

SHAVUOTH AND CONFIRMATION SERVICE

PITTSBURGH SCHOOL FOR
REFORM JUDAISM



Sunday, June 1, 1958

10:30 A.M.

SILENT PRAYER FOR PARENTS:

O Lord, we thank Thee for the great blessing of parenthood. We pray for wisdom and understanding so that even as we rejoice in our great gift from Thee we may properly meet the responsibilities which it entails. As Thou has commanded that our children honor us, may we in turn so act and live as to be deserving of their honor. Grant us the discernment so to guide their footsteps that they may lead disciplined lives and yet possess initiative, independence and self-reliance. Help us to nurture in them character and high principle. Strengthen us to stand at their side as they mature into the fullness of life.

May this day bring them and us closer to each other and to Thee. May their aspirations and hopes for happiness and blessing be realized. May this Confirmation ceremony enlighten their minds, enrich their hearts and ennoble their souls. May their consecration this day help them through the years of their life. May it enable them to attain joy and success without arrogance or false pride, and to meet sorrow with dignity and understanding.

Re-confirm us, we pray, O Heavenly Father, in the principles of our Faith as our children now offer themselves to Thee. Amen.

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Organ Prelude

Choir: "We Meet Again in Gladness"

Processional Hymn: "Blessed Be Ye Who Come in
the Name of the Lord"

Invocation.....Rabbi Richard E. Singer

READER

Thou, O Lord, art the source of knowledge and truth. Thy laws and commandments enlighten our minds and show us the way of righteousness. On this Festival of Shavuoth we recall the day when at the Mountain of Revelation, our fathers vowed to govern their will by Thine and to accept those truths by which man may nobly live. In all the centuries that followed Thy words were never forgotten by our religious fellowship. Our fathers meditated on them day and night. The meaning of Thy commandments grew clearer to them as the generations passed. Thy teachings, as expressed by the prophets and the spiritual leaders of Judaism, became the treasured inheritance of all the members of our congregation.

We love Thy truth, O Lord our God. Our fathers taught it diligently so that each generation might understand and observe Thy teachings with love and joy. On this day, which commemorates Thy revelation, we, Thy children, come to Thy altar to declare our allegiance to Thee and Thy commandments. Be Thou with us on this sacred day. May Thy word, proclaimed of old, become a living message to all of our fellowship. Now and throughout our lives may we come with clean hands and pure heart to ascend Thy holy mountain.

RESPONSIVE READING

Reader

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Thy name in all the earth.

Congregation

When I look at Thy heavens, the works of Thy fingers,

The moon and the stars which Thou hast established;

What is man that Thou art mindful of him,

And the son of man that Thou dost care for him?

Yet Thou hast made him little less than God,

And dost crown him with glory and honor.

Thou hast given him dominion over the work of Thy hands.

Thou hast put all things under his feet,

All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,

Whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

O Lord, our Lord, How majestic is Thy name in all the earth!

READER

Every living soul shall praise Thee; the spirit of all flesh shall glorify Thy name. Thou art God from everlasting to everlasting, and besides Thee there is no redeemer nor savior. Thou art the first and the last, the Lord of all generations. Thou rulest the world in kindness and all Thy creatures in mercy. Thou art our guardian, who sleepeth not and slumbereth not. To Thee alone we give thanks. Yet, though our lips should overflow with song, and our tongues with joyous praise, we should still be unable to thank Thee, even for a thousandth part of

the bounties which Thou hast bestowed upon our fathers and upon us. Thou hast been our protector and our savior in every trial and peril. Thy mercy has watched over us, and Thy loving kindness has never failed us.

READER AND CONGREGATION IN UNISON

Praised be Thy holy name. Thou hast made Thine eternal law our portion, and hast given us a goodly heritage. Open our eyes to the beauty of Thy truth, and help us so to exemplify it in our lives that we may win all men for Thy law of righteousness. Gather all Thy children around Thy banner of truth, that Thy name may be hallowed through us in all the world and the entire human family may be blessed with truth and with peace.

