

Guide for Visitors and Guests to Our Worship Services

All are welcome to attend our worship services. Below is a brief guide to help you be more comfortable during the service.

1. **Dress:** Guests at a bar/bat mitzvah celebration generally wear dressier clothes than everyday attire. Please dress in a modest manner appropriate for a house of worship.
2. **Arrival time:** Services for most Friday evening services start promptly at 8:00 pm. Please check under the “What’s Happening at CBS” tab to confirm the starting time for the Shabbat evening service you will be attending. Saturday morning services start promptly at 10:00 am. We encourage you to arrive on time.
3. **Wearing a head covering:** The wearing of a head covering or kippah (yarmulke) during worship is a traditional Jewish custom and sign of respect, appropriate for attendees of any religious faith. Our congregation encourages both men and women to observe this tradition, while also respecting those who prefer not to wear a head covering. Head coverings are available at the entrance to the sanctuary.
4. **Wearing a prayer shawl:** The wearing of a tallit or prayer shawl during Saturday morning worship is another traditional Jewish custom, appropriate for Jewish men and women. Our congregation encourages Jewish men and women to wear a tallit. If you do not have your own tallit, we have them available at the entrance to the sanctuary.
5. **Sitting and standing:** Jewish worship services include frequent directions to stand for particular prayers and sit for others. Take your cue from the other worshippers or the service leader’s instructions.
6. **Following along at the service:** During the service we will be using a Siddur, or prayer book, containing prayers in Hebrew and English, and a Humash, which contains the Hebrew and English text of the Five Books of Moses. There are copies of both books located in the seat backs of the sanctuary chairs, and we encourage everyone to use a prayer book during the worship service to follow along.

In some places the Hebrew in the prayer book is transliterated into English characters so that you can join with the congregation even if you cannot read Hebrew. Guests and congregants are encouraged to participate in the service to the extent that they feel comfortable. The service leader will announce the page.

When you are finished using the prayer book or Humash, please put the books into the seat backs in front of you and not on the floor.

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7. **Maintaining sanctity:** All guests and participants are asked to respect the sanctity of the worship service and Sabbath.
- (a) Turn off your cell phone and do not text during services.
 - (b) Do not write in the sanctuary.
 - (c) Avoid unnecessary talking.
 - (d) Do not applaud.
 - (e) Pictures may only be taken without flash and only from behind the last row of seats, so as not to disturb worshippers.
 - (f) If you have to leave the sanctuary during the service, please go and come quietly and quickly. Please do not leave when the Rabbi is giving his sermon, or when the bar or bat mitzvah is speaking to the congregation.

Suggestions for this **Guide for Visitors and Guests to our Worship Service** are from Rabbi Daniel Kohn's article in

http://www.myjewishlearning.com/life/Life_Events/BarBat_Mitzvah/Practical_Aspects/Guide_for_Guests.shtml