



THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE
- SYDNEY -
ק"ק בית ישראל

סדר תפילות לראש השנה למשפט

ORDER OF SERVICE

FOR THE OPENING OF LAW TERM

In the presence of

**THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW SOUTH WALES
THE HONOURABLE A.S. BELL**

Together with representatives of the Judiciary, Law Officers,
and leaders and members of the legal profession

David P. Lewis
President of The Great Synagogue

Officiating:

Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton, Chief Minister of The Great Synagogue
Rabbi Menachem Feldman, Cantor of The Great Synagogue
The Choir of The Great Synagogue

י"ד שבט תשפ"ה

Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

***Justice, Justice, Shall You Pursue* צדק צדק תרדוף**



Welcome to The Great Synagogue

The Great Synagogue (called in Hebrew Bet Yisrael – ‘House of Israel’) is one of Sydney's most beautiful, fascinating and historic buildings. The Synagogue has stood on its present site for almost one hundred and fifty years, since 1878, but the congregation itself has a history going back at least fifty years before that date, to the 1820s.

When New South Wales was founded as a penal colony in 1788, among the First Fleet convicts were around sixteen Jews. After three decades, Joseph Marcus, a German-born convict succeeded in gathering thirty or so Jews together for regular worship. By the end of the 1820s, a few free settlers had arrived. They included Philip Joseph Cohen who commenced regular services in his home in George Street and the formal establishment of the congregation came on 2 November, 1831. In 1844 the first purpose-built synagogue in Australia was opened in York Street.

There was a split in the congregation in the late 1850s, when a number of members seceded to found a new synagogue in Macquarie Street. However, from 1862 the York Street Synagogue community flourished under the leadership of the Reverend A.B. Davis. Reverend Davis managed to reunite the two communities in the 1870s but neither had adequate premises to house a reunified congregation. The new congregation was formally constituted by an Act of Parliament, The Jewish Synagogue and Schools Act 1872. The Great Synagogue Act 1931 continues to govern the Synagogue and its Board of Management. A design competition for the new Great Synagogue building in Elizabeth Street was won by Sydney architect, Thomas Rowe. In 1875 the Foundation Stone was laid and the synagogue was consecrated in March 1878.

The Ark housing the scrolls of the Torah is on the wall closest to Jerusalem. The service is led from the Bimah, the platform with a reading desk in the centre of the sanctuary. The internal columns used to be adorned with intricate floral motifs which have long since been painted over. They were rediscovered in 1981 when the education centre beside the Synagogue was in process of construction. Stencils based on these old motifs were then used to decorate the Synagogue, providing a link between generations a century apart.

Beneath the building, excavations in the 1950s made it possible to construct a war memorial centre, auditorium and library. Then in the 1980s the education centre, erected between the Synagogue and Castlereagh Street and preserving the old Castlereagh Street façade, provided five floors for cultural, social and educational activity as well as modern offices, the AM Rosenblum Jewish Museum, a Judaica shop, and a top-floor Succah or harvest tabernacle with a sliding roof.

The Synagogue serves a community of over one thousand, with one hundred or more events each year and many weddings and other celebrations. It is supported by The Great Synagogue Foundation.

The Rabbinate of The Great Synagogue has been filled by several distinguished figures, including Rabbi Dr Israel Porush OBE and Rabbi Dr Raymond Apple AO RFD. The current Chief Minister is Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton and the Cantor is Rabbi Menachem Feldman. The service will be accompanied by The Great Synagogue Choir.

The Law Service has taken place at The Great Synagogue since 1956. We are honoured every year by the presence of the Chief Justice and many distinguished judges and lawyers.

This year's service is dedicated to the memory of Judge Ron Solomon, a member of The Great Synagogue and the longest serving judicial officer in New South Wales. We are grateful to Judge Solomon's family for their generous support of this year's service.

We hope you will enjoy the service and will join us again in future years.

The congregation stands for the entry of the Clergy

How good are your tents, Jacob: your dwelling places, Israel. As for me, through Your abundant kindness I will enter Your House; I will prostrate myself toward Your Holy Sanctuary in awe of You. O Lord, I love the habitation of Your House, and the place where Your glory resides. I will prostrate myself, and bow, I will bend the knee before the Lord, my Maker. May my prayer to You, O Lord, be at a favourable time; God, in the abundance of Your kindness answer me with the truth of Your deliverance.

