Shabbat Tzedek Evening Service

This Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, we celebrate **Shabbat Tzedek – 50 years in pursuit of justice with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.** The Religious Action Center was born out of the Civil Rights Movement and has since played a leading role in nearly every major social justice campaign.

In an inspiring speech addressing the Union for Reform Judaism’s 47th Biennial banquet in November 1963, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. highlighted the involvement of Jews in the Civil Rights Movement and charged us with challenges that we face in our pursuit of social justice, which still holds true today, stating:

> “Human progress comes through the tireless efforts and the persistent work of dedicated individuals who are willing to be co-workers with God, and without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the insurgent and primitive forces of social stagnation and irrational emotionalism. We must help time and we must realize that the time is always right to do right.”

For the past 50 years, the Religious Action Center has embraced this principle: that the time to act is now – that each of us must play an active role in tikkun olam – repairing the world – as part of our daily lives. Today, on this Shabbat Tzedek, let us celebrate the work of the Religious Action Center, the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and let us pray together and gain inspiration for our personal and collective pursuit of justice.

**Lo Yisa Goi**

Lo yisa goi el goi cherev   
Lo ylim’du od milchamah.

*Nation shall not take up sword against nation, they shall never again study war. Isaiah 2:4.*
This is our truth: the One God calls forth being from nothingness, and makes all things one.
_Blessed is the Holy One of Israel, in whose Oneness we are one._

But we not yet one in fact: our human race is broken into fragments, and we wait to be redeemed into a lasting unity.
_Blessed is the time to come, when all will at last be one._

While hatred rules the earth, redemption will not come.
_Let the day be near when love will rule this world._

Until people return from their exile from each other, redemption will not come.
_Let all exile be ended: our exile from one another, the exile of God’s presence from our lives._

Until we restore the lawless to their true selves and rekindle in them the spark of God, redemption will not come.
_Let us also search out the flaws in our own souls, and struggle to remove them._

While we care only for ourselves, redemption will not come.
_Let our hearts be moved by the misery of others and dare what must be dared._
- Taskforce on Soviet Jewry of the UAHC, 1979

### Shiru L’Adonai
Psalm 96, words by Julie Silver

_Shiru L’Adonai kol ha-aretz_  
_Shiru L’Adonai shir chadash_  
_Shiru shiru L’Adonai (2x)_

Sing unto God all the earth a new song  
I will sing unto God a new song  
Sing unto God and we’ll all sing along  
All the earth a new song unto God

_Sing to Adonai a new song, sing to Adonai, all the earth. Sing to Adonai, bless God’s name, proclaim God’s victory day after day. Tell of God’s glory among the nations, God’s wondrous deeds, among all peoples. All the gods of the peoples are mere idols, but Adonai made the heavens. Glory and majesty are before God; strength and splendor are in God’s temple._

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“I refuse to accept the idea that the ‘isness’ of man’s present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal ‘oughtness’ that forever confronts him… I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.

I believe that the unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. … I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, men other-centered can build up… I still believe that we shall overcome.” – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech, December 10, 1964

L'cha Dodi

L’cha dodi likrat kalah, p’nei Shabbat n’kab’lah.

Shamor v’zachor b’dibur echad,
Hishmianu El ham’yuchad;
Adonai echad, ush’mo echad,
L’shem ul’tiferet v’lit’hilah.

Lik’rat Shabbat l’chu v’neilcha,
ki hi m’kor hab’rachah
meirosh mikedem n’suchah,
sof maaseh b’machashava t’chilah.

Hitor’ri, hitor’ri,
ki va oreich – kumi ori
uri uri, shir dabeiri;
k’vod Adonai alayich niglah.

All rise and face entrance to welcome the Sabbath Bride:
Bo-i v’shalom, ateret ba’lah;
gam b’simchah uv’tzoholah
toch emunei am s’gulah,
bo-i chalah! Boi chalah!

