

Bringing Light to the Darkness

From Jewish Reconstructionist Communities and Ritualwell.org - Hanukkah 5776

Hanukkah falls at the darkest time of the year. Light wanes and each day is darker than the one that came before. This year, as Hanukkah approaches we have also been inundated with horrific news from around the globe. Stories of hatred and despair—both at home and abroad—remind us of the immense work that remains to create a world where we can all live in peace.

This year, as we light the Hanukkah candles, let us transform this darkness into light.

Ritualwell our website for innovative ritual, has created these new blessings to be recited throughout the nights of Hanukkah. With each new candle may we be reminded of the corners of our universe calling out for this light, so that we may send this light to the people and places so in need of illumination.

Try one of these new blessings in addition to or instead of the traditional candle lighting blessings. Recite a different prayer each night, or focus on one specific blessing throughout the holiday. We hope these prayers allow you to name the darkness that clouds our vision, and will remind all of us of the divine spark that dwells within. This Hanukkah season, let's rededicate ourselves to do our part to increase this light throughout the world.

1
Bringing light to the darkness
of the global refugee crisis.

Blessed are You,
SOURCE OF REFUGE,
who shelters us under your wings
and who teaches us the value of
welcoming the stranger.

2
Bringing light to the darkness
of the indignity of the wage crisis.

Blessed are You,
PROVIDER,
who calls us to provide a living
wage so that every person has
the opportunity to support
themselves and their family.

3
Bringing light to the darkness
of our climate crisis.

Blessed are You,
LIFE OF ALL THE WORLDS,
who turns us away from
destructive habits and who
teaches us to preserve our earth
for future generations.

4
Bringing light to the darkness
of racial injustice

Blessed are You,
SUPERNAL ADVOCATE,
who testifies to the tragic state of
race relations in our country and
who calls us to create a nation
where all are judged according to
the content of their character, not
the color of their skin.

5
Bringing light to the darkness
of antisemitism.

Blessed are You,
ROCK OF ISRAEL,
who gives us strength to hold fast
to our beliefs and the courage to
openly celebrate our heritage and
traditions.

6
Bringing light to the darkness
of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Blessed are You,
SHELTER OF PEACE,
who shepherds us to the
path of safety, dignity, and self-
determination for all who dwell in
the holy land.

7
Bringing light to the darkness
of random violence.

Blessed are You,
PILLAR OF STRENGTH,
who mourns with us the loss of
culture and history, strengthens us
to defend the sanctity of human
life, and who compels us to shield
our world from further senseless
violence.

8
Shining our light
throughout the year

Blessed are You,
CREATOR OF LIGHT,
who has placed within us your
divine spark and who inspire us to
pursue justice and seek peace.