

On redemption, or gratitude, in the time of COVID

We Jews are certainly familiar with plagues...

We've had plenty of them...

hurled from the heavens whenever someone has strayed...

regardless of whether it's Pharoah...

or one of our own idol-worshipping Hebrews...

who's brought it on.

Of course, as Reform Jews, we tend to reject the idea of plagues as punishment...

Yet the sins, in this case, are evident.

Foremost among them is complacency....

particularly when it comes to infectious disease...

where we've come to believe that we are invulnerable.

Complacency about politics has led to a similar outcome.

Four years ago, some of us thought it was not possible for someone who was unfit for office...

morally, intellectually and ideologically....

to achieve it.

We forgot history. Or ignored it.

Hopefully, we have now recognized the price of complacency.

Here at Temple Sinai, we are involved in a massive effort to get out the vote.

In doing so, we're hoping to reverse the course of history...

and not stand idly by.

We are not powerless if we choose to fight.

With COVID, that's not so easy.

Even with the best of weapons—

masks and tracking and ultimately an effective vaccine—

we have no guarantees.

Viruses mutate.

Yet the virus...fearful as it may be...has brought us a few blessings.

Tonight, on Yom Kippur, as we begin our service, I would like to think of these small mitzvahs...

the principal one is ***time...***

time to spend in contemplation.....and study...

time to seek redemption...

and time to express our gratitude to God

Tonight, especially, we are grateful

...for **life**

...for **health**

...for **friends and family and the ability to persevere**

...for **the strength to repair a broken world...**

For all that and more, we say, Amen.

L'chaim.

(284 words without headings)