

An evening of comfort, prayer, and witnessing

Proclamation for Peace

By Kim Stafford (Oregon Poet Laureate, 2018)

Whereas the world is a house on fire;
Whereas the nations are filled with shouting;
Whereas hope seems small, sometimes
 a single bird on a wire left by
 migration behind.
Whereas kindness is seldom in the news
 and peace an abstraction
 while war is real;
Whereas words are all I have;
Whereas my life is short;
Whereas I am afraid;
Whereas I am free—despite all
 fire and anger and fear;
Be it therefore resolved a song
 shall be my calling—a song
 not yet made shall be vocation
 and peaceful words the work
 of my remaining days.

Havdalah

Baruch atah Adonai
eloheinu melech ha olam,
borei p'ri hagafen

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
בוֹרֵא פְרֵי הַגָּפֶן.

Blessed are You, the Boundless One, our God,
source of all being, creator of the vine.

~Hold up the spices and inhale their sweetness~

Baruch atah Adonai eloheinu
melech ha'olam, borei minei v'samim.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, אֱלֹהֵינוּ
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בוֹרֵא מִיַּי בְּשָׂמִים.

Blessed are You, Reviver, our God, source of all being, creator of fragrant spices.

~Hold up the braided candle and see your radiance reflected there~

Baruch atah Adonai eloheinu
melech ha- olam, borei me-orey ha-esh.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא מְאוֹרֵי הָאֵשׁ.

Blessed are you, The Radiance, our God, source of all being, creator of fire.

~Drink the wine~

Baruch atah Adonai eloheinu
melech ha- olam
hamavdil beyn kodesh l'chol

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,
הַמְבַדֵּיל בֵּין קֹדֶשׁ לְחֹל

Blessed are you, The Invisible, who separates holy time from ordinary time.

~Extinguish the candle in the wine~

Mizmor Laila – Night Song, Leah Goldberg

All the stars were hidden away
The moon is wrapped in black
From the North to Yemen in the South
There is no ray of light

The morning is a faithful widower
On its hips it wears a grey bag
From the North to Yemen in the South

There is no ray of light

Please light a white candle in my heart's black tent
From the North to Yemen in the South
The light will shine

The Diameter of the Bomb

by Yehuda Amichai

The diameter of the bomb was thirty centimeters
and the diameter of its effective range about seven meters,
with four dead and eleven wounded.
And around these, in a larger circle
of pain and time, two hospitals are scattered
and one graveyard. But the young woman
who was buried in the city she came from,
at a distance of more than a hundred kilometers,

enlarges the circle considerably,
and the solitary man mourning her death
at the shores of a country far across the sea
includes the entire world in a circle.
And I won't even mention the howl of orphans
that reaches up to the throne of God and
beyond, making
a circle with no end and no God.

Tears and Rain: A Prayer for Success in War

by Alden Solovy

We prayed for rain,
And we got tears.

Yes, we said the ancient words –

משיב הרוח ומוריד הגשם

Masheev ha'ruach u'moreed hagashem –

Acknowledging G-d as the One

Who makes the rain fall

And the wind blow,

But we got tears,

So many tears

Flowing like rain

That would not relent.

Tears for the dead.

Tears for the wounded.

Tears for the kidnapped,

And tears for the captives.

Tears for the soldiers.

Tears for the reservists.

Tears for our sons.

Tears for our daughters.

Tears for our friends,

And tears for our families.

Tears for our nation.

Tears for our people.

So many tears.

So many tears.

G-d, who makes the rain fall,
G-d, who makes tears on earth,
Send us Your tears from heaven,
But only if You send them
As blessings,
Only if You send them as signs
That You will be with us
As we defend our nation,
That You will be with us
As we fight to end the terror
That dwells in our midst,
The terror that still lurks at our doorstep.

