



Sukkot- Simhat Torah

Temple of Universal Judaism

A URJ: Union for Reform Judaism Congregation

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לוּלָב וְאֶתְרוֹג

Lulav and Etrog

Into this sanctuary tonight/today, we bring some of the most ancient offerings of the our people: the House of Israel.

Our Lulav - לולב - fronds of a palm that resembles the human spine, reminds us to stand upright with courage and justice/integrity.

The Myrtle - הדס - with foliage verdant and green in the shape of eyes, prompts us to behold the magnificence of creation.

The Willow - ערבה - with narrow leaves shaped like human lips, entreats us to speak kindly, bids us to show gratitude for every morsel of food that touches *our* lips, and commands us to share the bounty which is ours, so that others too can partake of our blessings.

And our Etrog - אתרוג - as strong, bold and beautiful as our hearts can be, teaches us to love one another - and the strangers who pass by our sides each and every day. For only with love, kindness and compassion can our harvest be truly bountiful.

The Lulav and Etrog help us be mindful of all that we are, all that we have, and especially and all we must give in return.

AF

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,
וְצִוָּנוּ עַל נְטִילַת לוּלָב.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ha-o-lam, a-sher
ki-di-sha-nu b'mitz-vo-tav, vi-tzi-va-nu al n'ti-lat lu-lav.

Praised be Adonai, our Highest, Majestic One of All the Universe, who makes us holy with the *mitzvot*, and inspires us to find remembrance and meaning in the Lulav and Etrog.

הלל

Hallel

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו,
וְצִוָּנוּ לְקַרְאֵת אֶת הַהֵלֵל.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ha-o-lam, a-sher ki-di-sha-nu
b'mitz-vo-tav, vi-tzi-va-nu li-kro et ha-Ha-lel.

Praised be Adonai, our Highest, Majestic One of All the Universe, who makes us holy with the *mitzvot*, and inspires us to praise the Universe with the words of the Psalms and Hallel.

When Sukkot falls early -or- When we are blessed with nice weather:

Praised be the Holy One
Who paints a morning panorama
on the Appalachian peaks
that moves us to say:
Let's walk in the country,
let's go by the lake.
Praised be the Holy One
Who makes old people young
by the simple change of weather.

Praise be the God
of early spring
and Indian summers
for the magic touch
of subtle miracles is
found everywhere.

*Danny Siegel,
Psalms and Prayers, adapted*

The Eternal's Love is Forever

Psalm 118: 1

הודו לַיְיָ

תהילים קיח: א

הוֹדוּ לַיְיָ כִּי טוֹב,
כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסֵדוֹ!

Ho-du la-a-do-nai ki tov, ki li-o-lam ḥas-do!

Blessed be the One for all of life's goodness
The Eternal's Love will live forever and ever.

Open The Gates פתחו לי

Psalm 118: 19-29

תהילים קיח: יט-כט

פִּתְחוּ לִי שַׁעֲרֵי־צֶדֶק אָבֹא בָם אוֹדֶה יְהוָה.
זֶה הַשַּׁעַר לַיהוָה צְדִיקִים יָבֹאוּ בוֹ.
אוֹדֶךָ כִּי עָנִיתָנִי וַתְּהִי לִי לִישׁוּעָה.
אֲבֹן מֵאֶסוּ הַבּוֹנִים הִיְתָה לְרֹאשׁ פְּנֵה.
מֵאֵת יְהוָה הִיְתָה זֹאת הִיא נִפְלְאֹת בְּעֵינֵינוּ.
זֶה הַיּוֹם עָשָׂה יְהוָה נִגִּילָה וְנִשְׂמְחָה בוֹ.
אֲנִי יְהוָה הוֹשִׁיעָה נָא אֲנִי יְהוָה הַצְּלִיחָה נָא.
בְּרוּךְ הֵבֵא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה בְּרִכְנוּכֶם מִבֵּית יְהוָה.
אֵל יְהוָה וַיֵּאָר לָנוּ אֶסְרוּ חַג בְּעִבְתֵּימָם עַד קָרְנוֹת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ.
אֵלֵי אַתָּה וְאוֹדֶךָ אֱלֹהֵי אֲרוֹמִמְךָ.
הוֹדוּ לַיהוָה כִּי טוֹב כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדוֹ.

Pit-hu li sha-a-rei tze-dek a-vo vam o-deh Yah.

Zeh ha-yom a-sa La-do-nai tza-di-kim ya-vo-u vo.

Eternal One, open the gates of righteousness for me:
I will enter and offer praise for all of life's blessings!

*Open my soul to all that is good and right:
Open my heart to grace, lovingkindness and compassion.*

I stand at the gates of the One-Who-Is-All
And witness the upright entering within!

