

Barukh Haba

בָּרוּךְ הַבָּא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה, בְּרַכְנוּכֶם מִבֵּית יְהוָה.
אֵל יְהוָה וַיֵּאָר לָנוּ.
אָסְרוּ חַג בְּעֵבְתַיִם עַד קַרְנוֹת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ.
אֵלֵי אַתָּה וְאוֹדֶךָ אֱלֹהֵי אֲרוֹמָמְךָ.
הוֹדוּ לִי כִי טוֹב, כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדוֹ*.

Ba-rukhh ha-ba b'sheim a-do-nai, bei-rakh-nu-khem mi-beit a-do-nai.

Eil a-do-nai va-ya-eir la-nu.

Is-ru khag ba-a-vo-tim ad kar-not ha-miz-bei-akh.

Ei-li a-ta v'o-de-ka e-lo-hai a-ro-m'me-ka.

Ho-do l-do-nai ki tov, ki l'o-lam khas-do.

Blessed is the one who comes with the name of Adonai. We bless you from the house of Adonai. Adonai is God Who has given us light. Bind the festival offering with cords up to the corners of the altar. You are my Almighty and I will thank You, my God I will exalt You. Give thanks to God for goodness, for God's kindness is infinite.

D'rash

Blessed with the name of Adonai is the one who comes—*It is the Creator who has bestowed the fullness of blessing on all that comes to life. Yet it is for us who are blessed to form the holy community that will enable the full realization of that blessing in ourselves, and to show lovingkindness to others so that they may join us in that fullness.* **We bless you from the house of Adonai**—*We are the builders of the house of Adonai, because we have been blessed by God with the tools; but it is our will and energy that draw the materials together to create the sanctuary for our service to God. We are bidden to build it at home, at work, at play, going back and forth, in the light and dark.* **Adonai is God who has given us light**—*The light shines upon us, with its myriad blessings and paths, but it is we who must open our own hearts to it and then create the openings for others, so that together we may see the light of Torah and mitzvot.* **Bind the festival offering with cords up to the corners of the altar**—*When we join together with our people around the sacred place where we are to make our offering of prayers, we come not asking for blessings but pledging to be a blessing—certain in our conviction and commitments, having them “bound up with cords,” before we come to declare them in the sanctuary.* **You are my Almighty and I will thank You, my God I will exalt You**—*I am able to sustain my conviction and commitments because I recognize that your Divine Intelligence is masterminding not only the infinity of creation but the moment to moment circumstances of my life.* **Give thanks to God for goodness, for God's kindness is infinite**—*That you allow the redemption of myself, my people, and all of humankind, despite our failings and foibles, is kindness beyond measure.*

Iyun Tefilla

A WALK IN THE DARK

When the last
Lamppost
Is far behind,
And there is no path,
Give me Your Name
To keep me
In the ways of blessing.
Better yet,
Give me
The dark
To kindle

Into blessing!
Give me Your light
With which to penetrate
The night
And reach
Beyond the furthest lamp,
Beyond the furthest dark.

* Psalm 118:26-29.

Go to <http://www.gatherthepeople.org> for more congregational development and organizing tools.

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