

Liturgical Resources for Solidarity Shabbat

As we all continue to grapple with the horrific events of last Shabbat, you may wish to incorporate these prayers, reflections, and musical selections into Shabbat services in your community.

We begin with prayers of gratitude, for all that is holy in our life.

God needs no words, no English or Hebrew,
No semantics, services, movement, song.
But I need them – we need them.

Through prayer we sense our inner strength and purpose, our inner joy and capacity to love.
To love God is to love each other, to work to make our lives better.
To love God is to love the world God created and to work to perfect it.
To love God is to love dreams of peace and joy that illumine all of us, and to bring that vision to life.

A Prayer for this Shabbat – The Week After Pittsburgh - by Rabbi Michael Strassfeld

The Torah calls upon us to rise and honor our elders. Instead, this week we sat shiva for our elders.

Those to whom we look for wisdom on how to navigate this world.

Od yenuvan be -saivah deshanim ve-ra'ananim yeheyu –
in old age they still produce fruit; they are full of sap and freshness (Ps. 92: 15).

How did *seivah* – old age – become shiva, sitting in shock for untimely death.

Rose Mallinger 97
Melvin Wax 88
Bernice and Sylvan Simon 84 and 86
Joyce Fienberg 75
Daniel Stein 71
Irving Younger 69
Jerry Rabinowitz 66
Richard Gottfried 65
Cecil Rosenthal 59
David Rosenthal 54



Shall we also sit shiva for America the beautiful, land that we love.

Shall we sit shiva for Abraham and Sarah who welcomed the stranger to their tent.

Shall we sit shiva for the leadership of Moses who was the humblest of all people.

Shall we sit shiva for Hillel who taught that which is hateful to you, do not do to another. The rest is commentary — go and be that commentary

Shall we sit shiva for Emma Lazarus whose poem adorns the Lady who welcomes immigrants to this country with the torch of liberty.

For this week we did sit shiva with the Holy One who made all humans in God's image—as God sat weeping amidst the ruins of a sanctuary.

There are those who proclaim darkness is light
Who proclaim fake is true
Who say that everyone not like them is an other.
Who live by stereotype and prejudice
Who seek to divide, disparage and demean

Yet in the face of the encroaching darkness, we gather and hold hands proclaiming our humanity.

Long ago, we ate of the Tree of knowledge of good and evil. We know good and evil. Each week we strive to separate darkness from light, brokenness from wholeness, helping from harming.

For there was another tree in the Garden of Eden. Each week we grasp that tree of life as we return the Torah scroll to the ark. We hold on to that Torah even as another eleven have joined the too long list of Jews who were killed only because they were Jews.

Their deaths were not a *kiddush hashem* — a sanctification of God's name. Their deaths were a horrible tragedy.

The *kiddush hashem*/sanctification of God's name is how we will live our lives in the light of their lives.

We will continue to choose life over death, caring over callousness, meaning over meanness.

Od lo avdah tikvateinu — we will not lose hope.

We will organize. We will help. We will march. We will reach out. We will lobby. We will have compassion and we will vote.



The time of mourning is past. It is time to get up from shiva.

It is the time to stand – to stand up and cry out:

Ha-shoftei ha-aretz lo ya'asu mishpat? – Shall the rulers of this land not stand up for justice?

For even if the messiah tarries we still believe:

tzedek tzedek tirdof—Justice, justice you shall surely pursue.

Reb Yitzhak Meir Alter, the Gerer Rebbe, once questioned one of his Chasidim, his disciples, after the morning prayer service: “How is Moshe Ya’akov doing?” he asked. “I...I am not sure. Is there something I should know?” replied the disciple. “What?” shouted the Rebbe, “You pray under the same roof? You pray from the same book? You serve the same God? You study the same Torah? Yet you dare to tell me you don’t know how Moshe Yaakov is? Whether he needs help or advice or comfort? How can that be?”

This is the very essence of a life – to share in each other’s life, not to leave one another alone – either in sorrow or in joy.

Before *Hashkiveinu*

I imagine Your presence
as the gracious, majestic,
rich-green canopy of a tree
stretching upward, outward,
with me nestled quietly against the sturdy trunk.

Keep me dry from the rains of sadness.
Save me from the cold winds of doubt.
Protect me from the darkness of the unknown,
so that I may rise and venture forth
and touch Your world.

Be the Presence I feel,
Your canopy over me,
under me,
surrounding me,
sheltering me with peace.

- *Lisa Stark*



Before *Aleinu*

One Morning - by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

One morning
we will wake up
and forget to build
that wall we've been building,
the one between us
the one we've been building
for years, perhaps
out of some sense
of right and boundary,
perhaps out of habit.
One morning
we will wake up
and let our empty hands
hang empty at our sides.
Perhaps they will rise,
as empty things
sometimes do
when blown
by the wind.
Perhaps they simply
will not remember
how to grasp, how to rage.
We will wake up
that morning
and we will have
misplaced all our theories
about why and how
and who did what
to whom, we will have mislaid
all our timelines
of when and plans of what
and we will not scramble
to write the plans and theories anew.
On that morning,
not much else
will have changed.
Whatever is blooming
will still be in bloom.
Whatever is wilting
will wilt. There will be fields



to plow and trains
to load and children
to feed and work to do.
And in every moment,
in every action, we will
feel the urge to say thank you,
we will follow the urge to bow.

Let There Be Love - by Noah Aronson

- Left side of the page of *Mishkan T'filah* with *Hashkiveinu* page 161/160
- [Listen in the Spotify playlist](#)
- [Purchase sheet music](#)

There is Hope - by David Paskin/Menachem Creditor

There is hope, there is healing
There is peace, there is blessing
When the waters are wide and you
Cannot reach the other side
Should your courage run dry

There is hope...

What you try to endure
When the future's unsure
Believe there's something more

Yesh tikvah, yesh r'fua-ah
Yesh shalom, v'yesh b'rachah

V'ahavta L'reyacha Kamocha – by Steve Brodsky/Josh Zweiback

Based on Leviticus 19:18 and *B'reishit Rabbah*

V'ahavta l'reyacha kamocha,
V'ahavta l'reyacha kamocha
Zeh k'lal gadol baTorah, baTorah
Zeh k'lal gadol baTorah, baTorah

Love your neighbor, love your neighbor as yourself
Love your neighbor, love your neighbor as yourself
This is the teaching of our Torah
This is the teaching of our Torah
V'ahavta l'reyacha kamocha