Beloved, come to meet the bride: beloved come to greet Shabbat
“Keep” and “remember”: a single command the Only God caused us to hear;
the Eternal is One, God’s Name is One, glory and praise are God’s.
Come with me to meet Shabbat, forever a fountain of blessing.
Still it flows, as from the start: the last of days, for which the first was made.
Lift yourself up! Shake off the dust! Array yourself in beauty, O my people!
At hand is Bethlehem’s David, Jesse’s son, bringing deliverance into my life.
Enter in peace, O crown of your husband; enter in gladness, enter in joy.
Come to the people that keeps its faith. Enter, O bride! Enter, O bride!
Entrances to holiness are everywhere.  
The possibility of ascent is all the time.  
Even at unlikely times and through unlikely places.  
There is no place on earth without the Presence.

**Sh'ma and its Blessings**

Bar’chu et Adonai ham’vorach!  
Baruch Adonai ham’vorach l’olam va-ed!

Praised Adonai, to whom praise is due forever!  
Praised be Adonai, to whom praise is due, now and forever!

One must repeat from time to time: The world was created for my sake. Never say: What do I care about this or that? Do your part to add something new, to bring forth something that is needed, and to leave the world a little better because you were here briefly. – *Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav*

**Ma’ariv Aravim – Creation**

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,  
asher bid’varo ma’ariv aravim,  
b’chochma potei-ach sh’arim,  
uvit’vunah m’shaneh itim,  
umachalif et haz’manim, um’sadeir et hakochavim,  
b’mishm’roteihem barakia kir’tzono.

Borei yom valaila,  
goleil or mipnei choshech v’choshech mipnei or,  
Umaavir yom uma’evi la’alaih,  
umav’dil bein yom uvein laila, Adonai Tz’vaot sh’mo.  
El chai v’kayam, tamid yimloch aleinu l’olam va-ed.  
Baruch ata, Adonai, hamaariv aravim.

*Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who speaks the evening into being,  
skillfully opens the gates, thoughtfully alters the time and changes the seasons,  
And arranges the stars in their heavenly courses according to plan.  
You are Creator of day and night, rolling light away from darkness and darkness from light,  
Transforming day into night and distinguishing one from the other.  
Adonai Tz’vaot is your Name. Ever-living God, may You reign continually over us into eternity.  
Blessed are You, Adonai, who brings on evening.*
When Justice burns within us like a flaming fire, when love evokes willing sacrifice from us, when to the last full measure of selfless devotion, we demonstrate our belief in the ultimate triumph of truth and righteousness, then Your goodness enters our lives and we can begin to change the world; and then you live within our hearts, and we through righteousness behold Your presence.

Ahavat Olam – Revelation

Ahavat olam beit Yisrael amcha ahavta:
Torah umitzvot, chukim umishpatim otanu limad’ta.
Al kein Adonai Eloheinu, b’shochbeinu uv’kumeinu
nasich b’chukecha, v’nismach b’divrei Torat’cha
uv’mitzvotcha l’olam va-ed. Ki heim chayenu
v’orech yameinu, uvahem neh’geh yomam valailah.
V’ahavat’cha al tasir mimenu l’olamim.
Baruch atah, Adonai, ohev amo Yisrael.

Everlasting love You offered Your people Israel by teaching us Torah and mitzvos, laws and precepts.
Therefore, Adonai our God, when we lie down and when we rise up, we will meditate on Your laws and Your commandments. We will rejoice in Your Torah for ever.
Day and night we will reflect on them for they are our life and doing them lengthens our days.
Never remove Your love from us. Praise to You, Adonai, who loves Your people Israel.

For Judaism gave mankind its first civil rights program. It was expressed in the Sh’mah, the watchword of the Jewish faith: “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.” As God is one, mankind is one, for each is created equally in the image of God. – Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath

Sh’mah

Sh’ma Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echod.
Baruch shem k’vod malchuto l’olam va-ed.