*I peer inside and glimpse a Higher Way
I feel You moving toward me from deep within!*

I bring thanks to You: You have answered me!
For I have been blessed with life eternal.

*I feel Your Presence: surely You have heard me!
I feel You near me: I am blessed with infinite love.*

Like the stone the builders rejected
I too have become a noble cornerstone!

*The glorious and glistening Tabernacles of Sinai
Glow within my own Sukkah of gratitude and thanksgiving.*

This is surely the Eternal's doing
It is a miracle before my very eyes.

*My table overflows with the bounty of the harvest:
My cup runneth over with gifts of the spirit.*

This is the day the Eternal has made
I exult and am sated with gladness.

*With promise I begin the new year, sealed in the Book of Life:
Standing proud as a Lulav, heart fragrant as an Etrog.*

O Adonai, deliver our spirits to You!
O Adonai, bless us with sustenance and comfort!

*Avinu Malkeinu: do not let us hunger for vain pursuits.
Sustain our families with plenitude, comfort and prosperity!*

May the one who enters the heavenly gates
Be blessed in the name of the One-Who-Is-All.

*Bless us with riches of the Spirit.
Bless us with good health and long life!*

You will certainly be blessed
From the house of the One.

*How bountiful is my life
And I did not know it!*

The One-Who-Is-All is God;
the One-Who-Is-All will shower you with Light.

*Light to look inward to see ourselves,
Light to look outward to see one another.*

Bind our festival offering
to the horns of Your altar!

*Accept the gifts of our hearts, our Tabernacles, Lulav and Etrog;
our harvest gifts to the tired masses, yearning to be free.*

I am thankful to You, O One-Who-Is-All
I will praise You forever, All-That-Is-One.

*Blessed be the One for all of life's goodness!
The Eternal's Love will live forever and ever.*

Translation of Psalm 118 and Responsive Passages: AF

סֵדֵר קְרִיאַת הַתּוֹרָה

Service for Reading of the Torah

First Section of Tana"kh: The Hebrew Scriptures

We have heard the call of the Shofar,
bidding us to the reawakening of self,
knowing that it is our intentions and actions alone
which will inscribe us in the Book of Life and Goodness.

We've reconsidered our lives,
focused and fasted, prayed and proven,
relearned what we once knew:
that only through a life of compassion, kindness and grace
can we enter the Gates of Eternity.

And as we gaze at the heavens yet once more,
through the verdant branches of our Sukkot,
we give thanks for the miraculous promise of each moment,
the luxuriant and daily bounty we draw from,
the freedom granted our ancestors as they journeyed from Egypt,
and the wisdom to know our manifold blessings are *nothing*
if we withhold from others a share in what is ours.

And tonight once again, we return to Torah!

הַפּוֹרְךָ בָּהּ וְהַפּוֹרְךָ בָּהּ - "Turn it over and over," say the rabbis.

The Torah is everything! "And everything is in it!"

הִבָּה נְגִילָה! - "Come let us rejoice!

הִבָּה גְרָנְנָה! - "Come let us celebrate!

"Come and see: brothers and sisters
singing and dancing with hearts of gladness!"

AF, with inspiration from CCAR, Gates of Repentance



The Torah is brought out from the Ark and held high for all to see:

כִּי מִצִּיּוֹן תֵּצֵא תּוֹרָה, וּדְבַר יְיָ מִירוּשָׁלַיִם.

Ki mi-Tzi-on tei-tzei To-rah, u'd'var A-do-nai mei-Y'ru-sha-la-yim.

The light of Torah blazes from the Hills of Zion!
The spirit of the One-That-Is-All shines from the Gates of Jerusalem!

בָּרוּךְ שָׁנַתַּן תּוֹרָה לְעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּקִדְשָׁתוֹ.

Ba-ruch she-na-tan To-rah l'a-mo Yis-ra-el bi-k'du-sha-to.

Blessed be the One who gave this Torah to the people of Israel.

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ אֶחָד.

She-ma Yis-ra-el, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, A-do-nai E-had.

Hear O Israel, the One-That-Is our God is One and only One.

אֶחָד אֱלֹהֵינוּ, גָּדוֹל אֲדוֹנָנוּ, קְדוֹשׁ שְׁמוֹ.

E-had E-lo-hei-nu, ga-dol A-do-nei-nu, Ka-dosh Sh'mo.

The One who is our God is All, replete with Holiness.

הוֹשַׁנָּה-נָא, הוֹשַׁנָּה-נָא!

Ho-sha-na, ho-sha-na!

O Eternal One, save us!

