

Prayer Vigil for the State of Israel

Temple Israel of Riverhead, North Shore Reform Synagogue of Cutchogue

October 15, 2023 | I Cheshvan, 5784



Oseh Shalom, Maker of Peace

עֲשֵׂה שָׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן:

Oseh shalom bim'romav, hu ya'a'seh shalom aleinu v'al kol Yisra'el, v'im'ru: Amen.

May the One who causes peace to reign in the high heavens, cause peace to reign
among us, all Israel, and all the world. and let us say: Amen.



Peace, Please

We gather together,
in faith and with hope
to pray for peace
and for the safety of the people of Israel.

Help us, O Holy One
and protect us in our hour of need.
Touch our hearts
lest they harden with despair.
Guide our thoughts
lest they are overcome with fear.

Bring healing to the wounded,
strength to those in mourning,
courage to those in fear,
wisdom to those who lead.

Yedid nefesh, beloved one,
reveal Yourself
and fill the world with Your light.
Spread over us the shelter of Your peace.
Be quick, God of love, for the time has come.
Have mercy upon us, Eternal One of peace.

(Rabbi Karyn Kedar, Congregation B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim in Deerfield, Illinois)

When Evil Darkens our World

When evil darkens our world, let us be the bearers of light.
When fists are clenched in self-righteous rage,
let our hands be open for the sake of peace.
When injustice slams doors on the ill, the poor, the old, and the stranger,
let us pry the doors open.
Where shelter is lacking, let us be builders.
Where food and clothing are needed, let us be providers.
Where knowledge is denied, let us be champions of learning.
When dissent is stifled, let our voices speak truth to power.
When the earth and its creatures are threatened, let us be their guardians.
When bias, greed, and bigotry erode our country's values,
let us proclaim liberty throughout the land.
In the places where no one acts like a human being, let us bring courage;
let us bring compassion;
let us bring humanity.

(Chaim Stern in *Mishkan HaNefesh: Machzor for the Days of Awe*)



Prayer for Healing

מי שברך אבותינו מקור הברכה לאימותינו

Mi shebeirach avoteinu, M'kor hab'racha l'imoteinu

May the source of strength,

Who blessed the ones before us,

Help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing, and let us say, Amen.

מי שברך אמותינו מקור הברכה לאבותינו

Mi shebeirach imoteinu, M'kor hab'rachah l'avoteinu

Bless those in need of healing with *r'fuah sh'leimah*,

The renewal of body, the renewal of spirit, And let us say, Amen

(Words and music by Debbie Friedman, z"l)



Adapted from Psalm 91:15

“Our God, the One who raised Joseph up from the pit, be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.”

Send complete rescue and full redemption to those held captive by the enemy.

Strengthen their spirit and bring them our prayers that they be protected from all harm.

Implant understanding in the heart of the enemy that they may return the captives in wholeness of body and spirit.

Grant wisdom to the Israel Defense Forces that they may secure freedom for the captives without loss of life.

Grant strength of spirit and courage of heart to all the sons and daughters of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar to release bonds of captivity and allow us all to live in freedom.

“They shall call upon Me, and I will answer them; I will be with them in distress; I will rescue them, and honor them.”

(Author unknown)



Eili, Eili/A Walk to Caesarea

God, my God,

I pray that these things
never end:

The sand and the sea,

The rush of the waters,

The crash of the heavens,

The prayer of the heart.

אֱלֹהֵי, אֱלֹהֵי

שֶׁלֹא יִגְמַר לְעוֹלָם

הַחֹל וְהַיָּם,

רִשְׁרוּשׁ שֶׁל הַמַּיִם,

בְּרַק הַשָּׁמַיִם,

תְּפִלַּת הָאָדָם

Eili, Eili,

Shelo yigamer l'olam

Hachol v'hayam,

Rishrush shel hamayim,

B'rak hashamayim

T'filat ha'adam

(Poem by Hannah Senesh; music by David Zehavi)



Modern Prayer for Israel

Sovereign of All the World,

accept our plea on behalf of the state and people of Israel;

pour forth Your blessing on the land and all who call it home.

May Your laws of kindness guide its people;

and may the teaching of Your prophets

live within their hearts and ours—

“Only to do justice,
and to love goodness,
and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

Awaken Your spirit in the Jewish people and the whole human family;
implant within us all patience and mutual respect;
uproot from our midst hatred, violence, coercion, and exploitation.

We pray for strength of body and spirit to journey to the land,
and to be a true friend of the land and its people--a lover of Zion.
May life there become “*shevet achim gam yachad...*” (Psalm 133:1),
brothers and sisters dwelling together.

And in every corner of the earth,
spread Your shelter of peace over the House of Israel.

Strengthen the will and stamina of Israel’s soldiers;
fill with courage the hearts of those who shield the land.
Let their spirits be resilient and their use of arms pure.

Valiant in war, ever-striving for peace--
may they overcome all enemies,
as You guard them in the shadow of Your wings.