Hear, O Israel, Adonai is our God, Adonai is One! (Deuteronomy 6:4)
Blessed is God’s glorious majesty forever and ever!

~ All are seated ~

V’ahavta et Adonai Elohecha,
b’chol l’vavcha uv’chol naf’sh’cha uv’chol m’odecha.
V’hayu had’varim ha-eileh
asher anochi m’tzav’cha hayom al l’vavecha.
V’shinantam l’vanecha v’dibarta bam
b’shiv’tcha b’veitecha uv’lecht’cha vaderech
uv’shochb’cha uv’kumecha.
Uk’shartam l’ot al yadecha
v’hayu l’totafot bein einecha.

Uch’tvatam al m’zuzot beitecha uvish’arecha.
L’maan tizk’ru vaasitem et kol mitzvotai
Vih’yitem k’doshim l’Eloheichem. Ani Adonai
Eloheichem asher hotzeiti et’chem mei-eretz Mitzrayim
lih’yot lachem l’Elohim ani Adonai Eloheichem.

You shall love Adonai your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.
Take to heart these instructions with which I charge you this day. Impress them upon your children.
Read them when you stay at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up.
Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them serve as a symbol on your forehead;
inscribe them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
Thus you shall remember to observe all My commandments and to be holy to your God.
I am Adonai, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am Adonai your God.
(Deuteronomy 6:5-9, Numbers 15:40-41).

When people come to you for help, do not turn them off with pious words, saying: “Have faith and take your troubles to God!” Act instead as if there were no God, as though there were only one person in all the world who could help – only yourself. – Martin Buber

Standing on the parted shores of history
we still believe what we were taught
before ever we stood at Sinai’s foot;
that wherever we go, it is eternally Egypt
that there is a better place, a promised land;
that the winding way to that promise passes through the wilderness
That there is no way to get from here to there
except by joining hands, marching together. – Mishkan T’filah

Sing the song of men and women joined in understanding and respect.
The song of God’s miracles, an earth protected and cherished;
a gift for our children and the generations to come.
The song of a land once ravished by war, now quiet and content;
her soldiers home, to leave no more.
The song of a world redeemed: the song of peace. – Mishkan T’filah
Mi Chamocha – Redemption

Mi chamocha ba-eilim, Adonai! Mi kamocha, nedar bakodesh, nora t’hilot, oseih fele!

Malchut’cha ra-u vanecha, bokei-a yam lifnei Moshe (u Miryam);
Zeh Eli, anu v’amru:
Adonai yimloch l’olam va’ed!


Who is like You, O God, among the gods that are worshipped? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, working wonders? (Exodus 15:11)

Your children witnessed Your sovereignty, the sea splitting before Moses and Miryam. “This is our God!” They cried. “Adonai will reign forever and ever!” (Exodus 15:2,18)

Thus it is said, “Adonai redeemed Jacob, from a hand stronger than his own.” (Jeremiah 31:10). Praised are You, Adonai, for redeeming Yisrael.

Hashkiveinu

Ufros aleinu sukat sh’lomecha.

Baruch atah, Adonai, haporeis sukat shalom aleinu, v’al kol amo Yisrael v’al Yerushalayim.

Spread over us the shelter of Your peace.
Blessed are You, Adonai, Gardian of Israel, whose shelter of peace is spread over us, over all the people Israel, and over Jerusalem.
V’shamru

V’shamru v’nei Yisrael et HaShabbat, laasot et HaShabbat l’dorotam b’rit olam.
Beini u’vein b’nei Yisrael ot hi l’olam,
ki sheishet yamim asah Adonai et hashamayim v’et haaretz,
u’vayom hashvi-i shvat vayinafash.

The people of Israel shall keep Shabbat, observing Shabbat throughout the ages as a covenant for all time. It is a sign for all time between Me and the people of Israel. For in six days Adonai made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day God ceased from work and was refreshed (Exodus 31:16-17).

