



5th Annual
**REFUGEE
SHABBAT**
a project of **HIAS**

Refugee Shabbat 2023 Liturgical Reading

Read the following aloud before you recite Kiddush (blessing over the Shabbat wine):

Ozi – my strength. Ozi v'zimrat yah' – God is my strength and my song.

Standing on the far shore of the Sea of Reeds, our ancestors sang in honor of their own aching muscles, sore from slogging through the mud of the sea floor, and they sang in honor of the miracle of their freedom. *Ozi v'zimrat yah vayehi lishua – my strength and God's song rescued me.*

Every time Jews have fled from persecution and oppression -- from the Inquisition, from the Tsars, from Ethiopia, from Hitler and beyond -- it has taken our own labor and effort, our own aching muscles and bleeding fingers, and it has taken miracles.

Not every miracle is as visible or dramatic as the parting of the sea. Sometimes, a miracle is an extra space found in a caravan or on a ship, a kind neighbor sharing food or hiding children, paperwork lost or paperwork found. Sometimes, a miracle is being welcomed in by strangers who become friends.

As we lift our cups for the kiddush blessing, as we remember the effort and the miracle that brought us out of Egypt, we commit ourselves this year to being the miracles for the newcomers in our midst. To offering the support and welcome once extended to our ancestors to those most in need of it today. To lifting their burdens, easing their efforts, and being for them a song of God.