

**Shabbat Shalom**  
**from Rabbi Michael Gold**

Candle Lighting Time

Fri. 7:31 pm

Services

Thurs. April 23 8:30 am Minyan followed by Bagels and Bible  
The Thursday Morning minyan followed by Bagels and Bible will continue until  
the end of April.

Sat. April 25 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service

Dear Friends,

We pray for peace for the United States, Israel, and throughout the world.

**PARSHAT AHAREI MOT – KEDOSHIM**  
**FOUR KINDS OF HOLINESS**

“Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat and confess over it all the iniquities and transgressions of the Israelites, whatever their sins, putting them on the head of the goat; and it shall be sent off to the wilderness through a designated agent.” (Leviticus 16:21)

Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the Jewish year. It is a day of fasting, prayer, and seeking atonement for our sins. (Yes, we all have some sins.) I spend the day in synagogue. There is a moment in the middle of the afternoon, during Musaf (additional service), after many people have left, that I have always enjoyed. It is known as the *Avodah* (literally “service”).

The *Avodah* service is built on this week’s portion, which describes the law of Yom Kippur, the way it was observed in ancient times when the Temple was standing. The High Priest would lead several rituals from the holiest spot in the Temple, known as the Holy of Holiest. He would change his clothes several times bring various offerings, and pronounce three confessions. He would confess the sins of himself and his family, the sins of his fellow priests, and finally, the sins of the entire people Israel. During this ritual, the High Priest literally pronounces the holy Name of God. Jews do not pronounce God’s Name any other time.

The third confession of all the sins was said over a special goat designated for that purpose. The goat was then sent off into the wilderness (in Hebrew we

say *l'azazel*, a word that could mean "to hell,") carrying away the sins of the people. This is a form of vicarious atonement. The English word "scapegoat" comes from this ritual. When the Temple was destroyed, the people Israel could no longer perform this ritual. In fact, the precise pronunciation of the name of God has been lost.

