

A liturgy to mark Britain's exit from the European Union, 31 January 2020

ליטורגיה כדי לסמן את פריש
הממלכה המאוחדת מהאיחוד האירופי
ו' בשבט תש"פ

*Une liturgie marquant la sortie
de la Grande-Bretagne de l'Union européenne
le 31 janvier 2020*

*Una liturgia para marcar la salida
de Gran Bretaña de la Unión Europea
31 de enero de 2020*

*Eine Liturgie anlässlich des
Austritts Großbritanniens aus
der Europäischen Union
31 Januar 2020*

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; where shall I
find my help?

My help is from God alone,
Maker of heaven and earth.

God will not allow your foot to slip, for your
Guardian does not slumber.

Know that the Guardian of Israel never
slumbers and never sleeps.

God is your Guardian, God is your shade at
your right hand.

The sun will not strike you by day nor the
moon by night.

God will guard you from all evil, guarding
your soul.

God will guard **your coming in and your
going out** now and for evermore.

אֲשָׂא עֵינַי אֶל הַהָרִים מֵאֵין יְבֵא
עֲזָרִי:

עֲזָרִי מֵעַם יי עֲשָׂה שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ:

אֶל יִתֵּן לְמוֹט רַגְלֶךָ אֶל יְנוּם
שֹׁמְרֶךָ:

הֲנֵה לֹא יְנוּם וְלֹא יִישָׁן שׁוֹמֵר
יִשְׂרָאֵל:

יי שֹׁמְרֶךָ יִקְוֶךָ צִלְּךָ עַל יַד יְמִינֶךָ:

יוֹמָם הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לֹא יִכָּבֵה וַיְרֵחַ
בַּלַּיְלָה:

יי יִשְׁמְרֶךָ מִכָּל רָע יִשְׁמֹר אֶת
נַפְשֶׁךָ:

יי יִשְׁמֹר בּוֹאֶךָ וְצֵאתְךָ מֵעַתָּה וְעַד
עוֹלָם:

Essa einai el he-harim, mei'ayin yavo ezri.

Ezri mei'im Adonai, oseih shamayim va'arets.

Al yittein lammot raglecha, al yanum shom'recha.

Hineih lo yanum v'lo yishan shomeir Yisra'el.

Adonai shom'recha, Adonai tsill'cha al yad y'minecha.

Yomam ha-shemesh lo yakkekkah, v'yarei'ach ba-lailah.

Adonai yishmorcha mikkol ra, yishmor et nafshecha.

*Adonai yishmor **bo'echa v'tseit'cha**, mei'attah v'ad olam.*

Leader

Behind every certainty there stands a concealment, behind every new clarity a new mystery is revealed. All the certainties, all the concealments, and the searching spirit itself that travelled out into them, are all embraced by something unfathomable, by the miracle of all the miracles. Behind all of them, above all of them, and beneath all of them is the great mystery which is beyond space and time, which exists through itself and which exists through everything that is. No mind has fathomed it or will be able to fathom it. But reverence, that reverence without which love does not live and faithfulness does not endure, may approach it. And it hears the voice out of the mystery: "I AM THAT I AM, thy God."

Read responsively

Eternal God, God of Righteousness, God of Care:

Today, on this day of democracy, we do Your work.

As it is said, “After the majority we must incline,”

So now the decision of the people is enacted.

All who voted Remain, all who spoiled ballots, all who didn't vote:

This evening, we sing our song and go our way.

Grant blessing to Your servants

Who convert the nation's instruction into reality.

Give peace to those who fought bitter battles to reach this moment,

And help us to heal our fractured society.

The coming days and weeks will be unsettling for many:

Support them in their moment of turmoil.

To those whose jobs are in jeopardy,

And to those whose basic needs are at risk.

To those who counted the votes, who campaigned, litigated, and judged,

And to those for whom tonight is Independence Night,

To those whose families are scattered,

Offer strength and solace to them all.

Just moments from now, we will count down to a new era.

Watch over us, God, as we enter uncertain times.

Reader

All the elders of Israel assembled and came to Samuel at Ramah, and they said to him, “You have grown old, and your sons have not followed your ways. Therefore appoint a king for us, to govern us like all other nations.”

Samuel was displeased that they said “Give us a king to govern us.” Samuel prayed to the Eternal One,

and the Eternal One replied to Samuel, “Heed the demand of the people in everything they say to you. For it is not you that they have rejected; it is Me they have rejected as their king.