Music by Louis Lewandowski 1821-1894

מֵה־טֹבוֹ אֶהְלִיךָ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁכְּנֶיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל:
וְאֲנִי בְּרַב חֶסֶדְךָ אָבוֹא בֵּיתְךָ אֲשַׁתְּחֶוּהָ
אֶל־הֵיכַל־קֹדֶשְׁךָ בִּירְאָתְךָ: ה' אֶהְבֵּתִי מֵעוֹן
בֵּיתְךָ וּמִקוֹם מִשְׁכַּן כְּבוֹדְךָ: וְאֲנִי אֲשַׁתְּחֶוּהָ
וְאֶכְרַעָה אֶבְרָכָה לִפְנֵי ה' עֲשֵׂי: וְאֲנִי
תַּפְלִיתִי־לָךְ ה' עַתָּה רְצוֹן אֱלֹקִים בְּרַב־חֶסֶדְךָ
עֲנֵנִי בְּאַמֶּת יִשְׁעֶךָ

The congregation remains standing for the entry of the President of The Great Synagogue, The Chief Justice, Judiciary and Legal Profession

Blessed be he who comes in the Name of the Lord: We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, He has given us light: bind the festival offering with cords to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give thanks to You: You are my God and I will exalt You. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good: His lovingkindness endures forever.

בְּרוּךְ הַבָּא בְּשֵׁם ה' בִּרְכֻנוֹכֶם מִבֵּית ה'. אֵל
ה' וַיָּאֶרֶל־נֹנוֹ אֶסְרוּ־חַג בְּעֵבְתִּים עַד קֶרְנוֹת
הַמִּזְבֵּחַ. אֵלֵּי אַתָּה וְאוֹדֶךָ אֱלֹקֵי, אֲרוֹמְמֶךָ.
הוֹדוּ לָהּ כִּי־טוֹב כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶדְךָ

Music by Israel Lazarus Mombach 1813-1880

Acknowledgment of Country by David Ossip, President of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies

Tribute to Judge Ron Solomon, by his son Brett Solomon

Welcome by David Lewis President of The Great Synagogue

Message on behalf of the Government of New South Wales, the Honourable Michael Daley MP, Attorney-General, representing the Premier and the Minister for Multiculturalism

Leviticus 19, read by The Chief Justice of New South Wales, the Honourable A.S. Bell

The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy. Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another. Do not swear falsely by My name and so profane the name of your God. I am the Lord. Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favouritism to the great, but judge your neighbour fairly. Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord. Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight or quantity. Use honest scales and honest weights. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt. Keep all My decrees and all My laws and follow them. I am the Lord.'"

Verses from the Prophets, read by the Chief Judge at Common Law, the Honourable Justice Ian Harrison

Thus says the Lord: "Keep justice, and do righteousness; for My salvation is near to come, and My favour is to be revealed. Happy is the person who does this, and the son of man that holds fast by it". (Isaiah 56:1-2)

Let justice well up as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. (Amos 5:24)

It has been told you, O mortal, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you: only to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

Psalm 82, read by the Chief Judge in Equity, the Honourable Justice David Hammerschlag

A Psalm of Asaph. God presides in the great assembly; He renders judgment among the judges: "How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked? Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. They know nothing and they understand nothing. They walk about in darkness; and all the foundations of the earth are shaken. I said, 'You are powerful you are all sons of the Most High.' But you will die like mere mortals; you will fall like every other ruler". Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations are Your inheritance.

The Ark will be opened by Michelle Silvers. Two Torah Scrolls are removed from the Ark and carried around the Synagogue. The first Scroll will be carried by Rabbi Feldman, the second by David Knoll AM

There is none like You among the powers,
O Lord, and nothing like Your works. Your
kingship is a kingship of all worlds, and Your
reign is with generation upon generation.
The Lord rules. The Lord has ruled. The Lord
will rule forever and ever. The Lord will give
strength to His people. The Lord will bless
His people with peace.

אין כְּמוֹךָ בָּאֱלֹהִים אֲדֹנָי. וְאֵין כְּמַעֲשֶׂיךָ:
מְלֻכּוֹתֶיךָ מְלָכּוֹת כָּל עוֹלָמִים. וּמַמְשִׁלְתֶּךָ
בְּכָל דּוֹר וָדוֹר:
ה' מֶלֶךְ. ה' מֶלֶךְ. ה' יִמְלֹךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:
ה' עֲזֵר לְעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל. ה' יְבָרֶכֶךָ אֶת עַמּוֹ בְּשָׁלוֹם:

Father of compassion, do well with Your will upon Zion. Build the walls of Jerusalem, for in You alone we have trusted, King, uplifted and exalted Divinity, master of infinitudes.