דְּבָרִים ל"ד – וְזֹאת הַבְּרָכָה

Deuteronomy 34: 7-12 - The Blessing of Moses

Before the Reading of the Torah:

בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יי הַמְּבוֹרָךְ!

בְּרוּךְ יי הַמְּבוֹרָךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד!

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים, וְנָתַן לָנוּ אֶת תּוֹרָתוֹ. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

Praise the Blessed One!

Praised be the Blessed One now and forever!

Praise be to You, One-Who-Is-All, Majestic of the Universe, who has chosen and blessed us with this Torah! Praise be to You, One-Who-Is-All, Giver of the Torah.

וּמֹשֶׁה בֶּן-מֵאָה וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה בָּמֹתוֹ לֹא-כִהְיֶתָה עֵינָיו וְלֹא-נָס
לְזוּזָה וַיִּבְכּוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-מֹשֶׁה בְּעֶרְבַת מוֹאָב שְׁלֹשִׁים יוֹם
וַיִּתְּמוּ יָמָיו בְּכִי אֲבָל מֹשֶׁה וַיְהוֹשֶׁעַ בֶּן-נּוּן מֶלֶךְ רוּחַ זִכְרָמָה
כִּי-סָמַךְ מֹשֶׁה אֶת-יָדָיו עָלָיו וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אֵלָיו בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּעֲשׂוּ
כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֶת-מֹשֶׁה וְלֹא-קָם נָבִיא עוֹד בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל
כַּמֹּשֶׁה אֲשֶׁר יָדָעוּ יְהוָה פָּנִים אֶל-פָּנִים לְכָל-הָאָדָם
וְהַמּוֹפְתִים אֲשֶׁר שָׁלַח יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם לְפָרְעֹה
וְלְכָל-עַבְדָּיו וְלְכָל-אֲרָצוֹ וְלְכָל הַיָּד הַזֹּזָקָה וְלְכָל הַמּוֹרָא
הַגָּדוֹל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה מֹשֶׁה לְעֵינֵי כָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל

Deuteronomy 34: 7-12

7 And Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated. 8 And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; so the days of weeping in the mourning for Moses were ended. 9 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him; and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the Eternal commanded Moses. 10 And there hath not arisen a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Eternal knew face to face; 11 in all the signs and the wonders, which the Eternal sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh, and to all his servants, and to all his land; 12 and in all the mighty hand, and in all the great terror, which Moses wrought in the sight of all Israel.

Mourner's Kaddish קדיש יתום

יִתְגַּדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא. בְּעַלְמָא דִּי בְרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ, וְיִמְלִיף מְלַכּוּתָהּ בְּחַיִּיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל. בְּעַגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.
יְהִיא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלַם וּלְעַלְמֵי עַלְמַיָּא.
יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח, וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמֵם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ דְקָדְשָׁא בְרִיךְ הוּא לְעַלְא מְכַל בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא, תְּשַׁבְּחַתָּא וְנִחְמַתָּא, דְאָמְרִין בְּעַלְמָא, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.
עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עַלְיָנוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

Yit-ga-dal v'yit-ka-dash sh'mei ra-ba. B'al-ma di-v'ra chir-u-tei, v'yam-lich mal-chu-tei b'cha-yei-chon u-v'yo-mei-chon u-v'cha-yei d'chol beit Yis-ra-el, ba-a-ga-la u-viz-man ka-riv, v'i-m'ru: A-men.

Y'hei sh'mei ra-ba m'va-rach l'o-lam u-l'al-mei al-ma-ya.

Yit-ba-rach v'yish-ta-bach v'yit-pa-ar v'yit-ro-mam v'yit-na-sei v'yit-ha-dar v'yit-a-leh v'yit-ha-lal sh'mei d'ku-d'sha b'rich hu, l'ei-la min kol bir-cha-ta v'shi-ra-ta, tush-b'cha-ta v'ne-che-ma-ta, da-a-mi-ran b'al-ma, v'i-m'ru: A-men.

O-seh sha-lom bim-ro-mav hu ya-a-seh sha-lom a-lei-nu v'al kol Yis-ra-el, v'i-m'ru: A-men.

Is this not Torah?

To open eyes when others close them
To hear when others do not care to listen
To seek insight when others give up
To rouse oneself when others accept
To continue struggling

when one is not the strongest
To cry loud when others keep silent.

To be a Jew . . . to be a human being:
It is that.
It is first of all, that.

