

Memorial Service



Kehilat Chaverim

THE CYCLE OF LIFE

THE LIGHT OF LIFE

The light of life is a finite flame. Like a candle, life is kindled; it burns, it glows, it is radiant with warmth and beauty. But soon it fades; its substance is consumed, and it is no more.

In light we see; in light we are seen. The flames dance and our lives are full.

But as night follows day, the candle of our life burns down and sputters. There is an end to the flames. We see no more and are no more seen.

Yet we do not despair, for we are more than a memory slowly fading into the darkness. With our lives we give life. Something for us can never die: we move in the eternal cycle of darkness and death, of light and life.

LIFE IS A JOURNEY

Birth is a beginning
And death a destination
And life is a journey:

*From childhood to maturity
And youth to age:
From innocence to awareness
And ignorance to knowing;
From foolishness to discretion
And then, perhaps, to wisdom.*

From weakness to strength
Or strength to weakness –
And often back again:
From health to sickness
And back, we pray, to health again;
From offense to forgiveness,
From loneliness to love.

*Birth is a beginning
And death a destination
And life is a journey
A sacred pilgrimage –
To life everlasting*

OUR CONNECTION TO OTHERS

WE DEPEND ON EACH OTHER

Strange is our situation here upon earth. Each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet sometimes seeming to divine a purpose. From the standpoint of daily life, however, there is one thing that we do know: that we are here for the sake of each other, above all; for those upon whose smile and well-being our own happiness depends, and also for the countless unknown souls with whose fate we are connected by a bond of sympathy. Many times a day I realize how much my own outer and inner life is built upon the labors of others, both living and dead, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received and am still receiving.

Albert Einstein (adapted)

OUR FAMILY HERITAGE

We recognize our connection to those who came before us. We see the obvious physical resemblances which are the shared genetic blueprint of our past. It is our hope to inherit from our forebears all the best qualities of humanity: sweetness, simplicity, zest for living, love of learning, commitment to hard work and family, longevity, compassion, empathy, wisdom and humor.

May our recollections of our departed family members be warm and dear to us. May we pass on to our children the stories of those they did not know so that their family folklore is rich and so that they will feel a part of those incredibly strong connections between the past, the present, and the future; the very essence of FAMILY. May the remembering bring us warmth and peace. Amen.

Marsha Levinson Mason
(from Peri's Bat Mitzvah Service)

“Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.”
Proverbs 31:31



WE REMEMBER THEM

At the rising of the sun and at its going down,
We remember them.

*At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
We remember them.*

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring,
We remember them.

*At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer,
We remember them.*

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
We remember them.

*At the beginning of the year and when it ends,
We remember them.*

As long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us,
As we remember them.

*When we are lost and sick at heart,
We remember them.*

When we have made decisions that are difficult to make,
We remember them.

*When we have achievements that are based on theirs,
We remember them.*

When we have joy we crave to share,
We remember them.

*As long as we live, they too will live,
For they are now part of us,
As we remember them.*

THE KADDISH

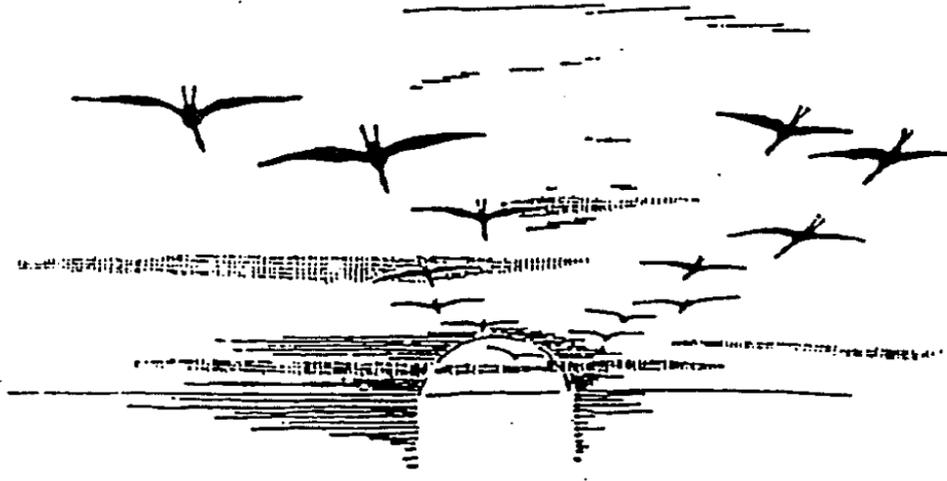
ON THE MOURNER'S KADDISH

The Kaddish was not originally intended as a prayer for mourners. Although it is popularly known as the mourner's prayer, the Kaddish does not include a syllable about death or immortality. And yet, the Kaddish makes several vital affirmations which relate directly to the mourner.