Kol HaOlam Kulo

By Rabbi Nachman of Braslav

כָּל הָעוֹלָם כְּלוֹ גֶּשֶׁר צַר מְאֹד
וְהַעִיָּקָר לֹא לְפַחַד כָּלֵל

Kol Ha'Olam Kulo
gesher tzar ma-od
V'haikar, v'haikar
lo l'fached klal

*The whole world is a very narrow bridge,
but the important thing is not to merge with our fear at all*

El Maley Rachamim-God Full of mercy

By Yehuda Amichai

Translated from the Hebrew by Barbara and Benjamin Harshav

God-Full-of-Mercy, the prayer for the dead.
If God was not full of mercy,
Mercy would have been in the world,
Not just in Him.
I, who plucked flowers in the hills
And looked down into all the valleys,
I, who brought corpses down from the hills,
Can tell you that the world is empty of mercy.
I, who was King of Salt at the seashore,
Who stood without a decision at my window,
Who counted the steps of angels,
Whose heart lifted weights of anguish
In the horrible contests.

I, who use only a small part
Of the words in the dictionary.

I, who must decipher riddles
I don't want to decipher,
Know that if not for the God-full-of-mercy
There would be mercy in the world,
Not just in Him.

Birch Niggun El Malei Rachamim

Music by Shir Yaakov Feit

אֵל מְלֵא רַחֲמִים, שׁוֹכֵן בְּמְרוֹמִים,
הַמְצִיא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה
תַּחַת כַּנְפֵי הַשְּׁכִינָה

El Malei Rachamim shochen bamromim
Hamtzei m'nucha n'chonah
Tachat kanfei ha Shechina

God who is full of mercy and dwells on high,
provide a true rest beneath the wings of the Divine Presence

Journalling prompts/Silence-Meditation prompts

- In this moment, I feel...
- In this moment, I fear...
- In this moment, I mourn....
- In this moment, I pray...

Elecha

Psalm 30

אֲלֵיךָ יְהוָה אֶקְרָא וְאֵל־אֲדֹנָי אֶתְתַּנְּנֶנּוּ:
שְׁמַע־יְהוָה וְתַנְּנֵנִי יְהוָה הִיְהִי־עֲזָר לִי:

Eleycha Adonai Ekra V'el adonai et chanan
Shma Adonai v'choneyni Adonai ehyeh ozer li

To you, the eternal one, I call; and to my god I cry out:
Hear me, Eternal one, and be gracious;

Bring them home

Adva Chattler

I'm empty. Drained.
Like a dry riverbed
in the heat of the desert sun.
I am emptied out,
my water taken away—
buckets
filled with my precious
drops of life.
Each drop,
a world of its own—
a life
taken captive, fate unknown.
Taken captive, dead and gone.
Taken captive
and I am here
to mourn.
Now I beg
Now I pledge
Now I pray
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ חַי הַעוֹלָמִים מְתִיר אֲסוּרִים
Blessed are you God, life of all the worlds, who makes the captive free
Bring them home.
I will be here
Waiting
Ready
For their return,
like a tidal wave.

Mi Sheberach for all who have been harmed

Reb Aryeh Hirschfield

אָנָּה אֵל נָא רְפָא נָא לָהּ

Ana El na r'fa na lah.

From deep within the home of my soul, now let the healing, let the healing begin.
Heal their bodies, open their hearts, awaken their minds, Ehyeh.
Heal our bodies, open our hearts, awaken our minds, Shekhinah

Mourner's Kaddish

יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא. בְּעֵלְמָא דִּי בְּרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ, וְנִמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתָהּ
בְּחַיֵּיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּעֵגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב, וְאַמְרוּ אָמֵן.
יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלְמָא וְלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמַיָּא.
יְתִבְרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמֵם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ דְקַדְשָׁא בְּרִיךְ הוּא,
לְעָלְמָא מִן כָּל בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא וְנַחֲמָתָא, דְאַמְרִין בְּעֵלְמָא, וְאַמְרוּ אָמֵן.
יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא, וְחַיִּים עֲלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאַמְרוּ אָמֵן.
עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו, הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם
עֲלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְכָל יוֹשְׁבֵי תִבְל, וְאַמְרוּ אָמֵן.

Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba, b'alma di v'ra chirutei v'yamlich malchutei
b'chayeichon uv'yomeichon uv'chayei d'chol beit yisrael, ba-agala uviz'man kariv, v'imru:
Amen. Y'hei shmei raba m'varach l'alam ul'almei almaya. Yitbarach v'yishtabach v'yitpa-ar
v'yitromam v'yitnasei, v'yit hadar v'yitaleh v'yit'halal shmei d'kud'sha b'rich hu, l'eila min kol
birchata v'shirata, tushb'chata v'nechemata, da'amiran b'alma, v'imru: Amen. Y'hei shlama
raba min sh'maya v'chayim aleynu v'al kol Yisrael, v'imru: Amen. Oseh shalom bim'ramov, hu
ya-aseh shalom, aleynu v'al kol Yisrael, v'kol yoshvey tevyel, vimru: Amen.

Glorified and sanctified be God's great name throughout the world which God has created according to God's will. May God establish majesty in your lifetime and during your days, and within the life of the entire House of Israel, speedily and soon; and let us say: Amen. May God's great name be blessed forever and to all eternity. Blessed and praised, glorified and exalted, extolled and honored, adored and lauded be the name of the Holy One, blessed be God, beyond all the blessings and hymns, praises and consolations that are ever spoken in the world; and let us say: Amen. May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us and for all Israel; and let us say: Amen. God who creates peace in God's celestial heights, may God create peace for us and for all Israel and for all who dwell on earth; and let us say: Amen.

Prayer for Peace

By Rabbi David Wolpe

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 noontday 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 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 siblings)
and ask You to awaken the world to our struggle and help us bring peace.

Oseh Shalom

עוֹשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרְוַמָּיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל
וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Oseh shalom bimromav
Hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu
V'al kol Yisrael,
V'imru: amen.

May the one who makes peace,
bring peace down upon us from on high,
upon Israel, upon all who dwell on earth,
And let us say: Amen

Israel Under Attack

By Chaya Kaplan-Lester

When blood runs like a commentary
through our prayer books
and skirts around our brimming dishes
our feasts our guests our visits
Like a red henna on our raised hands
as we tilt another glass
to bless the good Lord who gave us life and joy even amidst the most unsettling blasts.
We sit together surrounded – shrouded –
by sheets of light – like a lit booth on a dark street.
Like a plain truth set between falsities.
We are emptied and full. We are teetering between.
We are sore & soaring. We are soiled and washed clean.
When we close our eyes we see only those killed
in the place where sleep should be.
Hoshea'na. Save us. Save us from the monsters. Save our humanity. For the sake of the martyred
and their orphans
– Dance another circle.
Beat the darkness with your woeful, with your willful
- with your feet.
For the sake of the hostages, the soldiers, the injured...
Be the brightness.
Be the lit sukkah on the dark street.

Ozi v'zimrat Yah (Psalm 118:14, Exodus 15:2)

עֲזֵי וְזִמְרַת יְהוָה יִשְׁׁוּעָה:

Ozi v'zimrat yah, Vahehi-li li-shua

My Strength (balanced) with the Song of God will be my salvation

Eli, Eli

By Hannah Senesh

אֵלֵי אֵלֵי שְׁלֹא יִגְמַר לְעוֹלָם
הַחֹל וְהָיָם רִישׁוֹשׁ שֶׁל הַמַּיִם
בְּרַק הַשָּׁמַיִם תְּפִילַת הָאָדָם
הַחֹל וְהָיָם רִישׁוֹשׁ שֶׁל הַמַּיִם
בְּרַק הַשָּׁמַיִם תְּפִילַת הָאָדָם

Eli, Eli Shelo yigamer l'olam:
Hachol v'hayam Rishrush shel hamayim
B'rak hashamayim T'filat ha'adam.

Hachol v'hayam Rishrush shel hamayim
B'rak hashamayim T'filat ha'adam.

Oh lord, my God
We 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
The sand and the sea, The rush of the waters
The crash of the heavens, The prayer of the heart