo Baeck Hall)

A creative service, with music, yoga and meditation to help those who slept over wake up for the day. All are welcome.

Led by Rabbi Hannah and Izzie.

10:30 ‬‬ Shabbat Morning Service (in the Beit Tefillah)

Led by Rabbi Elliott and Rabbi Josh, with guitar.

The Torah will be read by Iris Chinn and Rabbi Elliott.

The Sermon will be given by Rabbi Josh.

There will be an unsupervised kids corner.

10:30 ‬‬ Kollot Service (in the Cecil Rosen Hall)

Led by Rabbi Hannah.

The Torah will be read by Ruth and Noam Tamir.

The D'var Torah will be given by Deborah Binstock.

There will be an unsupervised kids corner.

Simchat Torah

We are looking forward to seeing you next week as we round off this High Holy Day season together as a community. We hope to dance and celebrate as we always do, but there will also be reflective points in the service to reflect the fact that we are also marking the second Hebrew anniversary of the 7 October attacks. As well as a family breakout, there will be a parallel space for quiet reflection and study.

Erev Simchat Torah Service

Monday 13 October (18:30)

Including hakafot and Israeli dancing. With a supervised kid's corner so that our youngest members can be with us before and during the dancing. Suitable for all the Alyth community, including a space for those who do not want to dance during the hakafot.

Simchat Torah Morning Service

Tuesday 14 October (10:15)

We will begin with a Shacharit and Yizkor (including a special prayer to mark the second Hebrew anniversary of the 7 October attacks), before bringing out our Torah scrolls and celebrating with singing and dancing.

There will be a parallel space for our younger members who will join the community for the hakafot. For those who do not wish to dance, there will be a reflective space available during the hakafot.

Mazel Tov to our Chatan Torah, Jason Kosky and our Kallat B'reishit, Tracey Kieve who between them will finish and then restart the reading of the Torah.

Followed by an extended Kiddush.

Additional Songs and Readings for Shabbat

Ozi v’zimrat yah

Words: Exodus 15:2 / Psalm 118:14

עֲזִי וְזִמְרַת יְהוָה לִי לִישׁוּעָה

Ozi v’zimrat yah vay’hi li lishu’ah

God the Eternal is my strength and song and has become my salvation!

Nachman of Bratslav’s Prayer for Peace

May it be Your will, Eternal God, that war and bloodshed be abolished from the world, that a great and wondrous peace rule forever; that never again shall nation lift up sword against nation, and never again shall they train for war. But may all who dwell on the earth recognize and understand the basic truth: that we have not come into this world for strife and division, nor for hate and jealousy, contrariness and bloodshed; but we have come into this world to recognize and know You, may You be blessed forever.

A Prayer for the Release of Captives

God of Abraham, the first who risked his life for the release of captives. God of Moses, Miriam and Aaron, whose words and actions brought us out of slavery. God of Elijah, who was comforted through his deep despair, by Your still small voice. Be with those everywhere who are enslaved and captive. With newfound hope, after two long years, we await the return of those taken hostage on 7 October. We pray that upon their return they find the strength to work towards healing, surrounded by their families and communities. For those families for whom hope has been extinguished, we pray that the return of their loved ones will give them closure. Supported by the love of the global Jewish community, may they remember their loved ones for the joy of their lives, rather than the tragedy of their deaths. We pray that this may be the beginning of a process of repair, for the hostages, for their families, and for the Jewish people as a whole.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִלֶּךְ הָעוֹלָם מַתִּיר אֲסוּרִים:

Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam matir asurim.

Blessed are You our Living God, who frees captives.