(Congregation rises)

READER

Bor-chu es Adonai ha'm'vo-roch.

Praise ye the Lord, to Whom all praise is due.

CONGREGATION

Praised be the Lord, to Whom all praise is due forever and ever.

CHOIR

Borchu

(Congregation is seated)

READER

Praised be Thou, O Lord our God, Ruler of the world, who in Thy mercy makest light to shine over the earth and all its inhabitants, and renewest daily the work of creation. How manifold are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast thou made them all. The heavens declare Thy glory. The earth reveals Thy creative power. Thou formest light and darkness; ordainest good out of evil; bringest harmony into nature, and peace to the heart of man.

Who is like unto Thee, O Lord? Who is like unto Thee-glorious in holiness, extolled in praises, working wonders.

READER

Thy children acknowledged Thy sovereign power and exclaimed:
The Lord shall reign forever and ever.

READER

Praised be Thou, O Lord, our God, great, mighty and exalted. Thou bestowest lovingkindness upon all Thy children. Thou upholdest the falling, healest the sick, and keepest faith with Thy children in death as in life. Who is like unto Thee, Almighty God, Author of life and of death, Source of Salvation? Praised be Thou, O Lord, who hast implanted within us immortal life.

READER

We sanctify Thy name on earth as the heavens declare Thy glory, and in the words of the prophet we say:

CONGREGATION AND READER

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.

CHOIR

Kodosh

READER

God our Strength, God our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth.

CONGREGATION AND READER

Praised be the glory of God throughout the world.

READER

Our God is one; He is our Father, He is our King; He is our Helper and in His mercy He will answer our prayers in the sight of all the living.

CONGREGATION AND READER

The Lord will reign forever, from generation to generation, Hallelujah.

READER

Grant us peace, Thy most precious gift, O Thou eternal source of peace, and enable us to labor with all who seek peace and its blessings for the peoples of the earth. Bless our country that it may ever be a stronghold of peace, and its advocate in the council of nations. May contentment reign within its borders, health and happiness within the homes. Strengthen the bonds of friendship and fellowship among all the inhabitants of our land. Plant virtue in every soul, and may the love of Thy name hallow every home and every heart. Praised be Thou, O Lord, Giver of peace.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

READER

And it shall come to pass in the end of days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many peoples shall go and say: Come ye, and let us go up to the Mountain of the Lord, to the house of our God. And He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths. And He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide concerning mighty nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

(Congregation rises)

READER

The Lord, the Lord God is merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness, and ever true: keeping mercy for thousands; forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin.

READER, TAKING TORAH FROM THE ARK

The Torah, a religious heritage of Judaism, contains many of the teachings of our faith. Come, let us walk in the light of God's truths as we repeat the watchword of our faith:

CONGREGATION AND READER

Sh'ma, Yis-ro-ayl, A-do-noy E-lo-hay-nu, A-do-noy E-chod.
Hear, O Israel: The Lord, our God, the Lord is One!

CHOIR

Sh'ma

CONGREGATION AND READER

Boruch Shem k'vod malchuso l'olom vo-ed
Praised be His name whose glorious kingdom is forever and ever.

CHOIR

Boruch

(Congregation is seated)

READER

Praise ye the Lord to whom all praise is due. Praised be the Lord, to whom all praise is due forever and ever. Praised be Thou, O Lord, our God, Ruler of the world who hast given us Thy law. Praised be Thou, O Lord, Giver of the Law.

RABBI AND CONFIRMANDS:
READING OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

READER:

Praised be Thou, O Lord, our God, Ruler of the world, who hast given us the law of truth and hast implanted within us everlasting life. Praised be Thou, O Lord, Giver of the Law.

