Renew Our Days as of Old – A #ShowUpForShabbat Prayer

Shabbat Bereishit - Genesis, 26 Tishrei, 5780 - October 25-26, 2019

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From the depths we cry out to You¹, dear God, for You are with us in our straits.²

*Hear the blood of our brothers and sisters as they shout out to us, to You, from the ground.*³

A year has passed, but the pain subsists. We are not the same.

*Dear Pittsburgh, we are with you in your sorrow. We are responsible one for the other.*⁴

Comfort the mourners who grieve the loss of their loved ones, their friends, those who unite to establish synagogues for prayer and those who enter them to pray.⁵


Bernice Simon, Sylvan Simon, Daniel Stein, Melvin Wax, Irving Younger. May our memory of them be for a blessing.

*God, Creator, brighten us with the light of the First Day and dispel this darkness.*⁶

Renew within us our Divine image of the Sixth Day, which fashioned and governs our humanity.⁷

*Teach us to banish evil and know good, our distinction from the beasts, acquired in the Garden of Eden.*⁸

Care for the wounded of body and spirit. Enable them, us, to heal and regenerate as Adam and Eve did in the face of unbearable loss.⁹

*Restore the American Jewish innocence lost, that America could be different, that America will be different. Mend our fractured nation.*

Bless those who did not stand idly by while their neighbor’s blood was shed, who ran towards and not away.¹⁰

*Bless those who showed up for Shabbat, now and then. Their presence allows the good of the many to prevail over the evil of the few.*

Yea, though we walked through the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil, for Thou art with us.¹¹

*Renew our days as of old.*¹²

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¹ Psalms 130:1
² Psalms 91:15
³ Genesis 4:10
⁴ Shevuot 39b
⁵ Shabbat prayer book
⁶ Genesis 1:2-4
⁷ Genesis 1:27
⁸ Genesis 2-3
⁹ Genesis 4:24
¹⁰ Leviticus 19:16
¹¹ Psalms 23:4
¹² Lamentations 5:21