

Refugee Shabbat 2024

Reflective Reading



For Parshat Yitro, 5784/2024

We are commanded not to worship idols, not to put anything before God.

Not the golden calf of easy answers, and not the hewn pillars of our own self-righteousness.

The idols that can pull us away from our truest selves are fears and fantasies, worst-case scenarios and delusions of grandeur.

These idols have the power to inhibit our ability to imagine different and better futures, to open our hearts to other people, to trust in our own strength and the strengths of our communities.

This idolatry is the most tempting when we are sad, scared, and angry — or when the world feels overwhelming, and we want to give in to despair. It is at those moments that our practices of rest and reflection, gratitude and generosity, justice and joy, can remind us of who we truly are and reground us in the work we are here to do.

On this Refugee Shabbat, we commit to setting aside our idols.

On this Refugee Shabbat, we commit to creating a world of justice.

On this Refugee Shabbat, we commit to creating a world of compassion.

On this Refugee Shabbat, we commit to creating a world of welcome.