READER

Praised be the Lord, our God, for the law of truth and righteousness; for the words of the prophets filled with His spirit; and for the teachings of the sages whom He raised up aforetime and in these days.

READER

Selection from the Book of Ruth:

READER

For the Torah; for the privilege of worship; for the prophets; and for this day of Shavuoth and of our confirmation, given us for honor and for glory, let us thank and bless the Lord.

READER

Fervently we invoke Thy blessing upon our country and our nation. Guard then, O God, from calamity and injury; suffer not their adversaries to triumph over them, but let the glories of a just, righteous and God-fearing people increase from age to age. Enlighten with Thy wisdom and sustain with Thy power those whom the people have set in authority, the President, his counselors, and advisers, the judges, law-givers and executives, and all who are entrusted with our safety and with the guardianship of our rights and our liberties. May peace and good-will obtain among all the inhabitants of our Land; may religion spread its blessings among us and exalt our nation in righteousness. Amen.

RETURNING OF THE TORAH

(Congregation rises)

READER

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.

READER

The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the judgments of the Lord are true; they are

righteous altogether. Behold, a good doctrine has been given unto you; forsake it not.

(Congregation is seated)

ADDRESSES BY THE CONFIRMANDS

"Hark the Voice of Children"..... Choir
Opening Prayer.....Stanley Spear
The Torah.....Ellen Lehman
The Ten Commandments.....Betsy Altar
Judaism and Freedom.....James Haber
Judaism and Independence.....Nancy Oppenheimer
"May the Words of My Mouth"..... Choir
Confirmation Sermon....Rabbi Richard E. Singer

DECLARATION OF FAITH

We happily accept our Confirmation in the faith of Judaism.

At this hour of religious devotion we are grateful for the love of our parents that has brought us to this day and for the strength that we know in the happiness of our homes and in the closeness of our families. We affirm our faith in the One God of all the Universe, Whose service and worship are performed by words and deeds and thoughts of justice, kindness, love and humility. We express our devotion to Judaism's uni-

versal principle of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man placed before the world by the Prophets and spiritual leaders of our faith.

Throughout our lives these will be our beliefs and our goals. May God strengthen us in all we do and say that we may be worthy of the ideals of Judaism.

Presentation of Confirmation Certificates

BLESSING OF CONFIRMANDS

ADORATION

(Congregation rises)

RABBI AND CONGREGATION, IN UNISON

Let us adore the ever-living God, and render praise unto Him Who spread out the heavens and established the earth; Whose glory is revealed in the heavens above, and Whose greatness is manifest throughout the world, He is our God; there is none else.

We bow the head in reverence, and worship the King of Kings, the Holy One, praised be He.

(Congregation is seated)

RABBI

May the time not be distant, O God, when Thy name shall be worshipped in all the earth, when unbelief shall disappear and error be no more. We fervently pray that the day may come when all men shall invoke Thy name; when corruption and evil shall give way to purity and goodness; when superstition shall no longer enslave the mind, nor idolatry blind the eye; when all who dwell on earth shall know that to Thee alone every knee must bend and every tongue give homage. O may all, created in Thine image, recognize that they are brethren, so that, one in spirit and one in fellowship, they may be forever united before Thee. Then shall Thy kingdom be established on earth, and the word of Thine ancient seer be fulfilled: "The Lord will reign forever and ever."

Confirmation Hymn..... Choir

CLOSING BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

THE CLASS OF 1958

Betsy Altar	Dr. and Mrs. William Altar
Ellen J. Lehman	Mr. and Mrs. Alan Lehman
James E. Haber	Mr. and Mrs. James D. Haber
Nancy Oppenheimer	Mr. and Mrs. Edward Oppenheimer
Stanley J. Spear	Mr. and Mrs. Joel Spear

Mrs. Eugene Schuster, Teacher, Confirmation Class

Services Conducted By:

Richard E. Singer, Rabbi

Lakeside Congregation for Reform Judaism

Highland Park, Illinois