“Like everything else they have done ever since I brought them out of Egypt to this day – forsaking Me and worshipping

וַיִּתְקַבְּצוּ כָּל זִקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל שְׁמוּאֵל הַרְמַתָּה:

וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו הֲנֵה אַתָּה זָקֵן וּבָנֶיךָ לֹא הָלְכוּ בְּדַרְכֶיךָ עֲתָה שִׂימָה לָנוּ מֶלֶךְ לְשִׁפְטֵנוּ כְּכָל הַגּוֹיִם:

וַיִּרַע הַדָּבָר בְּעֵינֵי שְׁמוּאֵל כַּאֲשֶׁר אָמְרוּ תְּנֶה לָנוּ מֶלֶךְ לְשִׁפְטֵנוּ וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל שְׁמוּאֵל אֶל יְהוָה:

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל שְׁמוּאֵל שְׁמַע בְּקוֹל הָעָם לְכָל אֲשֶׁר יֹאמְרוּ אֵלֶיךָ כִּי לֹא אֲתָךְ מֵאֲסוּ כִּי אֲתִי מֵאֲסוּ מִמֶּלֶךְ עָלֵיהֶם:

כְּכָל הַמַּעֲשִׂים אֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ מִיּוֹם הֵעֵלֵתִי אֶתְּם מִמִּצְרַיִם וְעַד הַיּוֹם

other gods – so they are doing to you.
“Heed their demand; but warn them solemnly, and tell them about the practices of any king who will rule over them.”

Samuel reported all the words of God to the people, who were asking him for a king.

He said, “This will be the practice of the king who will rule over you: he will take your sons and appoint them as his charioteers and horsemen, and they will serve as outrunners for his chariots.

“He will appoint them as his chiefs of thousands and of fifties; or they will have to plow his fields, reap his harvest, and make his weapons and the equipment for his chariots.

“He will take your daughters as perfumers, cooks, and bakers.

“He will seize your choice fields, vineyards, and olive groves, and give them to his courtiers.

“He will take a tenth part of your grain and vintage and give it to his eunuchs and courtiers.

“He will take your male and female slaves, your choice young men, and your asses, and put them to work for him.

“He will take a tenth part of your flocks, and you shall become his slaves.

“The day will come when you cry out because of the king whom you yourselves have chosen; and the Eternal will not answer you on that day.”

But the people would not listen to Samuel’s warning. “No,” they said. “We must have a king over us,

“that we may be like all the other nations: Let our king rule over us and go out at our head and fight our battles.”

When Samuel heard all that the people said, he reported it to God.

And God said to Samuel, “Heed their demands and appoint a king for them.”

הַזֶּה וַיַּעֲזֹבֵנִי וַיַּעֲבֹדוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים
בֵּן הַמָּדָה עֹשִׂים גַּם לָךְ:

וַעֲתָה שָׁמַע בְּקוֹלָם אַךְ כִּי הָעֵד תְּעִיד
בָּהֶם וְהִגַּדְתָּ לָהֶם מִשְׁפַּט הַמֶּלֶךְ
אֲשֶׁר יִמְלֹךְ עֲלֵיהֶם: ס

וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל אֵת כָּל דְּבָרֵי יְהוָה
אֶל הָעָם הַשְּׂאֵלִים מֵאֵתוֹ מֶלֶךְ:

וַיֹּאמֶר זֶה יְהִיָּה מִשְׁפַּט הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר
יִמְלֹךְ עֲלֵיכֶם אֵת בְּנֵיכֶם יִקַּח וְשָׂם
לוֹ בְּמִרְכָּבָתוֹ וּבִפְרָשָׁיו וְרָצוּ לִפְנֵי
מִרְכָּבָתוֹ:

וְלִשְׂוֹם לוֹ שָׂרֵי אֲלָפִים וְשָׂרֵי חֲמֻשִׁים
וְלַחֲרָשׁ חָרִישׁוֹ וְלַקָּצֵר קָצִירוֹ
וְלַעֲשׂוֹת כְּלֵי מִלְחָמָתוֹ וְכְלֵי רֶכֶב:

וְאֵת בְּנוֹתֵיכֶם יִקַּח לְרִקְחוֹת
וְלִטְבָּחוֹת וְלֵאֲפוֹת:

וְאֵת שְׂדוֹתֵיכֶם וְאֵת כְּרָמֵיכֶם
וְזֵיתֵיכֶם הַטּוֹבִים יִקַּח וְנָתַן לַעֲבָדָיו:

וְזָרְעֵיכֶם וְכְרָמֵיכֶם יַעֲשֶׂר וְנָתַן
לְסָרִיסָיו וְלַעֲבָדָיו:

וְאֵת עַבְדֵיכֶם וְאֵת שְׂפָחוֹתֵיכֶם וְאֵת
בְּחֹרִיקֵיכֶם הַטּוֹבִים וְאֵת חֲמוּרֵיכֶם
יִקַּח וַעֲשֶׂה לְמִלְאכָתוֹ:

צֹאנֵיכֶם יַעֲשֶׂר וְאֵתֶם תִּהְיוּ לוֹ
לַעֲבָדִים:

וְזָעַקְתֶּם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא מִלִּפְנֵי מִלְּכֶם
אֲשֶׁר בַּחֲרַתֶּם לָכֶם וְלֹא יַעֲנֶה יְהוָה
אֶתְכֶם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא:

וַיִּמָּאֲנוּ הָעָם לִשְׁמֹעַ בְּקוֹל שְׁמוּאֵל
וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא כִּי אִם מֶלֶךְ יְהִיָּה
עֲלֵינוּ:

וְהֵייוּ גַם אֲנַחְנוּ כְּכֹל הַגּוֹיִם וְשִׁפְטֵנוּ
מִלִּפְנֵי וַיִּצָּא לִפְנֵינוּ וְנִלְחַם אֵת
מִלְחָמָתָנוּ:

וַיִּשְׁמַע שְׁמוּאֵל אֵת כָּל דְּבָרֵי הָעָם
וַיְדַבֵּר בְּאָזְנֵי יְהוָה:

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל שְׁמוּאֵל שָׁמַע
בְּקוֹלָם וְהִמְלַכְתָּ לָהֶם מֶלֶךְ:

Leader

O God of truth, make us honest in the quest for truth, even when it goes against our favourite prejudices. Make us brave in speaking it, even when it goes against the fashion of the day. But teach us also to respect the right of others to seek the truth in their way, and to come to different conclusions. For they may be right and we may be wrong. Or we may both be partly right and partly wrong. And when we disagree, may we disagree charitably, in mutual respect and love. Let our controversies be like those of Hillel and Shammai: for Your sake. Let them be motivated only by the desire that Your will may be understood, and Your purpose advanced.

And let us say: Amen.

Sung

How good and how pleasant it is for
humankind to live together in unity.

הִנֵּה מַה־טוֹב וּמַה־נְּעִים שָׁבֶת
אֲחִים גַּם־יַחַד:

*Hinei mah tov u-mah na'im
shevet achim gam yachad.*

Reader

Long before the sun cast a shadow
Before the Word was spoken
That brought the heavens
And the earth
Into Being
A flame emerged
From a single
Unseen
Point
And from the center of this flame
Sparks of light sprang forth
Concealed in shells
That set sail everywhere
Above
And below
Like a fleet of ships
Each carrying its cargo
Of light.

Somehow
No one knows why
The frail vessels broke open
Split asunder
And all the sparks were scattered
Like sand
Like seeds
Like stars.

That is why we were created –
To search for the sparks
No matter where they have been
Hidden
And as each one is revealed
To be consumed
In our own fire
And reborn
Out of our own
Ashes.

Someday
When the sparks have been gathered
The vessels will be
Restored
And the fleet will set sail
Across another ocean
Of space
And the Word
Will be spoken
Again.

As 11pm draws close

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of
the universe, that you have kept us alive,
sustained us and enabled us to reach this
season.

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך
העולם. שְׁהַחַיְנו וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעַנו
לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה:

*Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam,
shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higgi'anu la-z'man ha-zeh.*

A MOMENT OF SILENCE AT THE MOMENT OF TRANSITION



All

Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

בְּרוּכוֹת אַתָּן בְּעִיר וּבְרוּכוֹת אַתָּן
בְּשָׂדֶה:

בְּרוּכִים אַתֶּם בְּבֹאֲכֶם וּבְרוּכִים
אַתֶּם בְּצֵאתְכֶם:

*B'ruchot aten ba-ir, uv-ruchot aten ba-sadeh.
B'ruchim atem b-vo-achem, uv-ruchim atem b-tzei-t'chem.*

NOTES

This liturgy was compiled by Student Rabbi Gabriel Kanter-Webber.

It is intended to be used in a ceremony beginning at around 10:30pm on **יום ברקסיט**, continuing until shortly before 11pm – the actual time of our departure from the European Union – pausing for a moment's silence, and then concluding with one final blessing.

Material was drawn from the following sources:

- 2 ***I lift up my eyes...*** Psalm 121, slightly amended to bring language around entry before language around exit. Translation and transliteration borrowed from *Forms of Prayer*.
Behind every certainty... Rabbi Leo Baeck, quoted in *High & Holy Days*.
- 3 ***Eternal God, God of Righteousness...*** Original.
All the elders of Israel... 1 Samuel 8:4-22a.
- 5 ***O God of truth...*** Rabbi John D Rayner, from *Siddur Lev Chadash*.
How good... Psalm 133:1.
Long before the sun... Howard Schwartz, quoted in *High & Holy Days*.
- 6 ***We praise You...*** Traditional.
- 7 ***Image*** Donato Fiorentino.
Blessed shall you be... *Siddur Shirah Chadashah*, based on Deuteronomy 28:3, 6.



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