

Kol Nidre – chant of ages,  
Chant of Israel, chant of sorrow,

As the Ba'al Tefillah chants the words of this ancient legal formula, asking that we be absolved from our vows, bonds and oaths to God, we turn our attention inward to reflect upon the past year. What have we accomplished for the good, where were we lacking? What can we do better in the coming year? We hope that God finds the scales tipped in our favor.

Kol Nidre – chant of ages,  
Chant of pain and chant of pathos,

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, we quest for forgiveness. The themes of forgiveness and atonement run throughout our liturgy. In each of the five services we recite the Vidui and **עַל חַטָּאֵינוּ שְׁחַטָּאנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ**, striking the left side of our chest near our heart. Standing as a community we confess our sins: “For the sin we have committed before you”. We also confess to sins which we have committed both unknowingly and unwittingly.

Kol Nidre – chant of ages,  
Chant of grief and chant of triumph.

We stand to listen to and recite the **וַנִּתְּנָהּ הַיְקָרִי**, epitomizing the central theme of the High Holidays. God, You cause every living soul, even the hosts of heaven, to pass before you decreeing their destiny: who shall live and who shall die; who shall be brought low and who shall be exalted. And we are comforted knowing that You wait for the sinner, even until their dying day, to repent and return from their evil ways and live.

Judaism teaches God forgives the sins committed against God, but only we can forgive sins we have committed against each other. For those of you against whom I have sinned I ask your forgiveness, and for those who have sinned against me I forgive you.

**בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם הַסּוֹלֵחַ לְעַמּוֹ  
יִשְׂרָאֵל וְחוֹתֵב וְחוֹתֵם אוֹתָם בְּסֵפֶר הַחַיִּים**

Blessed art thou o Lord our God, King of the universe, who forgives his children, Israel, and seals them in the book of life.

Composed by: Stephen Bernstein  
Blessing theme: Forgiveness