Torah Portion for Shabbat Chol Ha’mo’ed Sukkot

Deuteronomy 8:1-18

א כָּל־הַמִּצְוָה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מִצְוֶה הַיּוֹם תִּשְׁמְרוּן לַעֲשׂוֹת לְמַעַן תַּחֲיֶוּן וּרְבִיתֶם וּבִאתֶם וִירִשְׁתֶּם אֶת־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־נִשְׁבַּע יְהוָה לְאַבְרָהָם:
ב וְזָכַרְתָּ אֶת־כָּל־הַדֹּרֹךְ אֲשֶׁר הוֹלִיכְךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ זֶה אֲרָבָעִים שָׁנָה בְּמִדְבָּר לְמַעַן עֲנִתְךָ לְנִסְתָּךְ לָדַעַת אֶת־אֲשֶׁר בְּלִבְּךָ הַתִּשְׁמָר מִצְוֹתוֹ [מִצְוֹתַיו] אִם־לֹא:
ג וַיַּעֲנֶךָ וַיֹּרַעְבֶּךָ וַיֹּאכַלְךָ אֶת־הַמֶּן אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדַעַת וְלֹא יָדְעוּן אֲבֹתֶיךָ לְמַעַן הוֹדִיעֶךָ כִּי לֹא עָלִיהֲלָחֶם לְבַדּוֹ יַחֲזֶה הָאָדָם כִּי עַל־כָּל־מוֹצֵא פִי־יְהוָה יַחֲזֶה הָאָדָם:
ד שְׂמֹלְתְךָ לֹא בָלְתָה מִעַלְיָךְ וּרְגִלְךָ לֹא בָצָקָה זֶה אֲרָבָעִים שָׁנָה:
ה וַיִּדְעַתָּ עַם־לְבָבְךָ כִּי כָאֲשֶׁר יִיסֹר אִישׁ אֶת־בְּנוֹ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ מִיִּסְרֶךָ:
ו וּשְׁמַרְתָּ אֶת־מִצְוֹת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְלַכֹּת בְּדַרְכֵיו וּלְיִרְאָה אֹתוֹ:

י כִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ מְבִיאֶךָ אֶל־אֶרֶץ טוֹבָה אֶרֶץ נַחֲלִי מַיִם עֲיִנַת וְתַהֲמַת יִצְאִים בְּבִקְעָה וּבְהָר:
י" אֶרֶץ חֹטָה וְשַׁעֲרָהּ וְגִפֶּן וְתַאֲנָה וּרְמֹון אֶרֶץ־גִּזִּית שֶׁמֶן וְדָבָשׁ:
י"ט אֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר לֹא בְּמִסְכָּנָה תֹאכְלֶיהָ לֶחֶם לֹא־תַחֲסֹר כָּל בָּהּ אֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֲבָנֶיהָ בְּרוֹז וּמַהֲרָרֶיהָ תַּחֲצֹב נְחָשֶׁת:
י' וְאָכַלְתָּ וּשְׂבַעְתָּ וּבִרְכָּתָ אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ עַל־הָאָרֶץ הַטֹּבָה אֲשֶׁר נָתַן־לְךָ:
י"א הִשְׁמַר לְךָ פֶּן־תִּשְׁכַּח אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְבַלְתִּי שְׁמֹר מִצְוֹתָיו וּמִשְׁפָּטָיו וְחֻקֹּתָיו אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מִצְוֶה הַיּוֹם:

י"ב פֶּן־תֵּאֱכַל וּשְׂבַעְתָּ וּבַתִּים טֹבִים תִּבְנֶה וַיִּשְׁבַּת:
י"ג וּבִקְרָךְ וּצְאֲנָךְ יִרְבְּלוּ וְכֶסֶף וְזָהָב יִרְבֶּה־לְךָ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר־לְךָ יִרְבֶּה:
י"ד וְרָם לְבָבְךָ וּשְׂכַחְתָּ אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ הַמוֹצִיאֶךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים:
טו הַמוֹלִיכְךָ בְּמִדְבָּר ׀ הַגָּדֹל וְהַנּוֹרָא נָתַש ׀ שָׂרָךְ וַעֲקָרְב וּצְמָאוֹן אֲשֶׁר אִין־מַיִם הַמוֹצִיא לְךָ מַיִם מִצּוֹר הַחֲלָמִישׁ:
טז הַמֹּאכְלֶךָ מִן בְּמִדְבָּר אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדְעוּן אֲבֹתֶיךָ לְמַעַן עֲנִתְךָ וּלְמַעַן נִסְתָּךְ לְהִיטִבְךָ בְּאַחֲרִיתֶךָ:
י"ז וְאִמְרַתָּ בְּלִבְּךָ כַּחַי וְעַצֶּם יָדִי עָשָׂה לִי אֶת־הַתִּיל הַזֶּה:
י"ח וְזָכַרְתָּ אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ כִּי הוּא הֵנַתָּן לְךָ כָּח לַעֲשׂוֹת תִּיל לְמַעַן הִקִּים אֶת־בְּרִיתוֹ אֲשֶׁר־נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְרָמָךְ כַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה:

