

The Mishkan at Central Synagogue

Rabbi Sarah Berman and Cantorial Intern Beth Reinstein
Shabbat Shavuot, *Parashat Shavuot II*, 27 May 2023 / 7 Sivan 5783
Celebrating the B'nei Mitzvah of Arden Donohue and Keri Keating-Leu

(OOS) Opening Song / *Mah Yafeh Hayom*

Supplementary Prayers and Songs:

Morning Blessings of Gratitude / *Birchot HaShachar*

(68) Waking / *Modeh Ani*

Mah Yafeh Hayom

(74) Gathering / *Mah Tov*

Mah yafeh hayom

(76) Our Bodies / *Asher Yatzar*

Shabbat shalom

(78) Our Souls / *Elohai Neshama*

(80) Everyday Miracles / *Nisim B'Chol Yom*

Vahasheivota/Bayom Hahu

Songs of Praise / *P'sukei D'Zimrah*

Vahasheivota (Vahasheivota)

(97) Psalm 145 / *Ashrei*

El levavecha (El levavecha)

(100) Psalm 150 / *Hallelujah*

Ki Adonai (Ki Adonai)

The Shema and its Blessings

Hu HaElohim (Hu HaElohim)

(108) Call to Prayer / *Bar'chu*

V'neemar v'hayah Adonai l'melech al kol haaretz

(110) The Wonder of Creation / *Yotzeir Or*

Bayom hahu, bayom hahu yihyeh Adonai echad

(112) The Loving Gift of Torah / *Ahavah Rabah*

Ush'mo, ush'mo, ush'mo echad

(114) Proclaiming God's Oneness / *Shema*

(116) Love for God's Teaching / *V'ahavta*

(122) Redemption / *Mi Chamocha – Tzur Yisrael*

Standing Prayer / *Tefillah - Amidah*

(124) Open our Mouths / *Adonai S'fatai Tiftach*

(126) God of Our Ancestors / *Avot V'imahot*

(128) Life-Giving and Powerful God / *G'vurot*

(130) Sanctifying God's Name / *Kedushah*

(142) Sealing our Silent Prayer / *Yih'yu L'ratzon*

Torah Service (246-250): Deut. 16:1-14

(253) Prayer for Healing / *Mi Shebeirach*

(OOS) Proclaiming God's Greatness / *Vahasheivota*

(294) Mourners' Prayer / *Kaddish Yatom*

(OOS) Closing / *Mah Yafeh Hayom*

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Choosing to Stand at Sinai

Deuteronomy 16:10-12

וְעָשִׂיתָ חַג שָׁבֻעוֹת לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ מִסֹּת נְדָבַת יָדְךָ אֲשֶׁר תִּתֶּן בְּאֲשֶׁר יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ: וְשִׂמְחֶתָּ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אַתָּה וּבִנְךָ וּבִתְּךָ וְעַבְדְּךָ וְאִמְתְּךָ וְהַלְוִי אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ וְהַגֵּר וְהַיְתוּם וְהָאֵלְמָנָה אֲשֶׁר בְּקִרְבְּךָ בְּמָקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְשִׁבְּן שְׁמוֹ שָׁם: וַיִּזְכְּרֶתָּ כִּי־עַבְדַּת הָיִיתָ בְּמִצְרָיִם וְעָשִׂיתָ אֶת־הַחֻקִּים הָאֵלֶּה:

Then you shall observe Shavuot (the Feast of Weeks) for Adonai your God, offering your freewill contribution according as Adonai your God has blessed you. You shall rejoice before Adonai your God with your son and daughter, your male and female slave, the [family of the] Levite in your communities, and the stranger, the orphan, and the widow in your midst, at the place where Adonai your God will choose to establish the divine name. Bear in mind that you were slaves in Egypt, and take care to obey these laws.

- ❖ This is among the commandments God gives through Moses at Sinai, one of the most dramatic moments in our history. What makes the observance of Shavuot so important as to be presented together with the Ten Commandments?
- ❖ Why do you think this passage ends with the reminder that we were slaves in Egypt?
- ❖ What relationship do you have to God's commands given at Sinai?

Ruth 1:12-18

They broke into weeping again, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law farewell. But Ruth clung to her. So [Naomi] said, "See, your sister-in-law has returned to her people and her gods. Go follow your sister-in-law." But Ruth replied, "Do not urge me to leave you, to turn back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus and more may Adonai do to me-if anything but death parts me from you." When [Naomi] saw how determined she was to go with her, she ceased to argue with her.

- ❖ This passage from the opening verses of the Book of Ruth shows Naomi's daughter-in-law Ruth choosing a difficult path by not returning to her homeland and people. Why do you think Ruth chose to stay with Naomi, two widows facing the world together, rather than choosing an easier way?
- ❖ The Book of Ruth is the traditional haftarah for Shavuot. Why do you think we read this book during this holiday?
- ❖ How is Ruth's choice (to go with Naomi) also a choice to live the values of Torah?

Mishnah, Pirkei Avot 2:16

Rabbi Tarfon used to say: It is not your duty to finish the work, but neither are you at liberty to neglect it.

- ❖ What is the work of Judaism?
- ❖ A chain stretches from Sinai to Ruth to us. What is the connection, between then and now?
- ❖ Today, we all stand together at Sinai—because we choose to stand here, together. How are you helping finish the work we all began at Sinai?