

Ceremony for Yom Kippur ***Turning to Forgiveness***

Before Immersion (Kavanah):

Water is God's gift to living souls, to clear us, to purify us, to sustain us and renew us. As I immerse myself in living waters, may I open to the possibility of forgiveness. May my entry into these waters mark my intention to forgive myself, forgive others, and ask others to forgive me. May my resistance to this task be dissolved.

First Immersion

Baruch atah adonai, eloheinu melech ha'olam, asher kidshanu bi-t'vilah b'mayyim hayyim.

Blessed are You, God, Ruler of the Universe, who makes us holy by embracing us in living waters.

Second Immersion

The gates are open. Hear my prayer, God. May I have the courage and clarity to engage in the process of *teshuvah*/repentance.

Third Immersion

V'al kulam, elohah s'lichot, s'lach lanu, m'chal lanu, kapper lanu.

For all my wrongs, O God of forgiveness, forgive me wipe the slate clean, grant me atonement.

After Immersion (additional kavanot)

Hashiveinu adonai elekha v'nashuvah chadesh yameynu k'kedem.

Turn us to You and we shall return. Renew our days as before.

May I return to my true self and be strengthened as I continue my journey of *tikkun halev* (repairing the heart), *tikkun ha-nefesh* (repairing the soul), and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).