A SELECTION OF NEW PRAYERS FOR OUR COUNTRY

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS
Prayer for Our Country

God of holiness, we hear Your message: Justice, justice you shall pursue. God of freedom, we hear Your charge: Proclaim liberty throughout the land. Inspire us through Your teachings and commandments to love and uphold our precious democracy. Let every citizen take responsibility for the rights and freedoms we cherish. Let each of us be an advocate for justice, an activist for liberty, a defender of dignity. And let us champion the values that make our nation a haven for the persecuted, a beacon of hope among the nations.

May our actions reflect compassion for all people, within our borders and abroad. May our leaders and officials embody the vision of our founders: to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.

We pray for courage and conscience as we aim to support our country’s highest values and aspirations: the hard-won rights that define us as a people, the responsibilities that they entail.

We pray for all who serve our country with selfless devotion—in peace and in war, from fields of battle to clinics and classrooms, from government to the grassroots: all those whose noble deeds and sacrifice benefit our nation and our world.

We are grateful for the rights of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness that our founders ascribed to You, our Creator. We pray for their wisdom and moral strength, that we may be guardians of these rights for ourselves and for the sake of all people, now and forever.

Rabbis Janet and Sheldon Marder

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Prayer for Our Country

God, who watches over all creation,
give wisdom to those who are leaders among us;
Inspire with creativity those who legislate;
Provide compassion to those who make decisions affecting our lives;
Educate them in the ways of justice that are the vision of the Hebrew prophets;
May they never be far from mercy and understanding, fairness and equity.
We ask for cooperation between people of different races and religions,
And understanding between those who are gay and those who are straight;
Restore love to our families who are separated for whatever reason.
May we have the courage to speak out against bigotry at all times,
Against hatred that is racial, religious, or sexual;
May the young profit from the experience of their elders,
And also share with them the idealism of their youth;
May we all work towards a common goal—the improvement of humanity.
God, who created our beautiful and beloved country, preserve its beauty;
Protect your creations from selfishness, abuse, and destruction;
Provide wisdom to all who dwell here, and teach us to be strong;
Give us the ability to work with other nations for a better world,
And maintain our good lives in harmony and in love,
With wise leadership that fosters cooperation rather than war.
Protect us with sukkat sh’lomecha, your shield of peace, and let us say
Amen.

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Prayer for Our Country

Our God and God of our ancestors,
bless this country and all who dwell within it.
Help us to experience the blessings
of our lives and circumstances,
To be vigilant, compassionate, and brave.
Strengthen us when we are afraid,
Help us to channel our anger,
So that it motivates us to action.
Help us to be humble in our fear,
knowing that as vulnerable as we feel,
that it is our holy work to stand with them.
Help us to taste the sweetness of liberty,
To not take for granted the freedoms won
in generations past or in recent days.
To heal and nourish our democracy,
that it may be like a tree planted by the water
whose roots reach down to the stream;
it need not fear drought when it comes,
its leaves are always green (Jeremiah 17:8).

אלהינו אלהי אבותינו ואבותינו
ברך את ארץנו
ואת כל היושב וחותם בו.
יורדحفظ לכל חוהו כל
על חיות עלי הום הווה.
להיות דרומת, אני זמן, מלאה חמה.
הוקנו והזון ידנו כאש אנן אחוזים בפתד
סיים ידינו הלبث את עסנו לדי מעשא
הוק לכבנה חוהו את מלוא 핸ד שלון
כדי שאל הנומק לאזרישות
סיים לוהי הושפיע נדיבות על אחוז
כדי שאריו זה את זה.
סיים לוהי עוזה בפתד
כדי שעדיף כי גוס שאגנא מרביעים פניעות,
יש אחוזו, הבא曌ות בסיוכו בו אק יות.
וור הובתנו הקדושה להיויה עמנ.
ברכון בטש המופק של הרופה
כדי שמשעלי להאיכי רח ההופה או
כדי בדוהות קדימה בפש זה.

CCAR
Source of all Life,
Guide our leaders with righteousness,
Strengthen their hearts,
but keep them from hardening.
That they may use their influence and authority to
speak truth and act for justice (Isaiah 16:3—5).
May all who dwell in this country
share in its bounty, enjoy its freedoms,
and be protected by its laws.
May this nation use its power and wealth
to be a voice for justice,
peace, and equality for all who dwell on earth.
May we be strong and have courage
To be bold in our action and deep in our compassion,
To discern when we must listen and when we must act,
To uproot bigotry, intolerance, misogyny, racism,
discrimination, and violence in all its forms,
To celebrate the many faces of God reflected
in the wondrous diversity of humanity,
To welcome the stranger and the immigrant
and to honor the gifts of those who seek refuge
and possibility here, as they have since
before this nation was born.
Let justice well up like waters, and righteousness
like a mighty stream (Amos 5:24)

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Hebrew by Rabbi Noa Sattath
A Prayer for Our Country

God bless you, America, the shelter that our ancestors sought when their children were threatened by state-sponsored persecution.

God bless you, America, the beloved home of those who have belonged to this land for unknowable amounts of time, the country of endless migration waves and very short memories.

America, the beautiful, the painful, the powerful.

You have never been everything that we wished you would be, but your shortcomings will not keep us from trying to make you more just, more kind, more true.

On this Shabbat, we pray that you will be blessed with leaders who will strive to serve your people, with voters who will use their power to make your future brighter, with activists who will continue to pursue your ideals, and with citizens whose hearts will be big enough to care for all people—from sea to shining sea.

God bless you, America, and may you bless all those in your embrace.

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A Prayer for Our Country

Every inch of America is sacred, from sea to shining sea.

There is much to be done in our time, the sort of hard work on which God smiles because it is done for the sake of the dignity and well-being of all God’s creatures.

Together, let us work to preserve and make manifest the values upon which our democracy was founded.

The task of all people of faith is to call governing authorities to fulfill God’s purpose of bringing about justice, mercy, and peace.

Individually and as a nation, may we heed our obligations to each other as we navigate the tensions of building a just society.

Rather than a politics of divisiveness, may we move our country toward a politics of empathy.

May we use our power well so we do great things for all God’s creatures, all those made in God’s image who yearn for an equal place at America’s table.

If we do all this, may grace and peace be ours in abundance. May we be a beacon and a blessing to the world.

© Compiled and adapted by Rabbi Dr. Andrea Weiss from American Values, Religious Voices: 100 Days, 100 Letters.

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