Prayer cannot bring water to parched fields, nor mend a broken bridge, nor rebuild a ruined city; but prayer can water an arid soul, mend a broken heart and rebuild a weakened will. – Ferdinand M. Isserman

~ All Rise ~

Amidah

Adonai, s’fatai tiftach, ufi yagid t’hilatecha.

Adonai, open my lips, that my mouth may declare Your praise. – Psalm 51:17

Avot v’Imahot

Melech ozeir umoshia umagen.
Baruch atah, Adonai, magein Avraham v’ezrat Sarah.
Blessed are You, Adonai our God, God of our fathers and mothers:
God of Abraham, God of Isaac, and God of Jacob;
God of Sarah, God of Rebecca, God of Rachel and God of Leah.
the great, mighty and awesome God, transcendent God,
who bestows loving kindness, creates everything out of love,
remembers the love of our fathers and mothers,
and brings redemption to their children’s children
for the sake of the Divine Name. Sovereign, Deliverer, Helper and Shield,
Blessed are You, Adonai, Sarah’s Helper, Abraham’s Shield.

G’vurot

Atah giber l’olam Adonai, m’chayeh hakol atah,
rav l’hoshia. M’chalkeil chayim b’chesed,
m’chayeh hakol b’rachamim rabim,
someich nofilm, v’rofei cholim, umatir asurim,
um’kayeim emunato lisheinei afar.
Mi chamocha baal g’vurot, umi domeh lach,
melech meimit um’chayeh umatzmiach y’shuah?
V’ne-eman atah l’hachayot hakol.
Baruch atah, Adonai, m’chayeh hakol.

You are forever mighty, O God; You give life to all. You sustain life through love, giving life to all through great compassion, supporting the fallen, healing the sick, freeing the captive, keeping faith with those who sleep in the dust. Who is like You, Source of mighty acts? Who resembles You, a Sovereign who takes and gives life, causing deliverance to spring up and faithfully giving life to all? Blessed are You, Adonai, Who gives life to all.

K’dushat HaShem

Atah kadosh v’shimcha kadosh
uk’doshim b’chol yom y’hal’lucha: selah!
Baruch atah, Adonai, Ha-El hakadosh.

You are holy, Your name is holy, and those who are holy praise you every day: Selah!
Blessed are You, Adonai, the Holy God.
We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end war:
for we know that You have made the world in a way
so that all of us must find our own path to peace,
Within ourselves and with our neighbors.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation;
for You have already given us the resources
with which to feed the entire world, if we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out our prejudice;
for You have already given us eyes
with which to see the good in all people, if we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair;
for you have already given us the power
to clear away slums and to give hope, if we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease;
for You have already given us great minds
with which to search our cures and healing, if we could only use them constructively.

Therefore, we pray to You instead, O God,
for strength, determination, and courage,
to do instead of just pray, to become instead of merely to wish.

Praised are You, O God, You bless our people Israel, and all peoples with peace. – Adapted from Jack Riemer

Shalom Rav

Shalom rav al Yisrael amcha tasim l’olam,
ki atah hu Melech Adon l’chol hashalom.
V’tov b’einecha lvareich et amcha Yisrael
(v’et kol ha’amim) b’chol eit uv’chol shaah
bisch’omecha. Baruch atah, Adonai,
ham’vareich et amo Yisrael bashalom.

Grant abundant peace to Israel Your people forever; for You are the Sovereign God of all peace.
May it be pleasing to You to bless Your people Israel (and all peoples) in every season and moment
with your peace. Blessed are You, Adonai, who blesses Your people Israel with peace.
~ Please pray silently ~

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today! – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. “I Have a Dream,” delivered August 28, 1963

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**Elohai N’tzor**

Elohai n’tzor l’shoni meira, us’fatai midabeir mimna,
V’limkal’lai nafshi tidom,
v’nafshi ke’afar lakol tih’yeh.
P’tach libi b’Toratecha, uv’mitzvotecha tirdof nafshi,
V’chol hachoshvim alai raah,
m’heirah hafeir atzatam
v’kalkeil machashavtam. Aseih l’maan sh’meca,
asei l’maan y’minecha, aseih l’maan k’dushatecha,
asei l’maan Toratecha.
L’maan yeichaltzun y’deicha,
hoshia y’minch vaaneini.

