



Ma'ariv
for
Humanistic Judaism

Opening Blessing

We are called unto life, destiny uncertain.
Yet we offer thanks for what we know,
For health and healing, for labor and repose,
For renewal of beauty in earth and sky,
For that blend of human-holy which inspires compassion,
And for hope: eternal, promising light.

For life, for health, for hope,
For beautiful, bountiful blessing,
All praise to the Source of Being.

Mishkan T'filah

Shema and Its Blessings

N'vareich

There is one who sings the song of his own life,
Finding everything within himself.
There is one who leaves the circle of her self,
And sings the song of her people.
There is one whose voice rings with the song of humanity,
Hoping for the highest perfection.
And there is one who rises even higher,
Uniting with all creatures, with all worlds,
Filling the universe with song.

N'vareich!

Let us bless

Mishkan T'filah

Ma'ariv Aravim

This is an hour of change.
Within it we stand uncertain on the border of light.
Shall we draw back or cross over?
Where shall our hearts turn?
Shall we draw back, my brother, my sister,
Or cross over?
This is the hour of change, and within it,
We stand quietly
On the border of light.

What lies before us?
Shall we draw back, my brother, my sister,
Or cross over?

Mishkan T'filah

Knowledge

Let us bless the source of life,
Source of the fullness of our knowing.
May we learn with humility and pleasure,
May we teach what we know with love,
And may we honor wisdom
In all its embodiments.

Marcia Falk

Shema

Hear, O Israel, please hear, O tribes, dispersed and estranged.

Let the tale of Abraham inspire us to transcend today's idols and lies. Let us heed diverse voices
and visions, seeking understanding and unity.

O children of Abraham, O inheritors of this world, please hear one another, please hearken to
each living being.

The Earth, our world, is One. All peoples, all beings, are One

Machar Congregation

V'ahavta

*Loving life
and its mysterious source
with all our heart
and all our spirit,
all our senses and strength,
we take upon ourselves
and into ourselves
these promises:
to care for the earth
and those who live upon it,
to pursue justice and peace,
to love kindness and compassion.
We will teach this to our children
Throughout the passage of the day—
As we dwell in our homes*

*And as we go on our journeys,
From the time we rise
Until we fall asleep.
And may our actions
Be faithful to our words
That our children's children
May live to know:
Truth and kindness
Have embraced,
Peace and justice have kissed
And are one.*

Marcia Falk

Redemption

Let us bless the source of life,
Source of faith and daring,
Wellspring of new song
And the courage to mend.

Marcia Falk

Shalom

Let there be love and understanding among us.
Let peace and friendship be our shelter from life's storms.
May we walk with good companions,
To live with hope in our hearts and eternity in our thoughts,
That we may lie down in peace.

Mishkan T'filah, adapted

Amidah

Since the Temple stood in Jerusalem, Jews, in a "standing" position, amidst, have idealized qualities which they attributed to their ancestors and deity. Let us stand together now to proclaim our shared ideals and our will to act upon them.

Amidah

Let us remember those who have come before us, who have given us life, love, and our culture.

Such is our zikkaron hasdei, `imot v'-`avot, our remembrance of the kindness and merits of our mothers and fathers.

Let us work together in mutual aid to benefit all.

May we thus advance mutuality, our best response to being parts of a vast and interdependent world.

Let us make a world of beauty to be shared by every living being.

May we thus spread pleasure in life.

Let us be thankful for all we enjoy in life.

Let us work for peace in our relationships, our communities, and our world.

Let us recognize and celebrate our differences to better live together on this one planet.

Let us work: to heal the sick and sustain health, to give to the weary strength and life renewed, to support those who have fallen, to uplift those bowed down, to free all in bondage, to abolish both greed and poverty, to repair and improve the world.

Let us commit ourselves to such deeds in this world today and every day.

Let us all be thus dedicated and appreciated, devoted and acknowledged.

Let us encounter each person as a precious presence, a sublime jewel of life.

Let us thus see & feel, hear & smell, taste & celebrate the beauty of this world:

All the Earth is full of merit and splendor, all beings full of worth and wonder.

Machar Congregation

May we find peace with those we love, growing together over time.

May we be at peace with ourselves and with the labors that fill our days.

May we fashion peace in our world with wisdom and gentle patience.

Mishkan T'filah

Song

Na'aseh Shalom

Na'aseh shalom ba-olam.

Na' na'aseh shalom aleinu

V'al kol Yisrael.

V'no'mar, no'mar: "Amen."

Na'aseh shalom, na'aseh shalom-

Shalom aleinu,

V'al kol Yisrael.

Na'aseh shalom, na'aseh shalom-

Shalom aleinu,
V'al kol ha-olam.

Let us make peace in the world.
Peace is our responsibility,
The responsibility of all the Jewish people, all of Yisrael,
And the responsibility of all peoples in the world.

Machar Congregation

Aleinu

Let us praise the majesty of the universe, old beyond imagining, source of all things, which has created diversity and interdependent unity.

We stand in awe before the majestic, terrifying power of the creative and destructive forces of the universe, and recognize our smallness in relation to eternity and our dependence on one another.

Recognizing our limits in this world which sustains and destroys life, we affirm our hope for a society built on justice, equity, and compassion. May the idols of greed and selfishness fall to the overwhelming power of cooperation and righteousness.

May all who live acknowledge the rule of justice and swear loyalty to a life of goodness.

And may the establishment of the just and compassionate society come soon and in our day.
On that day, goodness shall reign over all the earth; and humanity shall be one.

Mourners Kaddish

Our ancestors are part of a human chain of solidarity which was strengthened by persecution and by the awareness that we depended so much on each other. Our loved ones, who are no longer with us, were also part of this passionate commitment. They deserve our tribute.

Rabbi Sherwin Wine

We remember our loved ones whom death has recently taken from us and those who died at this time in previous years. The martyrs of our people are always in our thoughts. May their memories be a blessing to all.

NITGADAL V'NITKADASH B'RUAKH HAADAM

Let us enhance and exalt ourselves in the spirit of humanity.

Let us acclaim the preciousness of life.

Let us show gratitude for life by approaching it with reverence.

Let us embrace the whole world, even as we wrestle with its parts.

Let us fulfill, each of us in our own way, our share in serving the world and seeking truth.

May our commitment to life help us strengthen healing of spirit and peace of mind.

May healing and peace permeate and comfort all of Israel and all those who dwell on earth.

NITGADAL V'NITKADASH B'RUAKH HAADAM

Let us enhance and exalt ourselves in the spirit of humanity.

And let us say: Ken y'hee. May it be so.

Jon Dickman and Congregation Kol Shalom inspired by Rabbi Rami Shapiro