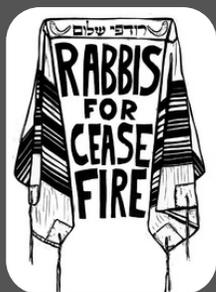


CHANUKAH

5784

Rabbis for Ceasefire Candle Lighting Companion



Rabbis for Ceasefire is a group of Rabbis and Rabbinical Students advocating for a political solution to end this horror. Ceasefire means no more bombing of families and homes in Gaza. It means all Israeli hostages must be released now. Ceasefire means we need immediate engagement by the international community toward a just and lasting peace in Israel/Palestine. Ceasefire is the only way to prevent more death and destruction.

We offer the following blessings & songs to add to your Chanukah candle lighting practice in addition to the traditional blessings. We have given a kavanah (intention) to reflect on for each night of the holiday- starting with the Shamash candle and first candle. Each night we add one more candle and one more intention for reflection and prayer.



BLESSINGS FOR CANDLE-LIGHTING

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר חֲנֻכָּה
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שְׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנָן הַזֶּה
בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שְׁהַחֲיֵנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנָן הַזֶּה

*Bah-rookh ah-tah ah-doh-noi eh-loh-hay-noo meh-lekh hah-oh-lahm ah-sheh ki-deh-shah-
noo beh-mitz-voh-tahv veh-tzee-vah-noo leh-hahd-lik nayr kha-noo-kah*

*Bah-rookh ah-tah ah-doh-noi eh-loh-hay-noo meh-lekh hah-oh-lahm sheh-ah-sah nee-sim
lah-ah-voh-tay-noo bah-yah-mim hah-haym biz-mahn hah-zeh*

*Bah-rookh ah-tah ah-doh-noi eh-loh-hay-noo meh-lekh hah-oh-lahm sheh-heh-kheh-yah-noo
veh-kee-mah-noo ve-hig-ee-yah-noo liz-mahn hah-zeh*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah light.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who performed miracles for our forefathers in those days, at this time.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.

SHAMASH CANDLE: SHOMRIM: WE KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE

As antisemitism and islamophobia rise, may we find safety through solidarity. We light our candles in windows and other public places to proudly display our Jewish heritage and the Chanukah miracle. We also publicly display our commitment to solidarity and interdependence.

May we turn again and again towards a vision of mutual safety and care.

Our Power

by Rena Branson

We will not underestimate
Our power any longer—
We know that together, we are strong.
Like drops of water shape the rocks
As they rush down the falls,
We know that together,
We are strong.

CANDLE 1: LO V'CHAYIL: CEASEFIRE



In the Haftarah we read on the first Shabbat of Chanukah we recite the words: lo v'chayil, lo v'koach, ki im b'ruchi. Not by might, not by power, but by spirit alone. We are embracing the rabbinic tradition that reminds us it is by ruach—by our spirit that we survive and thrive, not by militarism. Ceasefire means no more bombing of families and homes in Gaza. Ceasefire means all hostages must be released now. Ceasefire means we need immediate engagement by the international community toward a just and lasting peace in Israel/Palestine. Ceasefire is the only way to prevent more death and destruction. In this moment of tremendous fear and suffering, we believe there is no military solution. There is only a political one. **May we commit ourselves to a path of life and away from the path of war and ongoing violence.**

Not By Might

by Debbie Friedman

Not by might
And not by power
But by spirit alone
Shall we all live in peace

The children sing
The children dream
And their tears may fall, but we'll hear them call
And another song will rise
Another song will rise
Another song will rise!



CANDLE 2: PIKUACH NEFESH: PROTECT EVERY LIFE

Saving a life trumps all other Jewish laws. Pikuach nefesh, the obligation to save lives, is about protecting lives now and in the future. We believe that we cannot bomb our way to safety. The only path to lasting peace is to stop the cycle of violence by stopping this war and addressing the underlying conditions that dehumanize Palestinians and that put both Palestinians and Israelis at risk. **May we recommit towards a world where every life is seen and treated as precious.**

Healing Is Possible

by Orion Johnstone

Healing is possible, May it be so
Healing is happening, May it be so

And we believe, What we need most
Are the hearts of each other, Right here

Transformation is possible... Liberation is possible... Ceasefire is possible



CANDLE 4: B'TZELEM ELOHIM: HUMAN DIGNITY

CANDLE 3: MATIR ASURIM: FREE THE CAPTIVE

Everyday in our liturgy we pray for all those who are bound to be set free. We are grateful to see the hostages who have been released coming home. We pray for their healing and for all who remain in captivity by Hamas to be released. We pray for the release of all those held unjustly in Israeli prisoners, including children held without trial. We pray for an end to the cycle of occupation and siege. **May we work towards a future where all people are free and where no one suffers the horrors of captivity.**

Healing Song

by Kestrel Feiner-Homer

We sing you healing
We sing you care
We sing you justice
We sing you prayer

אל נא רפא נא לה, אל נא רפא נא לה

El na refa na la, el na refa na la

Light is Returning
by Charlie Murphy

Light is returning,
even though this is the darkest hour,
no one can hold back the dawn.

