RU’ACH
TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREATER MIAMI

ACCEPTANCE - WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HOLY

RUACH SHABBAT
Friday, May 2, 2014
Opening song - “Ruach” (Shlomo Carlebach)
Welcome - Avi Flashenburg
Announcements - Joan L. Schaeffer, President
Candle Lighting – Read by Liz Schwartz
L’Chai Dodi – (Debbie Friedman)
Dodi Li – (Steven Sher)
Hatzi Kaddish - A reading by Paula Bromberg
Bar’chu - Cantor Rachelle Nelson

Ma’ariv Aravim
Read by David Rigg and Mark Goldberg

Blessed are You, Eternal One our God, Spirit of the world, by whose word time passes. In wisdom You open heaven’s gates. With divine discernment You make seasons change, causing the times to come and go, and ordering the stars on their appointed paths through heaven’s dome, all according to Your will.

Creator of the day and night, of wind and rain, it was You who spread a rainbow across the sky as an ot habrit, a sign of the covenant between You and all living things, telling us then and forever that all of us are Your creation, blessed and approved of by You.

Living and enduring God, remember Your rainbow, and remind us, now and always, that it is a symbol of Your covenant, of Your love, of Your brilliant creativity, and the endless variety of Your creations.

Blessed are you, Almighty One, who makes the colors of light shine forth, a vision of Your glory.

Adapted by Rabbi Lisa Edwards of Beth Chayim Chadashim
(LosAngeles, CA) A resource of the Jeff Herman Virtual Resource Center, Institute for Judaism and Sexual Orientation, Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion www.huc.edu/ijso/jhvrC
Prayer for Love by Allen Ginsberg
Read by Beco and Eric Lichtman

The weight of the world is love.
Under the burden of solitude,
under the burden of dissatisfaction
the weight,
the weight we carry is love.

Who can deny? In dreams it touches the body,
in thought constructs a miracle,
in imagination anguishes till born
in human--looks out of the heart
burning with purity--for the burden of life is love,
but we carry the weight
warily, and so must rest
in the arms of love at last,
must rest in the arms of love.

No rest without love,
no sleep without dreams
of love--
be mad or chill
obsessed with angels or machines,
the final wish is love
"cannot be bitter,
cannot deny, cannot withhold if denied:
the weight is too heavy
--must give
for no return as thought
is given in solitude
in all the excellence of its excess.
The warm bodies shine together
in the darkness, the hand moves
to the center of the flesh,
the skin trembles in happiness and the soul comes
joyful to the eye--
yes, yes, that's what I wanted,
I always wanted, I always wanted,
to return to the body
where I was born.

San Jose, 1954

A "Commentary" on Leviticus 19: (aka "The Holiness Code")
Read by Michael Stark

We are your gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered children:
"You must not seek vengeance, nor bear a grudge against the children of your people." [Leviticus 19:18]

We are your bi, trans, lesbian and gay parents:
"Revere your mother and your father, each one of you." [19:3]

We are elderly lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and transgendered people:
"You shall rise before the aged and show deference to the old." [19:32]

We are the stranger:
"You must not oppress the stranger." [19:33]

"You shall love the stranger as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." [19:34]

We are lesbian, gay, trans, and bi Jews:
"You must not go about slandering your kin." [19:16]

We are your trans, gay, bi, and lesbian siblings:
"You shall not hate your brother or sister in your heart." [19:17]

We are lesbian, gay, trans, and bi victims of gay-bashing and murder:
"You may not stand by idly when your neighbor's blood is being shed." [19:16]

We are your bi, gay, trans, and lesbian neighbors:
"You must not oppress your neighbor." [19:13]

"You must judge your neighbor justly." [19:15]

"You shall love your neighbor as you love yourself." [19:18]

Rabbi Lisa A. Edwards of Congregation Beth Chavim Chadashim Los Angeles, CA,

Mi Chamocha (Debbie Friedman)
Hashkiveinu (literal translation - Help us to lie down)

Hashkiveinu began as a prayer for peaceful sleep. It is called “The Blessing for Retiring” or “The Evening Prayer”. We petition God for a list of things such as protection from DISEASE (derv), VIOLENCE (cherew), WANT (ra’av) and WOE (V’yagan). Above all, Peace is referred to again and again. “In the shadow of your Wings, shelter us” Spread over us the shelter of your peace, Spread the shelter of peace upon us.

We ask also for the wisdom to recognize good “counsel” and the strength to remove spiritual impediments, otherwise known as shortcomings and things we need to work on in ourselves.

Hashkiveinu is a meditation on peace and a recognition that the path to peace lies in openness, Open-Heart-ness. We know this from the reference to the Sukat, a structure that keeps us protected from the elements above, yet is open at the sides to allow in friends, loved ones, community, strangers and the world.

Hashkiveinu (Craig Taubman)

Amidah
Silent Prayer
Oseh Shalom

Prayer for Peace - Read by Abraham Amador

Source of Peace, Sovereign of Peace Establish peace among Your people, Israel. And let there be an ever-increasing peace among all peoples. May there be no more hatred, rancor, strife or conquest between one human being and another. Let there be only love and a great peace among us, So that each one of us may know the love of the other.