The first of these is reflected in the name of the prayer. Kaddish means "sanctification". From beginning to end, the Kaddish sanctifies the essence of God. Despite our loss, we praise God. The Kaddish thus helps to restore our perspective. In the Midst of grief, we maintain a sense of gratitude. Death cannot erase the years of shared experience and adventure; memory remains our eternal possession.

The Kaddish proclaims further that this is a world "created according to God's will." Though sorrow may temporarily dull our vision or threaten to rob life of meaning, we affirm that there is a plan and a purpose to life. Moreover, sorrow can help us to become more sympathetic to the hurt of others, more compassionate toward the afflicted, more sensitive to life's spiritual values – realities which never die.

The Kaddish offers the reassurance that the mourner can find inner peace and serenity, and challenges us to work for the fashioning of a better world. Reciting the Kaddish is a link with the past; but the Kaddish itself looks forward. It sounds a call to action on behalf of the world for whose advent we pray.



Please rise, to recite the Kaddish:

*Yit-ga-dal ve-yit-ka-dash she-mei ra-ba.
Be-al-ma di-ve-ra chi-re-u-tei,
ve-yam-lich mal-chu-tei
be-cha-yei-chon u-ve-yo-mei-chon
u-ve-cha-ye de-chol beit Yis-ra-eil.
Ba-a-ga-la u-vi-ze-man ka-riv ve-i-me-ru:
a-mein.*

יִתְגַּדֵּל וְיִתְקַדֵּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא.
בְּעֲלָמָא דִּי בְּרָא כְרַעוּתֵיהּ, וְיִמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתֵיהּ
בְּחַיִּיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל.
בְּעֲגָלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

*Ye-hei she-mei ra-ba me-va-rach le-a-lam
u-le-al-mei al-ma-ya:*

יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלָם וּלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמַיָּא:

*Yit-ba-rach ve-yish-ta-bach ve-yit-pa-ar
ve-yit-ro-mam ve-yit-na-sei,
ve-yit-ha-dar ve-yit-a-leh ve-hit-ha-lal
she-mei de-ku-de-sha, be-rich hu,
le-ei-la min kol bi-re-cha-ta ve-shi-ra-ta,
tush-be-cha-ta ve-ne-che-ma-ta,
da-a-mi-ran be-al-ma, ve-i-me-ru: a-mein.*

יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרוֹמֵם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא
וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ דְקַדְשָׁא בְרִיךְ הוּא
לְעֵלְא מִן כָּל בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא תְּשַׁבַּחְתָּא וְנַחֲמַתָּא,
דְּאִמְרִין בְּעֲלָמָא וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

Together: Look around us, search above us, below, behind.
We stand in a great web of being joined together.
Let us praise, let us love the life we are lent
passing through us in the body of Israel
and our own bodies, let us say: Amen.

Time flows through us like water
The past and the dead speak through us.
Blessed is the earth from which we grow,
Blessed the life we are lent,
blessed is the spirit that shines through us and remains to shine
flowing past distant suns on the way to forever.
Let us say: Amen.

Blessed is the light, blessed is the darkness,
but blessed above all else is peace
which bears the fruits of knowledge
on strong branches, let us say: Amen.

Peace that bears joy into the world,
peace that enables love, peace of Israel
everywhere, blessed and holy is peace, and let us say: Amen.

Marge Piercy (adapted)

CLOSING PRAYERS

THE 23RD PSALM

Together:

The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need,
She makes me lie down in green meadows,
Beside the still waters, She will lead.

She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,
She leads me in a path of good things,
And fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land,
There is nothing that can shake me,
She has said she won't forsake me,
I am in her hand.

Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me,
All the days of my life,
And I will live in her house,
Forever, forever and ever. Amen.

interpreted by Bobby McFerrin

Please sing together:

*O-seh sha-lom bim-ro-mav
Hu ya-a-seh sha-lom a-lei-nu
V'-al kol Yis-ra-eil, v'-im-ru a-mein*

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו,
הוּא יַעֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ
וְעַל כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.

May the peace that reigns in the high heavens
descend on us, on all Israel, and on all the world.

Amen