For this, and this alone, we pray:
Make peace in the land;
may all its inhabitants be blessed;
and may this vision of Your prophet soon be achieved--

“Nation shall not lift up sword against nation; Neither shall they learn war anymore.”
(Isaiah 2:4)

(Rabbi Sheldon Marder, Mishkan HaNefesh, CCAR Press, 2015)



Psalm 46

For the leader of the Korahites; *a song*.
God is our refuge and stronghold,
a help in trouble, very near.
Therefore we are not afraid though the earth reels,
though mountains topple into the sea—
its waters rage and foam; in its swell mountains quake. *Selah*.
There is a river whose streams gladden God's city,
the holy dwelling-place of the Most High.
God is in its midst, it will not be toppled;
by daybreak God will come to its aid.
Nations rage, kingdoms topple;
at the sound of God's thunder the earth dissolves.
GOD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our haven. *Selah*.
Come and see what GOD has done,
how devastation has been wrought on the earth.
God puts a stop to wars throughout the earth,
breaking the bow, snapping the spear,
consigning wagons to the flames.
"Desist! Realize that I am God!
I dominate the nations;
I dominate the earth."
GOD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our haven. *Selah*.



Israel: A Meditation

Israel,
You are my people.
You are my heart and you are my hope.
We waited together at the mountain
When G-d revealed the Holy Word.
We wandered together through the desert
On the path to sacred soil.
We watched the sea part.
We heard the heavens roar.

We stood at the doorway to freedom,
At the border of a Promised Land.

Israel,
You are my destiny.
You are my joy and you are my truth.
We were victorious at Jericho,
Unyielding at Masada.
We defied empires
For Torah.
We defied kings
For justice and freedom.
We've traveled the earth,
Wandered the millennia,
Refugees of the ages,
Homeless and hopeful,
Waiting to return
To native ground.

Israel,
You are my brother in history,
My sister in fortune,
The mother of my courage,
The father of my heart,
The child of my longing,
And the light of generations.
To you I pledge my right arm
And my voice in song.
To you I pledge my soul.
To you I pledge my spirit.

Israel,
You are my nation.
You are my inheritance.
You are my home.

(by Alden Solovy, retrieved from tobendlight.com)



Prayer for the State of Israel

אָבינו שְׁבַשְׁמִים, צוּר יִשְׂרָאֵל וְגוֹאֲלוֹ, בָּרַךְ אֶת מְדִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל, רֵאשִׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאֻלָּתָנוּ. הִגֵּן
עָלֶיהָ בְּאַבְרַת חֶסֶדָּהּ, וּפְרֵשׁ עָלֶיהָ סֶכֶת שְׁלוֹמָהּ, וּשְׁלַח אוֹרָהּ וְאַמְתָּהּ לְרֵאשִׁיָּהּ, שְׂרִיָּהּ וְיוֹעֲצִיָּהּ,
וּמְקַנְנֵהּ בְּעֵצָה טוֹבָה מִלְּפָנֶיהָ. חֲזֹק אֶת יְדֵי מְגַנֵּי אֶרֶץ קְדֻשָּׁנוּ, וְהַנְחִילֵם אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְשׁוּעָה וְעֻצְרַת
נִצָּחוֹן תָּעֲטָרֵם, וְנַתַּת שְׁלוֹם בְּאֶרֶץ, וְשִׂמְחַת עוֹלָם לְיוֹשְׁבֶיהָ. אָמֵן

*Avinu shebashamayim, Tzur Yisrael v'goal, bareich et M'dinat Yisra'el, reishit s'michat g'ulateinu. Hagein
aleha b'evrat chasdecha, ufros aleha sukkat sh'lomecha ush'lach orcha va'amitcha l'roshecha, sareha
v'yo'aseha v'takneim b'eitza tova milfanecha. Chazeik et y'dei-m'ginei eretz kodsheinu, v'hanchileim
Eloheinu y'shua v'ateret nitzachon t'atreim. V'natata shalom ba'aretz v'simchat olam l'yoshveha. V'nomar:
Amen.*

O Heavenly One, Rock and Redeemer of the people Israel, bless the State of Israel, with its promise of redemption. Shield it with Your love; spread over it the shelter of Your peace. Guide its leaders and advisors with Your light and Your truth. Help them with Your good counsel. Strengthen the hands of those who defend our Holy Land. Deliver them; crown their efforts with triumph. Bless the land with peace, and its inhabitants with lasting joy. And let us say: Amen.



El Maleh Rachamim (Interpretive)

El Maleh Rachamim -- Compassionate God,
We pray not to wipe out haters but to banish hatred.
Not to destroy sinners but to lessen sin.

Our prayers are not for a perfect world but a better one
Where parents are not bereaved by the savagery of sudden attacks
Or children orphaned by blades glinting in a noontime sun.

Help us dear God, to have the courage to remain strong, to stand fast.
Spread Your light on the dark hearts of the slayers
And Your comfort to the bereaved hearts of families of the slain.
Let calm return to Your city Jerusalem, and to Israel, Your blessed land.

