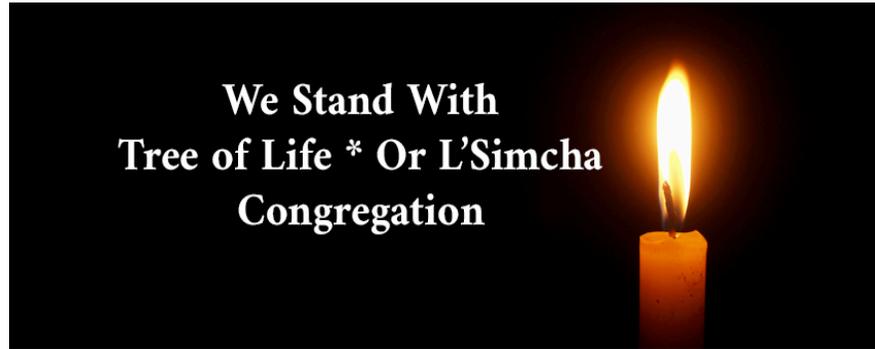


A Gathering of Hearts



1. Yehuda Amichai writes a poem called the Diameter of a Bomb. He teaches us through his poetry that one need not be at the site of the explosion to be affected by it.

*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 distant shores of a country far across the sea
includes the entire world in the 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.*

2. OSEH SHALOM

Oseh shalom bim-romav Hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu V'al kol Yisrael V'imru, amen.

May He who makes peace in high places Make peace for us and let us say, amen.

3. CALL TO PRAYER

Let all who seek comfort under the wings of the *Sh'khinah*, God's presence in our midst, gather at this time to help and support one another: those who need support at this time in their lives, those who are ill, those who are praying and caring for loved ones who are ill, those who are grieving for loved ones who have died, and those who want to improve their lives. We turn to tradition to strengthen and renew ourselves.

3. The Echo of Your Promise (Based on Psalm 77)

When I cry my voice trembles with fear
When I call out it cracks with anger.

*How can I greet the dawn with song
when darkness eclipses the rising sun*

To whom shall I turn
when the clouds of the present eclipse the rays of tomorrow?

*Turn me around to yesterday
that I may be consoled by its memories.*

Were not the seas split asunder
did we not once walk together through the waters to the dry side?

*Did we not bless the
bread that came forth from the heavens?*

Did not a voice reach my ears
and direct my wanderings?

*The waters, the lightning, the thunder
remind me of yesterday's triumphs*

Let the past offer proof of tomorrow
let it be my comforter and guarantor.

*I have been here before
known the fright and found your companionship.*

I enter the sanctuary again
to await the echo of your promise.

4. ESA AYNAI Psalm 121

Esa aynai el heharim, May'a'yin yavo ezri.

Ezri may'im Adonai, Osay shama'yim va'aretz

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains. Where will I find my help?
My help will come from my God, Maker of heaven and earth.

5. We recall at this time the names of those who were stolen from us yesterday while sitting in a room just like this:

Joyce Fienberg, 75-year-old, of Oakland
Richard Gottfried, 65-years-old, of Ross Township
Rose Mallinger, 97-years-old, of Squirrel Hill
Jerry Rabinowitz, 66-years-old, of Edgewood
Cecil Rosenthal, 59-years-old, of Squirrel Hill
David Rosenthal, 54-years-old, of Squirrel Hill
Bernice Simon, 84-years-old, of Wilkinsburg
Sylvan Simon, 86-years-old, of Wilkinsburg
Daniel Stein, 71-years-old, of Squirrel Hill
Melvin Wax, 88-years-old, of Squirrel Hill
Irving Younger, 69-years-old, of Mt. Washington

Yehi Zichram Barukh- May their memory be a blessing

More precious was the light in your eyes than all the roses in the world.

Edna St. Vincent Millay

6. We are Time's Subjects William Shakespeare Henry IV Part II

This is the hour of memory – and this is our house of comfort. Wounded by the losses, we retreat from life; our synagogue gathers us in.

Into this place we bring stories and prayers, unanswered questions, tears that need to be shed.

Lives recollected and carried within us – moments of courage and laughter and pain – this day embraces them all; this place embraces us all.

Now the heart opens in sorrow, for we are time's subjects, and all that we love we must lose.

So let us hold fast to the love that remains and cherish the light of the sun.

Today all of us walk the mourner's path; together may we find strength.

7. Prayer for our Country

Sovereign of the universe, mercifully receive our prayer for our land and its government. Let your blessing pour out on this land and on all officials of this country who are occupied, in good faith, with the public needs. Instruct them from your Torah's laws, enable them to understand your principles of justice, so that peace and tranquility, happiness and freedom, might never turn away from our land. Please, Wise One, God of the life breath of all flesh, waken your spirit within all inhabitants of our land, and plant among the peoples of different nationalities and faiths who dwell here, love and brotherhood, peace and friendship. Uproot from their hearts all hatred and enmity, all jealousy and vying for supremacy. Fulfill the yearning of all the people of our country to speak proudly in its honor. Fulfill their desire to see it become a light to all nations.

Therefore, may it be your will, that our land should be a blessing to all inhabitants of the globe. Cause us to dwell among all people in friendship and freedom and soon fulfill the vision of your prophet: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation. Let them learn no longer ways of war." And let us say: Amen.

