



**WELCOME
TO
TEMPLE
BETH ORR!**



**OUR SANCTUARY AND
OUR SERVICE**



TEMPLEBETHORR.ORG

Temple Beth Orr (TBO) is a multi-generational and multi-ethnic egalitarian Reform congregation founded in 1972, made up of singles, couples and interfaith and gay and lesbian families.

We proudly and joyfully include everyone!

Definitions

"Egalitarian" means that we do not segregate or assign different roles to men and women in our congregation.

"Reform" refers to the movement of Judaism that emphasizes living out overarching Jewish values in all our interactions and daily activities. Reform Judaism affirms the evolution of Jewish tradition and belief that has existed since the dawn of Jewish history. Our values have always remained true to the time and culture in which we lived. This is what has kept Judaism vibrant and relevant over so many centuries.

The Books we use for Worship

You may follow along with our worship service in our *Mishkan T'filah siddur* (prayer book). This dark blue volume, kept in the seat backs, is the newest edition of the siddur that is used by Reform congregations.

Our Reform edition of the siddur contains most of the traditional prayers and maintains the traditional structure of the Jewish worship service. It contains extra English readings and poems that relate to the themes of each section of the service. Our siddur also removes a lot of the repetition of the prayers that adds time but not meaning to a traditional service.

On Shabbat mornings, we read from scripture (portions of our Jewish bible) from the **Plaut Torah commentary**, a larger dark blue volume that is found in the shelves near the entrance to our Sanctuary.

Both of these are sacred volumes. Please be respectful and do not place either volume on the floor. Please be careful not to bend pages or damage the books' binding.

The Sanctuary Space

Jews believe that Godliness is everywhere, but people still appreciate a space that is set apart for the express purpose of connecting with eternal values and teachings. That is what makes a Sanctuary special.

The raised area in the front of the room is called a *bimah* and the service is led from this space. Practically, it makes it possible for service attendees to see everything going on from their seats, but it also serves as a reminder of the altar in the ancient Israelite Temple in Jerusalem (950 BCE to 70 CE).



The ark is behind the sliding iron gates and colorful curtain in the center of the bimah wall. In the ark are our Torah scrolls and any other holy objects such as the Megillat (scroll of) Esther. When we open our ark we rise to show respect and honor to the Torah, the earliest written stories and teachings of our tradition.

Directly over the ark is a Hebrew phrase, *Torah Orah*. This means "Torah of light." **Temple Beth Orr** means "Temple House of Light" in English. We understand light to symbolize the highest, loftiest teachings, wisdom and values of our Torah and tradition.

The light appearing as illuminated flames above the ark is called the *ner tamid* (eternal light), a symbol of the lamp in the ancient Jerusalem Temple and of the everlasting light that is God, Godliness, and holy values.

Along the side walls of our Sanctuary are our **memorial walls**. Each person named on a plaque is a loved one who is no longer with us.

The Shabbat (Sabbath) Service

A Shabbat service may be led for the community by any Jew who is Bar or Bat Mitzvah (over the age of 13). At TBO, our services are usually led by our rabbi with musical leadership provided by our cantorial soloist and musical support by our pianist.

Shabbat - like every day in the Jewish calendar - begins at sunset. Therefore, our weekly Shabbat services are held on Friday evenings when Shabbat begins. When we have a member turning 13 years old, they lead a Saturday morning Shabbat service for the congregation.

Our service is a mixture of traditional Hebrew prayers and English interpretive readings. Jews join in communal prayer for many different reasons - all of which are valid and personal.

- Hebrew prayers may bring a sense of familiar comfort as they have remained the same for many centuries. Some people may hear these words and remember back to childhood or loved ones who may or may not still be with us.
- Coming together for Jewish worship can help individuals feel a sense of connection to their community - either the TBO community or the Jewish people around the world.
 - Some people enjoy taking a little time each week to pause from the regular busy-ness of daily life and reflect on bigger life issues.
 - Worship can help people see past their own individual issues and gain perspective about the greater society or world of which each is but a part.



- Worship brings some people in touch with the holiness and spirituality that surrounds them.
- Praying may bring some people a greater sense of gratitude for the often unnoticed blessings in their lives.
- Some people attend services to pray for someone who is ill or to remember someone who has died.
- Some experience spirituality/Godliness primarily through hearing and/or singing Jewish service music.

The Practice of Facing East

The seats in the congregation face east, the traditional direction of Jewish prayer. This is (roughly) the direction of Jerusalem.

The service leaders and participants on the bimah will, for certain prayers, also face eastward. Some of these prayers involve bending the knees and/or bowing.

While it may appear that the congregation is bowing to the ark or to the Torah scrolls, the bowing is actually directed toward Jerusalem. We believe that God and holiness are everywhere, but, for thousands of years, Jews have looked to the holy city of Jerusalem as representing a place of safety and religious freedom for our often-oppressed people: a place where we could honor our traditions, our values, our God in peace. We symbolically bow eastward to show honor to God, however one might perceive God: as a spiritual being, a creator, a universal force or power, a set of lofty values, and/or an ideal that is greater than any individual person.

Oneg Shabbat

Oneg means joy and so the *Oneg Shabbat* means "enjoying Shabbat." And, for Jews, enjoying Shabbat means eating and drinking together! Please join us after our Friday evening services for our *Oneg Shabbat*, the refreshments served behind the Sanctuary in our Breezeway.

Included with our cookies and other sweets, are slices of *challah*, (egg bread) and small cups of wine and of grape juice. Wine/grape juice always represents joy in Judaism.

Shabbat Shalom!

We give this greeting to others on this Shabbat day. It is a wish for a peaceful Shabbat.

Thank you for refraining from conversation and whispering during the service AND for turning off your cell phone!

Shabbat Shalom!