We grieve with those wounded in body and spirit,
pray for the fortitude of our sisters and brothers,
and ask You to awaken the world to our struggle and help us bring peace.

(Rabbi David Wolpe)

Eil Malei Rachamim

אל מלא רחמים, שוכן במרומים, המצא מנוחה נכונה על כנפי השכינה, במעלת קדושים וטהורים כזהר הרקיע מזהירים, את נשמות שהלכו לעולמם, בגן עדן תהא מנוחתם, לכן בעל הרחמים יסתירם בסתר כנפיו לעולמים, ויצרור בצרור החיים את נשמתם, יי הוא נחלתם, וינוחו על משכבם בשלום. ונאמר אמן.

God of abundant mercy, God Most High, may the soul of the recent dead, who have gone to eternity, find the gift of perfect peace in Your embrace, with the holy and pure, whose light shines like the radiance of heaven. Compassionate God, hold them close to You forever, so that their soul may be bound up in the bond of life eternal. May they find a home with You, and may they rest in peace, as together we say: Amen.



There are stars whose light reaches the earth
only after they themselves have disintegrated and are no more.

And there are people whose scintillating memory lights the world
after they have passed from it.

These lights – which shine in the darkest night – are those which illumine for us the path.

(Hannah Senesh)



Kaddish Yatom/Mourner's Kaddish

יתגדל ויתקדש שמה רבא. בעלמא די ברא כרעותה, וימליך מלכותה בתיכון וביומיכון
ובחיי דכל בית ישראל. בעגלא ובזמן קריב ואמרו אמן:

*Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba b'alma div'ra chirutei, v'yamlich malchutei b'chayeichon uv'yomeichon
uv'chaye d'chol beit Yisrael, ba'agalah uvizman kariv v'im'ru: Amen.*

יהא שמה רבא מברך לעלם ולעלמי עלמא:

Y'hei sh'mei raba m'varach l'alam ul'almei almaya.

יתברך וישמבח, ויתפאר ויתרומם ויתנשא ויתהדר ויתעלה ויתהלל שמה דקדשא בריך הוא
לעלא מן כל ברכתא ושירתא, תשבחתא ונחממתא, דאמירן בעלמא, ואמרו אמן:

*Yitbarach v'yishtabach, v'yitpa'ar v'yitromam v'yitnasei, v'yithadar v'yitaleh v'yithalal sh'mei d'kud'sha,
b'rich hu, l'eila min kol birchata v'shirata, tush'b'chata v'nehchehmata da'amiran b'alma, v'im'ru: Amen.*

יְהִי שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן:

Y'hei sh'lama raba min sh'maya v'chayim, aleinu v'al kol Yisra'el, v'im'ru: Amen.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן:

Oseh shalom bim'romav, hu ya'a'seh shalom aleinu v'al kol Yisra'el, v'im'ru: Amen.

Let the glory of God be extolled, and God's great name be hallowed in the world whose creation God willed. May God rule in our own day, in our own lives, and in the life of all Israel, and let us say: Amen.

Let God's great name be blessed for ever and ever.

Beyond all the praises, songs, and adorations that we can utter is the Holy One, the Blessed One, whom yet we glorify, honor, and exalt. And let us say: Amen.

For us and for all Israel, may the blessing of peace and the promise of life come true, and let us say: Amen.

May the One who causes peace to reign in the high heavens, cause peace to reign among us, all Israel, and all the world. and let us say: Amen.



Israel is a personal challenge...

Israel is a personal challenge, a personal religious issue.

It is a call to every one of us as an individual, a call which one cannot answer vicariously...

The ultimate meaning of the State of Israel must be seen in terms of the vision of the prophets: the redemption of all...

The religious duty of the Jew is to participate in the process of continuous redemption, in seeing that justice prevails over power, that awareness of God penetrates human understanding.

(Abraham Joshua Heschel, quoted in Mishkan T'filah)

HATIKVAH—THE HOPE

כָּל עוֹד בְּלִבּוֹ פְּנִימָה
נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדִי הוֹמִיָּה,
וּלְפָאֵתִי מִזְרַח, קְדִימָה,
עֵין לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה,

Kol od baleivav penimah
nefesh Yehudi homiyah,
ul'fa'atei mizrach kadimah
ayin l'tziyon tzofiyah.

עוֹד לֹא אֶבְדָּה תִּקְוַתִּנוּ,
הַתִּקְוָה בַּת שְׁנוֹת אֲלָפִים,
לִהְיוֹת עִם חֻפְשִׁי בְּאֶרְצִנוּ,
אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם

Od lo av'da tikvateinu,
hatikvah bat sh'not alpayim,
lih'yot am chofshi b'artzeinu,
eretz tziyon virushalayim.

As long as in its innermost heart
the Jewish soul yearns,
and toward the eastern corner,
to Zion, the eyes look out.

Then our hope is not yet lost,
our hope of two thousand years,
to be a free people in our land,
the land of Zion and Jerusalem.