

KEHILLAT S'DOT ZAHAV NATURE CELEBRATION 13/2/16

MT = Extracted from *mishkan tefillah – Dwelling-place of Prayer* (A Progressive siddur)

Before lunch:

Blessed are you, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the universe, for giving us life, sustaining us and enabling us to reach this season.

Baruch attah Adonai, elohenu, melech ha-olam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu laz'man hazeh

Howard Nathan introduces the *tallit* (prayer shawl), David Kram talks about the *Tubisvat* and then all say a condensed version of *Psalm 104*:

Mah rabu, Adonai, ma-asecha; kulam bechochma asita.

How great, O God, are your works! All of them, in wisdom, you made!
You wrap yourself in a robe of light.
You stretch out the starry curtain of the heavens; lay out the rafters of your home in the rain clouds.
You make the clouds your chariot; you ride upon the wings of the wind.
You clothe the earth with floods of water,
You make springs pour water into the ravines, so streams gush down from the mountains.
They provide water for all the animals,
The birds nest beside the streams and sing among the branches of the trees.
You cause grass to grow for the livestock and plants for people to use.
Your trees are well cared for; the cedars of Lebanon You planted.
There the birds make their nests, and the storks make their homes in the cypresses.
You made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to set.
You send the darkness, and it becomes night, when all the forest animals prowl about..

How great, O God, are your works! All of them, in wisdom, you made!

Mah rabu, Adonai, ma-asecha; kulam bechochma asita.

A READING FROM THE KORAN

It is He Who sends down rain from the skies: with it we produce vegetation of all kinds: from some We produce green crops, out of which we produce grain, heaped up at harvest; out of the date-palm and its sheaths come clusters of dates hanging low and near: and then there are gardens of grapes, and olives, and pomegranates, each similar in kind yet different in variety: when they begin to bear fruit, feast your eyes with the fruit and the ripeness thereof. Behold! in these things there are signs for people who believe. (سورة الأنعام, Al-An'aam, Chapter 6 Verse 141)

A HINDU PRAYER May the waters flow peacefully; may the herbs and plants grow peacefully; may all the divine powers bring unto us peace. May the rain come down in the proper time, may the earth yield plenty of corn, may the country be free from war. The supreme Lord is peace.

A BUDDHIST PRAYER We reverently pray for eternal harmony in the universe.
May the weather be seasonable, may the harvest be fruitful,
may countries exist in harmony, and may all people enjoy happiness. R

READINGS OR PRAYERS FROM OTHER SOURCES: Our guests are kindly invited to contribute.

After lunch:

Song – *hineih mah tov*

Hineih mah tov umah na-im shevet achim gam yachad

How good and how pleasant it is when people of like mind dwell together.

(elohai, n'shamah – O God, the soul...)

Matter is never destroyed, only transformed.

So, too, can the soul evolve, higher and higher:

From instinct to inspiration, haughtiness to holiness, selfishness to service.

(chatzi kaddish – the 'half' kaddish, or sanctification)

Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'meih raba

Exalted and hallowed be God's great name.

Teach me, O God, a blessing, a prayer on the mystery of a withered leaf, on ripened fruit so fair;

On the freedom to see, to sense, to breathe, to know, to hope, to despair.

Teach my lips a blessing, a hymn of praise, as each morning and night You renew Your days,

Lest my day be today as the one before; lest routine set my ways. (MT p. 145)

(bar'chu – in praise of God) (please stand)

(Reader) *bar'chu et Adonai ham'vorach* – Praise the Eternal One, to whom all praise is due.

(Response) *baruch Adonai ham'vorach l'olam va-ed* – Praised be the Eternal One to whom all praise is due, now and forever.

(sh'ma – the central faith statement of Judaism)

Sh'ma yisrael, Adonai elohenu, Adonai echad (Deuteronomy 6:4)

Hear, O Israel, the Eternal One is our God, the Eternal God is One.

Baruch shem k'vod malchuto l'olam va-ed (inspired by Nehemiah 9:5)

Blessed is God's glorious majesty forever and ever

V'ahavta et Adonai elohecha b'chol l'vav'cha uv'chol nafsh'cha uv'chol m'odecha

You shall love the Eternal One your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your might.

(please sit)

(sh'ma - vayomer Adonai-l'ma-an tizk'ru ...And God said – you shall keep my commandments)

If people fall, can they not also rise? If they break away, can they not also return?

