

Musaf Amidah for Gaza:

Framing: March 30th will mark a year since the Great March of Return began in Gaza. I have prepared an alternative Musaf Amidah, offering prayers and poetry inspired by the march. As I read these prayers and poems, I'll invite you to sing or hum this song to create a container to hold these words.

Together: Sing: Gaza, my friend, you do not walk alone. We will walk with you and sing your spirit your home.

Hum: "Gaza, my friend" as a niggun, a wordless melody. Read poems over soft singing/humming of the song.

1. Avot v'imot (Ancestors)

Philistines, Gazans

This land has been yours.

Your ancestors' bodies have nurtured the soil.

2. Gevurot (Divine Power)

Mashiv ha'ruach u'morid hagashem.

You cause the wind to blow and the rain to fall.

The wind that propels the kite to fly.

We are told that you free the captive,

O dear God,

When oh when,

Will you cause the wind to blow the guns out of their hands?

Will you cause the wind to blow the wall down?

Will you cause the wind to let my siblings fly their kites,

Over the border,

Home?

3. Kedushat Hashem (Hallowing God's Name)

Mimkomcha, from your dwelling place you will appear.

I know you dwell within me.

Because you dwell within all.

The soldier and the pacifist,

The prophet and the faithful,

Will you help the other see the divinity in me?

And will you help me see the divinity in the other?

4. Kedushat Hayom (The Day's Holiness)

God sanctified the seventh day and commanded us to rest.
Did the soldiers forget their commandment to rest?
I hope they will remember to rest this Shabbat.
Because I cannot rest for as long as my siblings in Gaza are shot dead.

5. Avodah (Worship/Accepting Prayer)

The chants of “We will return.”
Become something of a lullaby.
I hope that you can feel the vibrations of my prayer,
“You will return.”
God, are you listening?

6. Hoda’ah (Thanks)

I know when you close your eyes,
You are dreaming of another world.
A world where you can fly like the birds,
Swim like dolphins in the sea,
And dance on the Temple Mount.
Hashkivenu adonay eloheynu l’shalom.
Help us to lie down, our God, in peace.
So that we may wake up in the world of our dreams.

7. Birkat Hashalom (Blessing for Peace)

Shalom. Salaam. Peace.
These words reverberate through our prayers,
But do they saturate our consciousness?
Oseh shalom bimrow hu ya’aseh shalom aleynu ve’al kol yoshvey tevel,
May the one who creates harmony above make peace for all who dwell on earth.

And let us say,
Amen.