And it came to pass when the ark set forward that Moses said 'Rise up O Lord, and Your enemies shall be scattered, and those who hate You shall flee before You'. For out of Zion shall go forth the Law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Blessed be He who in His holiness gave the Law to His people Israel.

Music by Salomon Sulzer 1804-1890

Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together.

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty for all that is in the heaven and the earth is Yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom and supremacy over all. Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His footstool, He is holy. Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His holy mount, for the Lord our God is holy.

Music by Abraham Saqui 1824-1893

אב הרחמים. היטיבה ברצונך את ציון.
תבנה חומות ירושלים: כי בך לבד בטחנו.
מלך אל רם ונשא אדון עולמים:

ויהי בנסע הארץ ויאמר משה קומה ה'
ויפצו איביך וינסו משנאיך מפניך: כי
מציון תצא תורה ודבר ה' מירושלים: ברוך
שנתן תורה לעמו ישראל בקדשתו:

גדלו לה' אתי ונרוממה שמו:

לך ה' הגדלה והגבורה והתפארת והנצח
וההוד כי כל בשמים ובארץ: לך ה'
הממלכה והמתנשא לכל לראש: רוממו ה'
אלקינו והשתחוּו להדם רגליו קדוש הוא:
רוממו ה' אלקינו והשתחוּו להר קדשו כי
קדוש ה' אלקינו:

The Ark will be closed by David Grinston

Prayer for Australia read by Jennifer Ball, President of the Law Society of New South Wales

He who gives salvation to kings and dominion to princes, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, may He bless:

The King of Australia
The Governor-General and the State Governors
The Prime Minister and the State Premiers
Elders of the First Nations People
And the other Leaders of the Nation

May the supreme King of Kings put into their hearts a spirit of wisdom and understanding, to uphold the peace and advance the welfare of the Commonwealth of Australia, and deal kindly and justly with all Israel. May the Almighty bless all the people of this land, including the First Nations People and may we learn to live together in justice and equity. May He protect and safeguard the men and women of the Australian Defence Force. Speedily and in our days, may our heavenly Father spread His tabernacle of peace over all the dwellers on earth and may the Redeemer come to Zion, and let us say: Amen.

Prayer for the Judiciary and the Legal Profession, read by the Honourable Ron Hoenig MP, Minister for Local Government

Almighty God, Judge of all the earth: Bless, we pray, the Chief Justice and Judiciary of New South Wales. Grant them wisdom, humility and integrity to render true justice. Bless all those who practice the law, may they discharge their duties with conscience, expertise and responsibility. May they uphold the dignity of the law, the stature of the profession and truth and morality in our society. Remember the souls of our departed colleagues. May their efforts to replace chaos and discord with order and peace be counted to their merit. May they rest in the shelter of Your wings for evermore. Amen.

The Ark will be opened by Max Einfeld

Let them praise the Name of the Lord for His Name alone is exalted.

יְהַלְלוּ אֶת שֵׁם ה'. כִּי נִשְׁגָּב שְׁמוֹ לְבָדּוֹ:

His grandeur is above the earth and heaven and he has lifted up a horn for His people, to the praise of all His loving ones, even of the Children of Israel, the people near to Him. Praise the Lord.

הוֹדוּ עַל אֶרֶץ וְשָׁמַיִם: וְיָרֵם קֶרֶן לְעַמּוֹ. תְּהַלֵּה לְכָל חֲסִידָיו. לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עִם קְרֹבּוֹ. הִלְלוּהָ:

Music by Israel Lazarus Mombach 1813-1880

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty he is the King of glory.

שֹׂאוּ שַׁעְרֵימָּה וְהִנָּשְׂאוּ פִתְחֵי עוֹלָם. וַיָּבֹא מֶלֶךְ הַכְּבוֹד: מִי זֶה מֶלֶךְ הַכְּבוֹד. ה' עֲזֹז וְגִבּוֹר. ה' גִּבּוֹר מִלְחָמָה: שֹׂאוּ שַׁעְרֵימָּה וְהִנָּשְׂאוּ פִתְחֵי עוֹלָם. וַיָּבֹא מֶלֶךְ הַכְּבוֹד: מִי הוּא זֶה מֶלֶךְ הַכְּבוֹד. ה' צָבָאוֹת הוּא מֶלֶךְ הַכְּבוֹד סֶלָה:

Music by Samuel Naumbourg 1817-1880

It is a tree of life for those who grasp it and all who uphold it are happy. Its ways are ways of pleasantness and all its paths are peace. Turn us to You, O Lord, and we shall return, renew our days of old.