My God, guard my speech from evil and my lips from deception. Before those who slander me,
I will hold my tongue; I will practice humility. Open my heart to Your Torah, that I may pursue Your mitzvot.
As for all who think evil of me, cancel their designs and frustrate their schemes. Act for Your own sake,
for the sake of Your Power, for the sake of Your Holiness, for the sake of Your Torah;
so that Your loved ones may be rescued, save with Your power. And answer me.

*(based on B’rachot 18a by Mar ben Rabina)*

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Oseh Shalom
Oseh shalom bimromav, hu yaaseh shalom
aleinu v’al kol Yisrael v'imru: Amen.

May the One who makes peace in the high heavens make peace for us, for all Israel,
And all who inhabit the earth. Amen.

Once upon a time, a poet went for a walk along the beach when he saw a woman moving oddly along the ocean shore. At first, he thought she was dancing but as he got closer, he realized that the woman was picking up starfish one by one and throwing them back into the sea. “What are you doing?” the poet asked. The dancing woman replied, “The tide is low and unless I put these starfish back into the water, they will surely die.” The poet responded, “There are millions of miles of beach and thousands of starfish. You can’t possibly make a difference.” With that, the woman leaned forward, picked up a starfish and threw it back into the water. “It made a difference for that one,” she said. – Loren Eiseley

The Talmud teaches us that one who saves a life, saves the world entire.

Mi Shebeirach – For Healing

Words by Debbie Friedman

Mi shebeirach avoteinu M'kor hab’rachah l'imoteinu.

May the source of strength
who blessed the ones before us,
help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing,
and let us say, Amen.

Mi shebeirach imoteinu M'kor hab’rachah laavoteinu.

Bless those in need of healing with r’fuah sh’leimah,
The renewal of body, the renewal of spirit,
and let us say, Amen.

Merger: A Vision of the Future – Judy Chicago
And then all that has divided us will merge
And then compassion will be wedded to power
And then softness will come to a world that is harsh and unkind
And then both men and women will be gentle
And then both women and men will be strong
And then no person will be subject to another’s will
And then all with be rich and free and varied
And then the greed of some will give way to the needs of many
And then all will share equally in the earth’s abundance
And then all will care for the sick and the weak and the old
And then all will nourish the young
And then all will cherish life’s creatures
And then all will live in harmony with each other and the earth
And then everywhere will be called Eden once again.

~ Please rise ~

Aleinu

Aleinu l’shabei-ach laadon hakol, lateit g’dulah
I’yotzeir b’reishit, shelo asanu k’goyei haaratzot, v’lo
samanu k’mishp’chot haadamah. Shelo sam
chelkeinu kahem, v’goraleinu k’chol hamonam.
Vaanichnu kor’im umishchachvim umodim lifnei
Melech mal’chei hamlachim, HaKadosh Baruch Hu.

Shehu noteh shamayim v’yoseid aretz,
umoshev y’karo bashamayim mimaal,
ush’chinat uzo b’govhei m’romim.
Hu Eloheinu ein od, emet
Malkineu efes zulato. Kakatu b’Torato, V’yadata
hayom v’hasheivota el l’vavecha, ki Adonai hu
HaElohim bashamayim mimaal v’al haaretz
mitachat, ein od.

V’ne-emar, V’hayah Adonai l’Melech al kol haaretz.
Bayom hahu yih’yeh Adonai echad, ush’mo echad.