Until we are able to come and gather together every person with another. So that we may speak - one to the other.

So that we may explain - one to the other - Your truth.

God - You are peace, and from You comes peace.

Source of peace, bless us with peace. Amen.


Ahavat Olam

Prayer about Oneness - Baal Shem Tov

Read by Nancy Dreyfuss

From every human being there rises a light that reaches straight to heaven, and when two souls that are destined to be together find each other, the streams of light flow together and a single brighter light goes forth from that united being. Hear o Israel Adonai is our God Adonai is one Blessed are you Adonai our eternal God forever and ever.

What if we could truly hear
What would we hear the bustle of traffic, the sound of children playing the barking of dog or the heartbeat of those you love. Or the still small voice of God

What if Israel is all of us man woman straight gay African American Caucasian all of us being called to listen to truly hear.

What if we have a single spark of divinity that reaches within the single spark of Godly light and each of us become One moving beyond this world into the next worlds. So that we can recite the watch word of our faith with convection.

Shema yisroel Adonai echad.

Then perhaps we can truly believe in that we are created in the divine image

Shema (Debbie Friedman)

And Thou Shalt Love (Debbie Friedman)
Mi Chamocha - (Prayer about Freedom)

Reading by Bob Waterstone

Mi cha-mo'cha ba-relim, Adonai?
Who is like You, Eternal One, among the gods that are worshipped?

Walt Whitman - Song of Myself

I celebrate myself and sing myself,
And what I assume you shall assume,
for every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.

The Prayer Book

Mi ka-mo'cha, neh-dar ba-ko-desh? Nora t'hi-lot, o-sei feh-leh?
Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in splendor, doing wonders?

Walt Whitman - Song of Myself

Creeds and schools in abeyance,
Retiring back a while sufficed at what they are, but never forgotten, I harbor
for good or bad, I permit to speak at every hazard, Nature without check with
original energy.

The Prayer Book

Mal-chu-t'cha re-u va-neh-ch'a, bo'kei'a yam lifnei Mo-sheh:
In their escape from the sea, Your children saw Your sovereign might
displayed.

Walt Whitman - Song of Myself

A few light kisses...a few embraces...reaching around of arms,
The play of shine and shade on the trees as the supple boughs wag, the
delight alone or in the rush of the streets, or along the fields and hill-sides;
The feeling of health...the full-moon trill...the song of me rising from bed and
meeting the sun.

The Prayer Book

Zeh Eli! A-nu v'amru:“This is my God”, they cried.
Adonai yim-loch l'olam va-ed! The Eternal will reign forever and ever.

Walt Whitman - Song of Myself

As I see my soul reflected in Nature, As I see through a mist, One with
inexpressible completeness, sanity, beauty...

Bob Waterstone

I sing a song of praise to God. I sing a song of praise to life.
Blessed be the One who has created me as I am. Awesome.

Yehiu L'Razon

Dr'ash by Vickie Schulman

Prayer for Healing - Read by Joan Schaeffer

God, make me brave for life: oh, braver than this.
Let me straighten after pain, as a tree straightens after the rain,
Shining and lovely again.
God, make me brave for life: much braver than this.
As the blown grass lifts, let me rise from sorrow with quiet eyes,
Knowing thy way is wise.
God, make me brave, life brings such blinding things.
Help me to keep my sight; help me to see aright
That out of doubt comes light.

-Author unknown, from Prayers for Healing, ed. Maggie Oman

Mi Shebeirach (Debbie Friedman)

A Prayer for Life - Read by Andrew Werner

It is interesting that the Ru'ach Shabbat is just a few days after the
Holocaust Day of Remembrance. In preparing for the Mourner's Kaddish, I found myself thinking about the shared historical experiences of
the Jewish people and the LGBT community. Both have been seen as
cutouts, non-conformists, and threats.

In such, both have experienced much loss and suffering, and yet both
continue to show the world their tenaciously brave spirit. I want to
dedicate this poem to the Transgendered members of our community
who risk rejection and ridicule as well as loss of their job, home and in
some cases their life... just for expressing who they truly are.

As Jews, we know what happens when someone looks the other way,
and we should dedicate ourselves to standing with anyone who might
otherwise be marginalized for being who they are. This poem from the
Transgendered Poetry of Dawn is titled.
A Prayer for Life - Read by Andrew Werner

Were You There?
Were you there when they read it?
When the names were given out?
Did your tears well up and start to flow?
In your mind a silent shout.
Were you there when they read it?
A list so long and sad
The death of all our sisters
because of clothes they clad.
Were you there when they read it?
Could you feel their presence near?
Did your body shake from anger?
Or was it more from fear?
Were you there when they read it?
Each year the list it grows
Some just had descriptions
Unknown man in women's clothes.
Were you there when they read it?
Did you take the time to pray?
Or were you just to busy
on that particular day?
Were you there when they read it?
Maybe next year you will be
and the names they shall read out
could be you, or could be me.

We remember the loss of our Transgendered brothers and sisters who have died, and we also celebrate their memory.