



Congregation Adath Jeshurun

Dear Friends,

As we prepare to welcome 5787, תשפ"ז, we arrive at Rosh Hashanah carrying the experiences of a year that has reminded us how quickly the world can change. For the Jewish people, this past year has again brought moments of anxiety and uncertainty, concern for our brothers and sisters in Israel, and an unsettling awareness that antisemitism remains very real. Yet it has also revealed something extraordinary: the resilience of Am Yisrael, the strength of Jewish community, and our determination not merely to endure, but to live proudly and meaningfully as Jews.

There is a beautiful thought hidden in the number of the coming year. The final two letters of תשפ"ז spell *paz*, a Biblical word for fine, refined gold. Gold becomes precious through refinement. So do we.

Perhaps that can be our challenge for 5787: not simply to emerge from difficult times unchanged, but to allow them to refine us. We can all become more thoughtful, more compassionate, more committed to Torah, and more connected to one another.

Our tradition teaches that on Rosh Hashanah and during the Yamim Noraim, “teshuvah, tefillah and tzedakah” have the power to transform the decree. Each represents a different relationship: teshuvah strengthens our relationship with ourselves and Hashem; tefillah strengthens our relationship with Hashem; and tzedakah reminds us of our responsibility toward one another.

Our shul is one of the places where all three come together. It is where we daven, learn, celebrate, mourn, welcome newcomers, educate our children, care for one another, and create a community in which Torah Judaism can flourish. None of that happens by itself. It happens because people decide that sustaining a strong Jewish community is worthy of their generosity.

As you consider your tzedakah during this season, I hope you will include AJ among the causes you support and, where possible, consider increasing your gift this year. Every contribution helps us continue building a congregation that is warm, vibrant, and strong.

May 5787, the year of *paz*, be a year in which the difficulties we have experienced refine us rather than diminish us, and may Hashem bless all of us with a year of health, peace, unity, prosperity, and true simcha.

May we all be inscribed and sealed for a good and sweet year.

Rabbi Gershon Litt