We are all made *b'tzelem elohim*, in the image of God. Living into that truth is a core spiritual obligation of Judaism. That means we must treat all people with dignity. We witness the horror of the brutal siege on Gaza and the devastating humanitarian crisis happening before our eyes. We witness the mass graves in Gaza where people are not permitted dignity in death. We witness terrifying accounts of sexual violence against Israeli women and girls on October 7th along with other accounts of torture. We know that every human being deserves to live in dignity and in safety and that war crimes do not justify war crimes. **May we see the divine in all human beings and may we fight for the dignity of all Palestinians and Israelis.**

I am Open and I am Willing

by Holly Near

Chorus:

I am open and I am willing. For to be hopeless would seem so strange.
It dishonors those who go before us. So lift me up to the light of change.
There is hurting in my family. There is sorrow in my town.

There is panic in the nation. There is wailing the whole world round. (Chorus)
May the children see more clearly. May the elders be more wise.

May the winds of change caress us. Even though it burns our eyes. (Chorus)
Give me a mighty oak to hold my confusion.
Give me a desert to hold my fears.

Give me a sunset to hold my wonder. Give me an ocean to hold my tears. (Chorus)

**CANDLE 5:
L'DOR VA-DOR:
FROM GENERATION TO
GENERATION**



The ancient rabbis celebrated the miracle of light as the central miracle of the holiday, rather than the militarism of the Maccabees. They helped shape our tradition by uplifting a story of hope and faith over the valorization of militarism. We carry that same obligation today. **May we honor our collective ancestors and fight for a better future for all of our children.**

Ma'oz Tzur

13th century Hanukkah piyyut

Rock of Ages let our song
Praise your saving power
You amidst our raging foes
Were our sheltering tower
Furious they assailed us
But Your arm availed us
And Your word broke their sword
When our own strength failed us

מְעוֹז צוּר יְשׁוּעָתִי, לָךְ נִאֶה לְשַׁבַּח
תִּכּוֹן בֵּית תְּפִלָּתִי, וְשֵׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח.
לְעֵת תִּכְיִן מִטְּבַח מִצָּר הַמְּנַיִחַ
אֶז אֶגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ.

Ma'oz Tzur Yeshu'ati, lekha na'eh leshabe'ah.
Tikon beit tefilati, vesham toda nezabe'ah.
Le'et takhin matbe'ah mitzar hamnabe'ah.
Az egmor beshir mizmor hanukat hamizbe'ah.

**CANDLE 6:
EIZEH HU GIBOR?
WHO IS COURAGEOUS?**

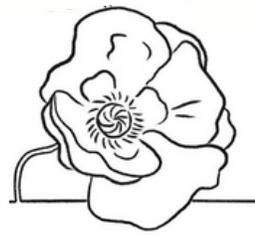
In Pirkei Avot the sages asked “eizeh hu gibor? Who is courageous?” They answered with a quote from Proverbs: “One that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and One that rules his spirit more than one that takes a city (Proverbs 16:32).” We ask today “who is courageous?” and we answer: the one who imagines a different way forward. **May we honor the courage of all those working for an enduring and just peace. May we join in their struggle.**

Courage

Adapted from the South African Anti-Apartheid Movement, sung as protesters were being taken to jail and as a way to learn people's' names in the jail cells. Original song titled "Singing the Spirit Home" written by Australian/Scottish folk singer, Eric Bogle

Courage, my friends, you do not walk alone
We will, walk with you, and sing your spirit home

**CANDLE 7:
ACTION IS THE ONLY
RECOGNIZABLE
FEATURE OF HOPE**



We see hope in practice through the Chanukah story of the miracle of light that lasted longer than anyone thought it possibly could. The people lit their menorah even when they did not know how they would find enough oil to keep the flames burning. Just as in the Chanukah story, we act out of a hope, out of a vision of a world redeemed, where all people are free.

May we find our way to hope through action.

Al Hanisim

liturgy from the siddur, sung on Hanukkah

עַל הַנְּסִים וְעַל הַפְּרָקִין
וְעַל הַגְּבוּרוֹת וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת
וְעַל הַנְּפִלְאוֹת שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ
בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה

Al hanissim, v'al hapurkan,
v'al hag'vurot v'al hat'tshuot
v'al haniflaot sh'asita lavoteinu
bayamim hahem baz'man hazeh.

We thank You also for the miracles,
for the redemption, for the mighty deeds
and saving acts, wrought by You,
as well as for the miracles You waged
for our ancestors in days of old,
and in this time.

**CANDLE 8:
ZICHRONAM LIVRACHA: IN
REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE
WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED**

We honor the memories of every Israeli and Palestinian who has been killed. We know that each life is a precious world unto itself. We mourn all of these deaths deeply. We face the massive and still rising death toll in Gaza which includes thousands of children and we call for a political solution rather than more bombing.

May the memories of every person killed be a blessing to all who loved them and may we honor their memories by acting for lasting peace and justice.

Oseh Shalom

liturgy from the siddur

עוֹשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרְוַמָּיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֶל
וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן

Oseh shalom bimromav
Hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu
V'al kol Yisrael, v'al kol yoshvei tevel
V'imru: amen.

May the One who creates peace on high
bring peace to us and to all Israel, and to
all people on earth. And we say: Amen.

