

Amidah for Peace, Justice & Immigration



By Rabbi Elliott Tepperman

THIS ALTERNATIVE AMIDAH WAS USED DURING MINCHAH (AFTERNOON) PRAYERS BY MEMBERS OF THE RECONSTRUCTIONIST RABBINIC ASSOCIATION OUTSIDE OF AN IMMIGRATION PROCESSING CENTER IN ORDER TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE PLIGHT OF IMMIGRANTS AND UNDERScore THE IMPORTANCE OF THE JEWISH OBLIGATION TO WELCOME THE STRANGER. IT FOLLOWS THE THEMATIC STRUCTURE OF THE AMIDAH RECITED ON WEEKDAYS IS MEANT TO BE DONE AS A CALL AND RESPONSE.

Avot (Ancestors)

God of our ancestors. God of immigrants. God of refugees. We are border crossers. We tie our fate with You who cannot be contained by customs offices. You who requires no passport.

Gevurot (Divine Strength)

You are the power that nurtures, You support the fallen, You free the captive, You give faith to those who sleep in the dust.

Kedushah (Holiness)

We call out to each other, We turn in every direction, Your holy image is the face of every human.

Binah (Understanding)

Help us to act with understanding.

Teshuvah (Repentance)

Return us again and again to your service.

Selikhah (Forgiveness)

Forgive us for retreating to our own comfort, Forgive us for not taking responsibility, Forgive us for letting little fears Stop us from helping with compassion.

Ge'ulah (Redemption)

Release us from captivity, Release us from persecution, Release us from misfortune, Help us to heal when rational arguments are insufficient.

Refuah (Healing)

Heal the suffering that causes people to flee their homes.

Birkat Ha-shanim (Blessing of the Years)

All Bountiful one let every person live with abundance.

Kibutz Galuyot (Gathering of the Exile)

Blast the great shofar for freedom Gather in all those in exile!

Din (Justice)

Restore justice with love and compassion.

Birkat Haminim (Eradicating Wickedness)

Let all wickedness be lost.

Tzadikim (Righteous Ones)

Protect all the righteous people fleeing war and fleeing poverty. Be with those seeking safety and seeking security.

Binyan Yerushalayim (Building of Jerusalem)

Build everlasting peace in Jerusalem.

Yeshu'ah (Salvation)

Plant your help in every land.

Kabbalat Tefillah (Receiving of Prayers)

Hear our voice! Hear the voice of refugees! Hear the voice of immigrants. Help us hear your voice!

Avodah (Labor)

Take pleasure YHVH in our work Lovingly accept our prayer.

Hoda'ah (Gratitude)

Modim anakhnu lach. We give thanks to you.

Birkat Shalom (Blessing of Peace)

Sing Oseh Shalom