8. This is the kind of prayer that God answers.

We can't pray that God make our lives free of problems; this won't happen, and it is probably just as well. We can't ask Him to make us and those we love immune to diseases. We can't ask Him to weave a magic spell around us so that bad things will only happen to other people, and never to us.

People who pray for miracles usually don't get miracles, any more than children who pray for bicycles, good grades, or good boyfriends get them as a result of praying. But people who pray for courage, for strength to bear the unbearable, for the grace to remember what they have left instead of they have lost, very often find their prayer answered. They discover that they have more strength, more courage than they ever knew themselves to have. Where did they get it? I would like to think that their prayers helped them tap hidden reserves of faith and courage which were not available to them before...I would like to believe that they received those things from the context of a concerned community, people who made it clear to them that they cared, and from the knowledge that God is at the side of the afflicted and the downcast.

©Rabbi Harold Kushner, When Bad Things Happen to Good People

9. **Lyrics: Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, Tune: Rabbi Baruch Chait**

כל העולם כלו גשר צר מאד והעקר לא לפחד כלל

Kol ha'olam Gesher tzar me'od V'ha'ikar lo l'fahayd k'lal

The entire world is a narrow bridge; the most important thing is not to be afraid

10. **Reading**

Again I saw all the oppressions that are practiced under the sun.

And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them!

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill

and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain,

and the crooked places will be made straight; and the glory of the

LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. (Ecclesiastes 4:1)

11. **Olam chesed yibaneh**

I will build this world from love

And you must build this world from love

And if we build this world from love

Then God will build this world from love

12. **Ety Hillesum Social worker Holocaust era**

It is sometimes hard to take in and comprehend, oh God, what those you created in Your Likeness do to each other in these disjointed days.

But I no longer shut myself away in my room, God, I try to look things

straight in the face, even the worst crimes... I try to face up to Your

world, God, not to escape from reality into beautiful dreams – though I

believe that beautiful dreams can exist beside the most horrible reality –

and I continue to praise your creation, God, despite everything.

13. NIGHT AND DAY

An old rabbi once asked his pupils how they could tell when the night had ended and the day had begun.

“Could it be,” asked one of the students, “when you see an animal in the distance and can tell whether it’s a sheep or a dog?”

“No,” answered the rabbi.

Another asked, “Is it when you can look at a tree in the distance and tell whether it’s a fig or a peach tree?”

“No,” answered the rabbi.

“They when is it?” the pupils demanded.

“It is when you can look on the face of any man or woman and see that it is your sister or brother. Because if you cannot see this, it is still night.”

14. A Kaddish after Gun Violence: For When Humanity Fails Itself (Abridged)

Yitgadal v’yitkadash sh’may rabba...

Exalted and Holy be Your great name...Yet little feels holy today. Another mass shooting
An incomprehensible horror Too many dead and too many wounded
And we are left to mourn the dead, to heal the wounded, to wonder why?...***b’alma di v’ra
chirutei...*** ...in the world which You God created, according to plan...But is this part of Your
plan?That death and destruction emerges from the free will You entrusted to us
That automatic gunfire rains down unceasingly That people kill people, using weapons we
designed and created with the minds You accorded us.

You called out to us “Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the Israelites to move on.” (Ex 14:15).

So help us move on. Not by forgetting this horror, Not by explaining it away, Not by blaming
the easy targets, But by having courage to Mourn the dead Heal the victims Bless the first
responders Lead with love Change the laws And save lives. *May there be peace...*Peace that
comes because we did NOT become inured to the continual violence in our synagogues and
houses of worship, our concert venues, our schools, our malls and neighborhoods and we did
NOT allow the calls for prayers to turn us away from the actions we must take to end mass
shootings But because we DID find the courage to stand up, speak up, act out...*oseh shalom
bimromav*, may the One who creates harmony on high, bring peace to us, and all the world, So
one day Your world, free from this violence, will finally reflect Your exaltedness and
holiness....and we say: **Amen**

Rabbi Paul Kipnes is leader of Congregation Or Ami in Calabasas, California.

*We stand, as we join in reciting the Kaddish:
Glorified and sanctified be God's great name throughout the world*

*Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba
b'al'ma di v'ra kiruteih,
v'yamlikh malkhutei
b'hayeikhon uv'yomeikhon
uvhaye d'khol beit yisrael,
ba'agala uvizman kariv, v'imru amen.*

Joyce Feinberg
Richard Gottfried
Rose Mallinger
Jerry Rabinowitz
Cecil Rosenthal

Y'hei sh'meih raba m'vorakh l'alam ulal'mei al'maya.

*Yitbarakh v'yishtabah
v'yitpa'ar v'yitromam v'yitnasei
v'yithadar v'yitaleh v'yithalal
sh'mei d'kudsha b'rikh hu
l'eila min kol birkhata v'shirata
tushb'hata v'nehemata
da'amiran b'al'ma v'imru amen.*

David Rosenthal
Bernice Simon
Sylvan Simon
Daniel Stein
Melvin Wax
Irving Younger

Y'hei sh'lamah raba min sh'maya v'hayim aleinu v'al kol yisrael, v'imru amen.

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

GOD BLESS AMERICA