The stork in the sky knows when to migrate; the dove and the swallow know the season of return.

What human instinct knows the time to turn back?

What cue sparks the conscience of the soul?

We pray to sense this day anew, attuned to the call of living. (MT p. 237)

(tefillah – prayers, also known as *amidah* – ‘standing prayer’, also known as ‘*sh’moneih esrei*’ (‘18 (prayers)) - please stand

Adonai, s’fatai tif’tach, ufi yagid t’hilatecha.

Eternal God, open up my lips, that my mouth may declare Your praise.

(tefillah - *g’vurot* – God’s power)

attah gibor l’olam, Adonai

Your might, o God, renews the earth.

With the dew of light and blessing, let the earth be illumined and blessed. With the dew of joy and delight, let the earth be revived and improved. With the dew of redemption, let the earth be redeemed.

Livrachah v’lo liklalah – for blessing and not for curse;

L’chaim v’lo l’mavet – for life and not death;

L’sova v’lo l’razon – for abundance, not want. (MT p. 473)

(tefillah - *k’dushah* - sanctification)

N’kadeish et shimcha ba-olam

Let us sanctify Your name on earth, as it is sanctified in the heavens above.

Kadosh, kadosh, kadosh, Adonai ts’vaot, m’lo chol ha-aretz k’vodo.

Holy, holy, holy is the Eternal One! God’s glorious presence fills the universe.

(tefillah- *hoda-ah* - glorification)

(tefillah - *t’filat halev* – prayer of the heart) Your own SILENT PRAYER, or silent reading

In this moment of silent communion, a still, small voice beckons me:

To pursue my life’s work with full attention, though no eye is on me;

To be gentle in the face of ingratitude, even when slander distorts my nobler impulses;

To meet the end of the day with certainty that I’ve used my gifts well and with dignity.

O let me become ever braver, facing life’s trials with distinction.

May I live on in deeds that bless others and offer the heritage of a good name. (MT p. 493)

Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya-aseh shalom aleinu, v’al kol yisrael, v’al kol yoshvei teiveil, v’imru: amen.

May the One who makes peace in the high heavens make peace for us, all Israel and all who inhabit the earth, and let us say: amen.

Blessed are you, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the universe, for giving us life, sustaining us and enabling us to reach this season.

READINGS AND PRAYERS FROM OTHER FAITH GROUPS

PRAYER for TU BISH’VAT *Hashkeidiyah porachat v’shemesh paz zorachat. Tsiporim meirosh kol gag, m’vasrot et bo hechag. Tu bish’vat higi-a Chag Ha-Ilanot.*

The almond tree is blooming and a golden sun shines. Birds, from the top of every roof, bring tidings of the coming of the festival. Tu Bish'vat has arrived, the Festival of the Trees.

(*Aleinu* – 'to us' – one of the oldest prayers in the liturgy)

Aleinu l'shabe-ach la-adon hakol, lateit g'dulah l'yotseir b'reishit

Let us now praise the Sovereign of the universe and proclaim the greatness of the Creator who spread out the heavens and established the earth.

Va'anachnu kor'im umishtachavim umodim lifnei melech malchei ha-m'lochim, hakadosh, baruch hu

We bend the knee and bow, acknowledging the supreme Sovereign, the Holy One of blessing.

(Mourner's kaddish)

Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'meih raba

Exalted and hallowed be God's great name.

In nature's ebb and flow, God's eternal law abides.

When tears dim our vision of grief clouds our understanding, we often lose sight of God's eternal plan.

Yet we know that growth and decay, life and death, all reveal a divine purpose.

God, who is our support in the struggles of life, is also our hope in death.

We have set God before us and shall not despair.

In God's hands are the souls of all the living and the spirits of all flesh.

Under God's protection we abide and by God's love are we comforted.

O Life of our life, Soul of our soul, cause Your light to shine into our hearts and fill our spirits with abiding trust in you. (MT p. 593)

Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya-aseh shalom aleinu, v'al kol yisrael, v'al kol yoshvei teiveil, v'imru: amen.

May the One who makes peace in the high heavens make peace for us, all Israel and all who inhabit the earth, and let us say: amen.

President's thanks and announcements

FINAL BLESSING

Yevarechecha adonai veyishm'recha.

May God bless us and protect us

Ya'er adonai panav elecha veyichunecha.

May God's face give light to us and protect us

Yisa adonai panav elecha veyasem lecha shalom.

May God's face be lifted toward us and bestow upon us peace.