¹You shall faithfully observe all the Instruction that I enjoin upon you today, that you may thrive and increase and be able to possess the land that the Eternal promised on oath to your fathers.
²Remember the long way that the Eternal your God has made you travel in the wilderness these past forty years, in order to test you by hardships to learn what was in your hearts: whether you would keep the divine commandments or not.
³[God] subjected you to the hardship of hunger and then gave you manna to eat, which neither you nor your ancestors had ever known, in order to teach you that a human being does not live on bread alone, but that one may live on anything that the Eternal decrees.
⁴The clothes upon you did not wear out, nor did your feet swell these forty years.
⁵Bear in mind that the Eternal your God disciplines you just as a householder disciplines his son.
⁶Therefore keep the commandments of the Eternal your God: walk in God's ways and show reverence.

⁷For the Eternal your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with streams and springs and fountains issuing from plain and hill;
⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines, figs, and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey;
⁹a land where you may eat food without stint, where you will lack nothing; a land whose rocks are iron and from whose hills you can mine copper.
¹⁰When you have eaten your fill, give thanks to the Eternal your God for the good land given to you.
¹¹Take care lest you forget the Eternal your God and fail to keep the divine commandments, rules, and laws which I enjoin upon you today.

¹²When you have eaten your fill, and have built fine houses to live in,
¹³and your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold have increased, and everything you own has prospered,
¹⁴beware lest your heart grow haughty and you forget the Eternal your God—who freed you from the land of Egypt, the house of bondage;
¹⁵who led you through the great and terrible wilderness with its seraph serpents and scorpions, a parched land with no water in it, who brought forth water for you from the flinty rock;
¹⁶who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your ancestors had never known, in order to test you by hardships only to benefit you in the end—
¹⁷and you say to yourselves, “My own power and the might of my own hand have won this wealth for me.”
¹⁸Remember that it is the Eternal your God who gives you the power to get wealth, in fulfillment of the covenant made on oath with your fathers, as is still the case.

Deuteronomy 16:13-17

י"ג תַּג הַסֶּכֶת תַּעֲשֶׂה לָךְ שְׂבַעַת יָמִים בְּאַסְפֹּךָ מִגְרֶנֶךָ וּמִיִּקְבֶּךָ:
י"ד וּשְׂמַחַת בְּחֹגְךָ אַתָּה וּבִנְךָ וּבִתְךָ וַעֲבָדְךָ וַאֲמָתְךָ וְהַלֵּוִי וְהַגֵּר וְהַיִּתּוֹם וְהָאֵלְמָנָה אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ:
טו שְׂבַעַת יָמִים תַּחַג לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּמָקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־יִבְחַר יְהוָה כִּי יִבְרָכְךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל־תְּבוּאַתְךָ וּבְכָל מַעֲשֶׂה יָדֶיךָ וְהָיִית אַךְ שִׂמְחָ:
טז שְׁלוֹשׁ פַּעַמִּים בַּשָּׁנָה יִרְאֶה כָּל־יְכוֹרְךָ אֶת־פָּנָי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּמָקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר בְּתֹג הַמִּצְוֹת וּבְתֹג הַשְּׂבָעוֹת וּבְתֹג הַסִּכּוֹת וְלֹא יִרְאֶה אֶת־פָּנָי יְהוָה רִיקָם:
י"ז אִישׁ כְּמַתְּנַת יָדוֹ כְּבִרְכַּת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר נָתַן־לְךָ:
י"ח שְׂפָטִים וּשְׁטָרִים תִּתֵּן־לָךְ בְּכָל־שַׁעֲרֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ לִשְׁבִּטֶיךָ וּשְׁפָטוּ אֶת־הָעָם מִשְׁפַּט־צִדִּיק:

¹³After the ingathering from your threshing floor and your vat, you shall hold the Feast of Booths for seven days.
¹⁴You shall rejoice in your festival, with your son and daughter, your male and female slave, the [family of the] Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow in your communities.
¹⁵You shall hold a festival for the Eternal your God seven days, in the place that the Eternal will choose; for the Eternal your God will bless all your crops and all your undertakings, and you shall have nothing but joy.
¹⁶Three times a year —on the Feast of Unleavened Bread, on the Feast of Weeks, and on the Feast of Booths—all your males shall appear before the Eternal your God in the place that [God] will choose. They shall not appear before the Eternal empty-handed,
¹⁷but each with his own gift, according to the blessing that the Eternal your God has bestowed upon you.