עֵץ חַיִּים הִיא לַמַּחְזִיקִים בָּהּ. וְתַמְכִּיהָ מְאֹשֶׁר: דְּרָכֶיהָ דְּרָכֵי נֵעַם וְכָל נְתִיבוֹתֶיהָ שְׁלוֹם: הַשִּׁיבֵנוּ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְנִשְׁוֶבָה. חֲדָשׁ יָמֵינוּ כְּקֶדֶם:

Music by Nissan Blumenthal 1805-1902

The Torah Scrolls are returned to the Ark and the Ark will be closed by Cassie Sten

Address by Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton, Chief Minister of The Great Synagogue

The Choir will sing

Do not fear sudden terror nor the destruction of the wicked when it comes take counsel together but it will be foiled speak the word and it will not stand for God is with us. To Your old age I am [with You], to Your older years I will sustain You, I have made You, and I will carry You, I will sustain You and save You.

אַל תִּירָא מִפֶּחַד פֶּתְאִים וּמִשְׁאֵת רָשָׁעִים כִּי
תָּבֹא עָצוֹ עֲצָה וְתִפְרֹ דְּבָרוֹ דְּבָר וְלֹא יָקוּם כִּי
עָמְנוּ אֵל: וְעַד זְקִנָּה אָנִי הוּא וְעַד שִׁיבָה אָנִי
אֶסְבֵּל: אָנִי עֲשִׂיתִי וְאָנִי אֲשָׂא וְאָנִי אֶסְבֵּל
וְאִמְלֹט:

The National Anthem

Australians all let us rejoice, for we are one and free; we've golden soil and wealth for toil; our home is girt by sea; our land abounds in nature's gifts of beauty rich and rare; in history's page, let every stage Advance Australia Fair. In joyful strains then let us sing, Advance Australia Fair.

Please remain standing until the official party has left the Synagogue as the Choir sings:

Master of the Universe Who reigned before any creature was created. At the time when all was made by His will, then was His Name proclaimed King. And after all things shall cease to be the Awesome One will reign alone. He was, He is, and He shall be in glory. He is One, and there is no second to compare to Him, to associate with Him. Without beginning, without end, power and dominion are His. He is my God and my ever-living Redeemer, the Rock of my destiny on the day of distress. He is my flag and my refuge; He is the portion of my cup on the day I call. Into His hand I entrust my spirit both when I sleep and when I awaken. And with my spirit my body too, the Lord is with me, I shall not fear.

אֲדוֹן עוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר מֶלֶךְ, בְּטָרָם כָּל יְצִיר נִבְרָא:
לְעֵת נַעֲשֶׂה בְּחֻפְצוֹ כָּל, אֲזִי מֶלֶךְ שְׁמוֹ נִקְרָא:
וְאַחֲרֵי כָכֶלּוֹת הַכֹּל, לְבִדּוֹ יִמְלֹךְ נוֹרָא:
וְהוּא הָיָה וְהוּא הוּא, וְהוּא יִהְיֶה בְּתִפְאָרָה:
וְהוּא אֶחָד וְאֵין שֵׁנִי, לְהַמְשִׁיל לוֹ לְהַחֲבִירָה:
בְּלִי רֵאשִׁית בְּלִי תְּכָלִית, וְלוֹ הָעֵז וְהַמְשָׁרָה:
וְהוּא אֱלִי וְחִי גּוֹאֲלִי, וְצוֹר חֲבִלִי בְּעֵת צָרָה:
וְהוּא נָסִי וּמְנוֹס לִי, מִנֶּת כּוֹסֵי בְּיוֹם אֶקְרָא:
בְּיָדוֹ אֶפְקִיד רוּחִי, בְּעֵת אִישׁוֹן וְאַעֲרִירָה:
וְעַם רוּחִי גּוֹיִתִּי, יִהְיֶה לִּי וְלֹא אִירָא:

Music by Simon Waley 1827-1875



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FOUNDATION



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THE GREAT
SYNAGOGUE

Thank you for attending our service. We wish to thank all those who took part: the Choir and conductor; the ushers; and the Staff of The Great Synagogue for their efforts in organising and running today's service.

Refreshments and an address by the Chief Justice follow in the Israel Green Auditorium, below the Synagogue.



Judge Ronald Solomon 1941-2024

We are proud to dedicate this year's service to Judge Solomon's memory and thank his family for their generous support.

