

# Our Shabbos Now Has Ended

Our Shabbos now has ended  
With its day of peace and prayer,  
We have read the Torah portion  
And seen the future there  
We have found our second souls  
And kindred spirits in our midst,  
So renewed in faith and vision  
We face the week ahead  
Sh'vua tov,  
Sweet savor of Shabbat  
We hold so close,  
Shabbat Shalom

## D'rash

**Our Shabbos now has ended**—*The 25 hours of reflection, recreation, and regeneration have ceased, but once again we embark on the extended Shabbat, the days which follow and lead up to those 25 hours, in which we seek to make the Shekhina ever more present in the world.* **With its day of peace and prayer**—*We have not ceased doing, but instead have taken the break from mundane pressures and demands as an opportunity to be our whole selves, to realize—literally hold in our mind's eye—our full potential in family, community, and sacred purposes.* **We have read the Torah portion and seen the future there**—*We have abandoned the desperate fear of losing control, which is the source of our obsession with self-determination, in recognition that our personal preferences lead neither to our own fulfillment nor to that of our children or their children.* **We have found our second souls and kindred spirits in our midst**—*Looking not within ourselves for God's voice, since we are not like animals who do what is good for themselves as a matter of instinct, we turn our eyes and hearts heavenward, certain that the source of fulfillment is communal dedication to the vision and path of Torah.* **So renewed in faith and vision, we face the week ahead**—*The rediscovery of our additional soul has, once again, empowered us to move forward as individuals and members of a kahal poalei tzedek, despite our reason and experience, which would otherwise demoralize and immobilize us.* **Sh'vua tov, sweet savor of Shabbat we hold so close, Shabbat Shalom**—*We are confident that to the degree we make Shabbat, it shall nourish and sustain our spirits in the week ahead, energizing us day-to-day l'sheim yikhud, for the sake of the unification of the Holy One.*

## Iyun Tefilla

### SECOND SOUL

Captive  
Self,  
Lonely-bird-  
In-a-cage  
Soul,  
Was that you  
I heard  
Singing  
In the dark?  
Were you  
Hoping  
All the time

That I  
Would come?  
While I  
Was waiting  
All that time  
For you?  
And then  
The Shabbos  
Moment came  
When I had  
Had enough!  
Enough of work.  
Enough of waiting.  
You wouldn't  
Come for me—  
I'd come  
For you!  
And so  
I rearranged  
My weekday self  
To harmonize  
Your singing soul,  
And looked  
Into the Torah.  
There you were!  
Standing  
In the future  
Of my people!

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

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