Haftarah Reading for Shabbat Chol HaMoed Sukkot

Before reading the Haftarah

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מִלֶּךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנוּ בַת קוֹל שְׁאֲמָרָה אֵלַי וְאֵלַי דְּבַרִי חֲכָמָה:
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה הַבּוֹחֵר בַּתּוֹרָה וּבְמִשָּׁה עֲבָדוֹ וּבִישְׂרָאֵל עַמּוֹ וּבְחַכְמֵי אֲמַת וְצִדִּיק:

Blessed are You, our Living God, Sovereign of the universe, who gave to us a heavenly voice to say that “These *and* these” are words of wisdom.
Blessed are You God, You chose the Torah, Moses Your servant, Israel Your people and true and righteous Sages.

*Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher natan lanu bat kol she'amrah eilu va'eilu divrei chochmah.
Baruch attah Adonai, ha-bocheir ba-torah, uv'mosheh avdo, uv'yisra'el ammo, uv'chachmei emet va-tzedek.*

Midrash Kohelet Rabbah 1:3:1'

הַבֵּל הַבְּלִים אָמַר קִהְלֵת הַבֵּל הַבְּלִים הַכֹּל הַבֵּל: מַה־יִּתְרוֹן לְאָדָם בְּכָל־עֲמָלוֹ
שִׁיעֲמַל תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ

א"ר בנימין בקשו חכמים לגנוז ספר קהלת מפני שמצאו בו דברים מטין לצד מינות

אמרו הרי כל חכמתו של שלמה שבא לומר מה יתרון לאדם בכל עמלו יכול אף בעמלה של תורה

חזרו ואמרו לא אמר בכל עמל אלא בעמלו

בעמלו אינו עמל אבל עמל הוא בעמלה של תורה

א"ר שמואל בר' יצחק בקשו חכמים לגנוז ספר קהלת על ידי שמצאו בו דברים שמטין לצד מינות

אמרו כל חכמתו של שלמה כך שאמר שמח בחור בילדותך ויטיבך לבך בימי בחורותיך והלך בדרכי לבך ובמראה עיניך

ומשה אמר ולא תתורו אחרי לבבכם ואחרי עיניכם ושלמה אמר והלך בדרכי

לבך ובמראה עיניך הותרה הרצועה לית דין ולית דיין

כיון שאמר ודע כי על כל אלה יביאך האלהים במשפט

אמרו יפה אמר שלמה

FUTILITY, FUTILITY, ALL IS FUTILITY, SAYS KOHELET. WHAT REAL VALUE IS THERE FOR MAN IN ALL HIS LABOUR BENEATH THE SUN? (Kohelet 1:2-3)

Rabbi Binyamin said: The Sages sought to suppress the Book of Kohelet because they found within it words which savour of heresy.

They declared: Behold the total wisdom of Solomon² which he brings to teach [in this work] is WHAT REAL VALUE IS THERE FOR MAN IN ALL HIS LABOUR? It is possible that this sentiment may also be applied to man's labour in the Torah!

On returning to this matter they declared: He did not say “in all labour” but IN ALL HIS LABOUR.

IN ALL HIS LABOUR one should not work; but one should toil in the labour of Torah!

Rabbi Shmuel, the son of Rabbi Yitzchak said: The Sages sought to suppress Kohelet because they found within it words which savour of heresy.

They declared: The totality of the wisdom of Solomon is in the statement O YOUTH, ENJOY YOURSELF WHILE YOU ARE YOUNG! LET YOUR HEART LEAD YOU TO ENJOYMENT IN THE DAYS OF YOUR YOUTH. FOLLOW THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART AND THE GLANCES OF YOUR EYES (Kohelet 11:9).

