

And You Shall Be A Blessing

An Installation Service

Adapted by Helene H. Waranch from a service written by Andrea Pactor

Reader: From the beginning when God blessed Adam and Eve,
God has offered blessings as a sign of honoring the covenant.
Blessings remind us not to take ourselves and our world for granted.
We bless the food we eat and the rainbows we see.
There are blessings for children, journeys and moments of joy as well as
of sadness.

All: How can the *Baruch Atah Adonai* formula that we recite by rote
so effortlessly make a difference in our lives?

Reader: A blessing is a pause, a rest in a music score, a time for reflection.
It is a moment of connectedness to God.
Judaism teaches us that blessings happen regularly in our daily lives,
that blessings form the spiritual connection to God
and that blessings sanctify the ordinary.
Tonight is a sacred moment-- a time of blessing.
a time to acknowledge the holiness of our work,
a time to recognize the many blessings we give and receive
as Women of Reform Judaism.

All: *Baruch Atah Adonai...*
Blessed is our God...
Blessed are the women who help to complete God's work.

Reader: And God said to Abram,

All: *I will make you a great nation
And I will bless you
And I will make your name great
And you will be a blessing...
All the families of the earth will be blessed through you...*

Reader: These words resound through Sisterhood's service to congregation,
community, youth and one another.
Regularly at Temple Emanuel Sisterhood...
a young person's religious education is enhanced by Sisterhood,
a person alone or in mourning is comforted by Sisterhood,
a worship service is enriched by a Sisterhood Oneg Shabbat,
a woman learns more about living Jewishly in Sisterhood study.

All of our efforts in Sisterhood are encounters with the Divine.
They are moments of connectedness, our sacred work.

All: *Baruch Atah Adonai...*
Blessed is our God.
We give thanks for the opportunity to do God's work..

Reader: Rabbi Laura Geller wrote,

All: *There are no important moments in life of a Jew for which there are no blessings. God is present at all times; it is up to us to notice God, to feel God's presence, to celebrate that which is holy in our own experience.*

Reader: When engaged in the work of Sisterhood,
it is sometimes difficult to think about holiness:

telephone calls to make,
deadlines to meet,
paperwork to complete,
food to prepare,
publicity to write,
membership to build.

Along the way we experience a myriad of emotions.
Sometimes we are anxious, bewildered, critical, frustrated, harsh,
impatient, judgmental, thoughtless, and unkind.

At those times we must remember that
we are engaged in holy work
we are helping to perfect the world
we are rooted in the blessings of our people and our faith,
we move to creating our own special blessings
we must seek to overcome our limitations.

All: *Baruch Atah Adonai...*
Blessed is our God.
Bless us, O God, with the gifts of patience, good humor and
understanding.

Reader: We remember our matriarchs-Sara, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah-
and the enduring qualities with which they were blessed.

Sara was blessed with dignity,
Rebecca with strength,
Rachel with grace,
and Leah with loyalty.

Temple Emanuel Sisterhood has benefited from leaders who are
blessed with considerable qualities. I now ask all the Past Presidents
of this Sisterhood to stand.

Your presence here tonight is a testament to your commitment and to your love of Sisterhood. We acknowledge your many contributions.

All: *Baruch Atah Adonai...*
Blessed is our God.
Blessed are You, O God, who bestowed upon us loyal, attentive and caring leadership.

Reader: We remember Hannah, mother of the prophet Samuel, for her devotion and faithfulness to God.
At Temple Emanuel you have benefited from devoted and faithful Sisterhood leaders these past two years.
As I call the names of the members of the outgoing Board of Directors, please stand and remain standing:

President	Fern Herman Shir Ami, Newtown, PA
First Vice President	Sharon Levy Hesed, Scranton, PA
Vice President, Region 1	Joan Blum Main Line Reform, Wynnewood, PA
Vice President, Region 1	Becky Markowitz Shir Ami, Newtown, PA
Vice President, Region 3	Esther Nathanson Sinai, Pittsburgh, PA
Corresponding Secretary	Debra Faye Emanuel, Cherry Hill, NJ
Recording Secretary	Rachel Rosensweig Goodman Shaarai Shomayim, Lancaster, PA
Treasurer	Ricki Tafflin
Past President	Sandy Glass Rodeph Shalom, Philadelphia, PA

Thank you for the gifts of yourselves and for your leadership.
Although this part of your sacred journey is complete,
we know Temple Emanuel Sisterhood will always have
your commitment and devotion.

All: *Baruch Atah Adonai...*
Blessed is Our God.
God shall guard your coming and your going from this time forth and forever... (Psalm 121)

Reader: We remember Miriam, sister to Moses and Aaron, leader in her own right. Acclaimed for her preparedness, creativity and wondrous song, Miriam offers us strength and encouragement.

Here at Temple Emanuel we look forward to another season of knowledgeable and wise Sisterhood leadership.

I now ask the newly elected officers to stand as I call their names:

President	Sharon Levy Hesed, Scranton, PA
First Vice President	Joan Blum Main Line Reform, Wynnewood, PA
Vice President, Region 1	Sharon Benhoff Shir Ami, Newtown, PA
Vice President, Region 2	Becky Markowitz Shir Ami, Newtown, PA
Vice President, Region 3	Georgia Davidson Rodef Shalom, Pittsburgh, PA
Corresponding Secretary	Debra Faye Emanuel, Cherry Hill, NJ
Recording Secretary	Rachel Rosensweig Goodman Shaarai Shomayim, Lancaster, PA
Treasurer	Susan Loether
Past President	Fern Herman Shir Ami, Newtown, PA

Your Sisterhood is most grateful that each of you has chosen to share your wisdom and experiences and is willing to guide this organization for the next two years.

All: May you be blessed like Miriam with strength and encouragement. May you be blessed in your leadership efforts.

Officers:

I do solemnly pledge to perform impartially and consistently and in accordance with the Constitution of Women of Reform Judaism and the Bylaws of Temple Emanuel Sisterhood the duties of the office I now assume.

I shall dedicate myself to those duties without fear of favor and with unyielding integrity. This is my pledge, freely given, upon which I ask God's Blessing. Amen.

All: *Baruch Atah Adonai...*
Blessed is our God.
Baruch atah Adonai eloheienu melech ha'olam,
Shehecheyanu v'ki y'manu v'higianu lazman hazeh.
Blessed are You, O God, who has kept us in life, sustained us and permitted us to reach this season. Amen.