



Yizkor Service Outline **Mishkan haNefesh**

Rabbi Peter Berg and Cantor Deborah Hartman
The Temple, Atlanta

Methodology:

We wanted to create a service that both showcased the new liturgy and also retained some of the customs our Temple family is used to. For example, we retained: a Yizkor meditation we use every year, use of our Yizkor Girls Choir, and various melodies that have become our custom. We also want to prominently feature the ritual of lighting seven candles as portrayed in the *machzor*.

Context:

This service takes place in the Sanctuary, which seats about 1,200. For this service the clergy wear robes. We use both organ and piano for *Yizkor*. Our Emeritus Rabbi, Alvin Sugarman, leads a larger portion of this service. Memorial Books are provided as people enter the Sanctuary.

Biggest Change Made And What We Are Most Excited For:

We are using the ritual of seven candles, which we have never done before. This will be the largest visual change for congregants. However, we are most excited for this piece.

Part I: Introduction

1. Reading on page 541 "This is the hour of memory"
2. Sung: "May the Memory of Good People" by Bonia Shur
3. Guided meditation (not in *machzor*) "bringing our loved ones to this place"
4. Music for "May The Memory of Good People" picks up again at closing paragraph of meditation and continues.



Part II: The Seven Candles

Introduction to the lighting of seven candles – page 546. “The Seven Lights of Yizkor”

Candle #1

Introduction: Page 549 bottom, “The death of la loved one is the most...”

Music: *Yesh Kochavim* by Jeff Klepper

Personal Reflection read out loud as meditation: page 554 bottom

Chatimah: page 554 (read by Rabbi Berg) who then lights candle

Candle #2

Introduction: Page 559 “In my darkness be light to me”

Music: Psalm 121 by Laura Berkson

Personal reflection read out loud as mediation: page 560

Chatimah: Page 560 (read by Rabbi Sugarman) who then lights candle

Candle #3

Introduction: page 561 “The echo of our promise”

Exercise: Meditation on picking up the memorial book

Music: Take My Name by (not in *machzor*) by Juliet Spitzer

Personal reflection read out loud as meditation: Bottom of page 566

Chatimah: page 566 (read by Cantor Hartman) who then lights candle

Candle #4

Introduction: brief opening remarks on precious relationships (*not in machzor*)

Quiet music and silent reading: two minutes of quiet music; silent reading p.568ff; reprise of “We Remember Them”

Personal reflection read out loud as meditation: page 578

Chatimah: page 578 (read by Rabbi Lapidus) who then lights candle

Candle #5

Introduction: Page 581 “Forgiveness and the Afterlife”

Music: *Adonai Li* by Bruce Benson

Personal reflection read out loud as meditation: page 584

Chatimah: page 584 (read by Rabbi Spinrad) who then lights candle



Candle #6

Introduction: Page 579 “Father”

Music: “Enosh” by Peter Halpern

Personal reflection read out loud as meditation: page 591

Chatimah: page 591 (read by Rabbi Medwin) who then lights candle

Candle #7

Introduction: Page 592 “One morning shortly after...”

Music: Psalm 23 by Max Wohlberg

Personal reflection read out loud as meditation: page 596

Chatimah: page 596 (read by Rabbi Rau) who then lights candle

Part III: Remembering Our Loved Ones

1. Tapestry of Memories:
Selection of memories of our loved ones who passed away this past year read by Yizkor Girls Choir (choir of ten teenage girls who sing during the Yizkor service). Memories are collected over the summer in the mailing that goes out with the Memorial Book.
2. Yizkor Girls choir sing “For Good” from the soundtrack Wicked by Stephen Schwartz.
3. After singing the line “I have been changed for good” (part way through the song), music continues quietly during the reading on the bottom of page 597 “Recitation of names.”
4. After the reading, the music still continues quietly while we read the names of everyone who has passed during the last year.
5. After the completion of the names -- “For Good” is completed by the girls Yizkor Choir.



Part IV: Concluding Prayers

1. El Maley Rachamin by Max Janowski, page 598. Sung then read in English.
2. Silent Prayer (pages 599-901)
3. Introduction to Kaddish, from UPB, page 605 "All who mourn the loss"
4. Kaddish Yatom, page 606
5. Oseh Shalom, page 606, sung, Spanish Portuguese.
6. Benediction: Rabbi Alvin Sugarman