Moses said DO NOT FOLLOW YOUR HEART AND EYES (Numbers 15:39), but Solomon says, FOLLOW THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART AND THE GLANCES OF YOUR EYES? Is restraint to be abolished? Is there no judgment and no judge?

Since [the quoted verse] continues BUT KNOW WELL THAT GOD WILL CALL YOU TO ACCOUNT FOR ALL SUCH THINGS (Kohelet 11:9) they said, “Solomon has spoken well”.

After reading the Haftarah

עַל הַתּוֹרָה וְעַל הָעֲבוֹדָה וְעַל דְּבָרֵי חֻכָּמָה וְעַל יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת הַזֶּה שֶׁנִּתְּתָ לָנוּ יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֵינוּ לְקִדְשָׁהּ וְלִמְנוּחָהּ לְכָבוֹד וּלְתַפְאֶרֶת. עַל הַכֹּל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֲנַחְנוּ מוֹדִים
לָךְ וּמְבָרְכִים אוֹתְךָ. יִתְבָּרַךְ שְׁמֶךָ בְּפִי כָל־חַי תָּמִיד לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד: בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה.
מְקַדֵּשׁ הַשַּׁבָּת:

For the Torah, for the service, for words of wisdom, and for this Shabbat day which You gave us, our Living God, for holiness and rest, for glory and beauty - for all these, God our Creator, we thank and bless You. May Your name be blessed by the mouth of all living forever and ever. Blessed are You God, who makes the Shabbat holy.

Al ha-torah v'al ha-avodah, v'al divrei chochmah, v'al yom ha-shabbat ha-zeh, shennatatta lanu, Adonai eloheinu, likdushah v'limnuchah, l'chavod ul'tifaret, al ha-kol Adonai eloheinu, anachnu modim lach um'var'chim otach, yitbarach shimcha b'fi chol chai tamid l'olam va'ed. Baruch attah Adonai, m'kaddeish ha-shabbat.

Community News

Alyth is built on a foundation of mutual care, in which we share one another's joys and sorrows, and accompany one another through our life journeys.

On this Shabbat we celebrate with:

Iris Chinn, who is reading Torah for the first time in our Shabbat morning service to celebrate becoming Bat Mitzvah
All those who had their Bar/Bat Mitzvah in 5785

We regret to announce the death of:

Roslyn Levitt, mother of Debbie Levitt and Mark Levitt
Claude Weil, father of Peter, Dan and Nick Weil

We join with those marking the anniversary of the death of a loved one:

Mary Cohen, mother of Pauline Liss
Grace Conn, wife of George Conn
Michael Conrad, husband of Diana Conrad
Steven Davis, husband of Hilary Davis
Benjamin Feldman, father of Paul Feldman
Ray Fife, mother of Sandra Lennard
Elaine Godfrey, mother of Ian Godfrey
Lionel Gottlieb, brother of Valerie Levy
Charles Gutman, father of Judith Hyman
Sally Jacobs, mother of Michael Jacobs and Amanda Jacobs
Alfred Joseph, father of Michael Joseph
Jerzy Lando, husband of Iris Lando
Samuel Lass, father of Martin Lass
Stanley Middleburgh, father of David Middleburgh
Joseph Miller, father of Alison Walsh
Joan Miller, mother of Alison Walsh
Harold Myers, father of Natalie Popper
David Myers, father of Deborah Anderson
Joseph Naftalin, father of Adrian Naftalin
Esther Nathan, mother of Shirley Marks
Israel Press, father of Adrian Press
Jake Rae, son of Maya Zarom
Herta Reik, mother of Paul Reik
Alec Russell, father of Claire Mitchell
Anne Silverman, mother of Jonathan Silverman
Reginald Smith, of Robert Smith
Sigmund Sternberg, father of Ruth Tamir
Marcus Traeger, father of Warren Traeger
Maurice Ziege, father of Gillian Epstein and Angela Samuels
Lola Zietcer, mother of Haim Zietcer

Contact Us

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Rabbinic Team
Rabbi Hannah Kingston, Rabbi Elliott Karstadt, Rabbi Colin Eimer, Rabbi Nicola Feuchtwang
Rabbi Josh Levy (Emeritus)