CCAR, Mishkan T'filah, adapted

בְּרֵאשִׁית א - בְּרִיאַת הָעוֹלָם Genesis 1: 1-5 - The Eternal Light

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ וְהָאָרֶץ הִיְתְּהָה
תֵּהוּ וּבְהוּ וְרוּחַ יְהוָה מְרֻזְזָפֶת עַל פְּנֵי
הַמַּיִם וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהי אֹר וַיְהי אֹר וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הָאֹר
כִּי טוֹב וַיַּבְדֵּל אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאֹר וּבֵין הַחֹשֶׁךְ וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים
לְאֹר יוֹם וּלְחֹשֶׁךְ קָרָא לַיְלָה וַיְהי עֶרֶב וַיְהי בֹקֶר יוֹם אֶחָד

1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2 Now the earth was unformed and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters. 3 And God said: 'Let there be light.' And there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

After the Reading

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר נָתַן לָנוּ תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת, וְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם
נִטַע בְּתוֹכֵנוּ. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, נוֹתֵן הַתּוֹרָה.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ha-o-lam a-sheer na-tan la-nu
To-rat e-met, v'ha-yei o-lam na-ta b'to-chei-nu. Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai,
no-tein Ha-To-rah.

קְדוּשָׁה

Kiddush over Wine

Days pass and the years vanish, and we walk sightless among miracles. God, fill our eyes with seeing and our minds with knowing; let there be moments when Your Presence, like lightning, illumines the darkness in which we walk. Help us to see, wherever we gaze, that the bush burns unconsumed. And we, clay touched by God, will reach out for holiness, and exclaim in wonder:

How filled with awe is this place, and we did not know it!

CCAR, Gates of Prayer

Lift the cup of wine and recite Kiddush, adding the words in parentheses on Shabbat.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּפֶן.

Ba-ruch a-ta Adonai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam, bo-rei p'ri
ha-ga-fen.

Blessed is the Holy One of Light and Life, who sweetens our lives with the fruit of the vine. *All answer:* "Amen!"

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר בָּנוּ מִכָּל עַם וְרוֹמְמָנוּ מִכָּל לְשׁוֹן, וְקִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו. וְתַתֵּן לָנוּ יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּאַהֲבָה (שְׁבֻתוֹת לְמִנְחָה וּמוֹעֲדִים לְשִׂמְחָה, חַגִּים וְזִמְנִים לְשִׂשׁוֹן, אֶת יוֹם הַשְּׁבֻת הַזֶּה וְאֶת יוֹם חַג הַסֻּפּוֹת הַזֶּה, זְמַן שִׂמְחָתָנוּ) בְּאַהֲבָה (מִקְרָא קֹדֶשׁ, זִכָּר לִיצִיאַת מִצְרָיִם. כִּי בָנוּ בְּחֵרָתְךָ וְאוֹתָנוּ קִדְּשָׁתָּ מִכָּל הָעַמִּים, וְשִׁבַּתָּנוּ) וּמוֹעֲדֵי קֹדֶשְׁךָ (בְּשִׂמְחָה וּבְשִׂשׁוֹן הַנְּחֻלָּתָנוּ. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, מְקַדֵּשׁ) הַשְּׁבֻת (יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהַזִּמְנִים).

Blessed is the Holy One of Light and Life, who has gathered us - the Children of Israel - close together and blessed us with our own language to proclaim lovingkindness, with meaningful rituals that enrich our lives and with the commandments that strengthen our souls. In love You blessed us with (this

Sabbath of rest and) festivals of gladness, times and seasons of joy and this special holiday of Sukkot, a joyous festival of celebration, commemorating the time of our Exodus from Egypt.

Blessed is the Holy One of Light and Life, for hallowing us with (the Sabbath), with our people Israel and with our festive seasons.

On holidays and special occasions:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַיְהוּה.

Ba-ruch a-ta A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ha-o-lam, she-he-ḥe-a-nu v'ki-y'ma-nu v'hi-gi-a-nu laz-man ha-zeh.

Blessed is the Holy One of Light and Life, for keeping us alive, for giving us strength and presence, and for enabling us to live to see this extraordinary day!

Closing Blessing בְּרַכַּת סוּמ

In ancient times, after the year's final harvest, our people made the hard journey to Jerusalem to offer thanks for the blessing of fruit and grain, and to share the harvest with the poor and needy, as they had been commanded.

We too are commanded: the rich must give to the poor, the strong help the weak, and all live together in justice and peace. As the Torah instructs us: above charity, we must create a world of fairness. We must order society so that all people may earn their daily bread with dignity.

O God, make us more conscious of Your gifts, and help us see that our work prospers only when it brings blessings to others. May our observance of this festival teach us not to withhold a share in the bounty that is ours.

Help us, O Holy One of Life, to live so that when we have gathered our final harvest, many shall rise up, and call us blessed.

CCAR, Gates of Prayer