

## A Prayer for Peace

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, and the God of all humankind;  
the God of Abraham, the God of Sarah, the God of Hagar,  
the God of Isaac, and the God of Ishmael —  
look upon Your children everywhere with mercy and lovingkindness.

You are the God of Life — every living soul is precious to you:  
the life of the Israeli teen attending a concert celebrating love;  
the life of the Palestinian newborn emerging helpless from the womb into a world of violence;  
the life of the elderly Jew living near the Gaza border, acting upon her faith,  
dedicating her life in service to her Palestinian neighbors;  
the life of the Palestinian doctor bravely treating victims of violence while surrounded by violence,  
only to suffer the fate of the fallen himself.  
Old and young, women and men, children of the kibbutzim and the children of Gaza City,  
innocent victims of terrorism and war —  
O God of Life, You weep for each of these, Your children.

And we weep with You, Compassionate One, our tears mingling with Yours.  
We weep for the infinite potential of every soul now lost to the world.  
We weep with every person grieving the death of a loved one.  
We weep for those praying for the safe return of family and friends held as hostages.  
We weep for those still living in fear,  
not knowing whether they might again find themselves in the path of death and destruction.

The God of all humankind, the God of Life, the God of Compassion,  
spread Your loving Presence over the holy spirits that have returned to you,  
over the grief-stricken, over the fearful, and over all of us who are in pain.  
Spread over all humankind Your shelter of peace.  
Let those who have died find perfect rest in You;  
and let all who are suffering find healing, wholeness, and peace in the sanctuary of Your love.  
We praise you, Adonai, our Sheltering Presence.