

# Zev Unger - Bar Mitzvah Ceremony

January 29, 2022 - 27 Shevat 5782

Parashat Mishpatim

Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb



Drawing by Rowan Unger

## ***Bar Mitzvah and Shabbat Morning Service***

*Shabbat* is a day of rest and reflection. The morning service includes blessings, songs, meditations, readings from scripture, and learning and sharing. *Bar mitzvah* means “son of commandment” and refers to the milestone commitment, traditionally at the age of 13, to take on responsibilities as a full member of the Jewish community.

As he leads many of the blessings and readings, Zev will become *bar mitzvah* during the course of our regular Shabbat morning service. Chanting from the *Torah* – the five books of Moses – is the focal point of the service, linking to our ancestors and keeping the traditions alive for future generations. Each Shabbat, one *parashah* (portion) of *Torah* is read, with the reading divided into sections. For each section, someone is given the honor of an *aliyah* (“going up”) to recite blessings before and after the *Torah* reading.

Zev will chant in Hebrew from this week’s *Torah* portion, called *Mishpatim* from the book of Exodus (21:1 - 24:18), which introduces a series of laws that build upon or expand beyond the ten commandments. Before Zev is called for his own *aliyah*, he will receive his own *tallit* (prayer shawl) along with reflections from his parents.

Zev will also chant a passage from the *haftarah*, the prophetic writings that accompany the *Torah* portions. His *haftarah* is from the book of Jeremiah.

On Shabbat, it is customary to learn from a *d’var Torah*, a commentary and teaching that explores themes and interpretations of the *Torah* reading. Zev has chosen to present a *d’var* on the themes of laws, *shmita* and renewal in connection to this week’s *Torah* portion.

***Our Congregation:*** Adat Shalom is the congregation that has nurtured Zev’s Jewish identity and education. Adat Shalom means “Community of Peace,” and it belongs to a branch of Judaism called “Reconstructionism,” which understands Judaism as the evolving religious civilization of the Jewish people. Rooted in tradition and practice, it encourages continual inquiry to keep Judaism vital as times change. Reconstructionism rejects the idea of Jews as the “chosen people” and values inclusivity and social action.

### ***Special thanks to:***

- Rabbi Fred, Rabbi Rachel, and all of Zev’s teachers at Adat Shalom for inspiring a genuine connection and curiosity toward Judaism.
- Sue Marx for her inspiring and spirited approach to tutoring and Jewish learning.
- Our family and friends from near and far who join us in celebrating this milestone.
- The Adat Shalom community and all the staff and volunteers who make so much possible, even in trying times.

### ***Tikkun Olam***

It is customary for a Bar Mitzvah to engage in some form of community service as a meaningful beginning to his work on *tikkun olam*, a life-long Jewish value which means “repairing the world.” Zev is choosing to focus on volunteering at Koiner Farm and supporting the Charles Koiner Conservancy for Urban Farming. Their focus on land stewardship, sustainable and resilient local food systems, and donating nutritious produce to vulnerable members of our community relate to themes from Zev’s *parashah*.

## ***Introductory Hymns and Blessings***

### **Reading in English,**

Richard Wadhams and Faith Parker

### **Parental blessing and Presentation of Tallit,**

Noam Unger & Caroline Wadhams

## ***Torah Service***

**Opening the Ark,** Caden Unger, Allegra Unger, Cassidy Unger and Rowan Unger

**First Aliyah** (Rishon), Michael Unger, Darian Unger and Jill Clark

Reader: Sue Ann Unger, Exodus 24:7-11

**Second Aliyah** (Sheni), Caroline Wadhams and Noam Unger

Reader: Silvan Unger, Exodus 24:12-14

**Third Aliyah** (Maftir), Zev Unger

Reader: Zev Unger, Exodus 24:15-18

**Hagbah** (Torah Lifter), Matthew Biel

**G’lilah** (Torah wrapper), Sarah Greenberger

**Haftarah** – Jeremiah 34: 8-34; 33: 25-26

Reader: Zev Unger

**D’var Torah,** Zev Unger

**Aleinu,** Rowan Unger

**Closing the Ark,** Nick Wadhams, Zoe Alsop, Sascha Wadhams, Eva Wadhams, Josephine Wadhams

## ***Concluding Blessings and Prayers***