

GATHER THE PEOPLE

Community and Faith-Based Organizing and Development Resources

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TRUE AND CERTAIN

אֱמֶת וַיִּצִיב וְנִכְוֹן וְקִים וַיִּשָּׂר וְנֶאֱמַן
וְאֶהוּב וְחֻבֵּיב וְנֶחֱמָד וְנֶעִים וְנוֹרָא וְאֲדִיר
וּמְתֻקָּן וּמְקַבֵּל וְטוֹב וַיִּפֶּה הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה
וְעֲלִינוּ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד [לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד]

True and certain, established and enduring, upright and faithful,
beloved and cherished, delightful and pleasant, awesome and powerful,
correct and accepted, good and beautiful is this [affirmation]
to us forever and ever.

True and certain—*That which came before this—our declaration that You are One, that we must repeat and teach Your Torah, and that we shall be lost if we fail to do Your will—is beyond question or doubt: we know the truth of it with utter certainty.* **Established and enduring**—*Though we are plagued with doubts and questions about ourselves and our lives, fearful of the fragility of our existence, we are confident that You are the Eternal One, that You were present for those who came before us, and that You shall remain for all who come after us.* **Upright and faithful**—*When we emulate You, living in Your image by honoring Your Torah, we and all those who learn from us are raised up and made faithful to You.* **Beloved and cherished**—*You are our Beloved, in whom we live, and we cherish You when, by our deeds, we invite Your presence into our world.* **Awesome and mighty**—*We are compelled by Your creation and its laws, the continuity of our lives and communities bound to our recognition of Your power and dominion.* **Correct and accepted**—*We are grateful that You have revealed in Your Torah the order of Your Creation, the blessings and commandments we need to fulfill our covenant with you.* **Good and beautiful is this [affirmation] to us for all eternity**—*We declare, to ourselves and to the world beyond us, that only goodness and beauty will ever follow from affirming Your Oneness, learning and teaching Your Torah, and doing Your will.*