Let us now praise the Sovereign of the universe, and proclaim the greatness of the Creator who has
set us apart from the other families of the earth, giving us a destiny unique among the nations.
We bend the need and bow, acknowledging the supreme Sovereign, the Holy One of Blessing.
For you spread out the heavens and established the earth; Your majestic abode is in the heavens above
and Your mighty Presence is in the loftiest heights. You are our God and there is none else. In truth
You are our Sovereign without compare, as is written in your Torah: Know then this day and take it to heart
that Adonai is surely God in the heavens above and on the earth below. There is none else.
Thus it has been said: Adonai will be Sovereign of all the earth.
On that day Adonai will become One and God’s Name will be One(Zechariah 14:9).
Each of us has a name given us by God and by our father and mother.  
*Each of us has a name given us by our stature and smile and the clothes we wear.*

Each of us has a name given us by the mountains and the walls within which we live.  
*Each of us has a name given us by the planets and by our neighbors.*

Each of us has a name given us by our sins and by our aspirations.  
*Each of us has a name given us by our enemies and by those we love.*

Each of us has a name given us by our leisure time and by our work.  
*Each of us has a name given us by the seasons and by our blindness.*

Each of us has a name given us by the sea and by the way we die. – Zelda Mishkovsky

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**Mourner’s Kaddish**

We recall the loved ones whom death has recently taken from us...  
We remember those whose names were mentioned,  
those whose names remain in our thoughts,  
and all those for whom there is no one left to say *Kaddish.*

**Loving God, we praise Your name:**

Yitgal v’yitkadesh sh’mei raba.  
B’alma di v’ra chirutei, v’yamlich malchutei  
b’chayeichon uv’yomeichon uv’chayei d’chol beit  
yisrael, baagalah uviz’mam kariv, V’im’ru: Amen.

Y’he sh’mei raba m’varach l’alam u’lalmei almaya.

Yitbarach v’yishtabach v’yitpaar v’yitromam  
v’yitnasei v’yit’hadar v’yitaleh v’yit’halal sh’meih  
d’Kud’sha, B’rich Hu, l’eila min kol birchata  
v’shirata tush’cha v’nechemata daamiran  
b’alma. V’imru: Amen.

Y’he sh’lama raba min sh’maya v’chayim aleinu  
v’al kol Yisrael v’imru: Amen.

Oseh shalom bimromav, Hu yaaseh shalom  
Exhausted and hallowed be God’s great name in the world which God created, according to plan. May God’s majesty be revealed in the days of our lifetime and the life of all Israel - speedily, imminently, to which we say Amen. Blessed be God’s great name to all eternity. Blessed, praised, honored, exalted, exulted, glorified, adored, and lauded be the name of the Holy Blessed One, beyond all earthly words and songs of blessing, praise and comfort. To which we say Amen. May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us and all Israel. To which we say Amen. May the one who creates harmony on high, bring peace to us and to all Israel. To which we say Amen.

May the Source of peace send peace to all who mourn, and comfort to all who are bereaved. Amen.

~ All are seated ~

In the Jewish tradition, the separation between prayer and action is slight. We’re mindful of the admonition in Isaiah where God says, “I don’t want your fast and your sacrifice. I want you to deal your bread to the hungry, tear apart the chains of the oppressed.” And Leviticus 19 tells us that to be holy in the way God is holy means to set aside a corner of our fields for the poor and homeless, to pay the laborer a timely and fair wage, and to remove stumbling blocks. These are religious activities just as much as prayer is. They are all woven together.

After participating in the civil rights march in Selma, Alabama, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, one of this century’s great religious figures and a close colleague of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, said, “It felt like my feet were praying.” Prayer is not just the communication we have with God; it is also the work we do to make God’s values real to the world. I think God listens to both kinds of prayer with equal joy. – Rabbi David Saperstein, Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Salaam, Shalom

Od yavo shalom aleinu
Od yavo shalom aleinu
Od yavo shalom aleinu
Ve’al kulum (x2)

Salaam
Aleinu ve’al kol ha olam
Salaam, Shalom (x2)

Again peace will come upon us and on everyone. Among us and on all the world, peace.