

### An Alternate Prayer for the Community

May the one who blessed our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, bless this holy congregation, men and women, sons and daughters, and all that is ours. May it be Your will to bless us, to hear our voices raised in prayer, and to protect us from any trouble and difficulty. Spread over us the divine canopy of peace and plant within us love and unity, peace and friendship; banish all hate among us. May the words of Torah be fulfilled: "Do not wrong one another, but fear your God . . . that you may dwell upon the land securely" (Leviticus 25:17-18). And so may it be Your will, and let us say: *Amen*.

### Community

The individual . . . and group must learn to overcome those tendencies toward selfishness and antagonism, and re-orient their minds to see life not as a hunt for pleasure, but as an engagement for service; not as a race involving victories and defeat, but as a pursuit of goals that transcend the interests of single nations and generations.

—LOUIS FINKELSTEIN

### A Prayer for the Congregation

May heaven bestow deliverance on this holy congregation, the adults and their children: may kindness, love, and compassion, a long life, abundant provision, and sustenance from heaven, bodily health, and spiritual enlightenment be their lot. May their children thrive, never ceasing to speak words of Torah nor ever neglecting them. May the sovereign of the universe bless you, accord you a full life, add to your days, and grant you a long life. May you be freed of all distress and difficult circumstance, now and always. May the master in heaven sustain you at all times and seasons, and let us say: *Amen*.

### A Prayer for Those Who Serve the Community

May the one who blessed our ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah, bless this entire congregation, together with all other holy congregations: they, their families, and all that is theirs; along with those who devote themselves to establish synagogues for prayer, as well as those who enter them to pray, and those who provide for their maintenance, wine for Kiddush and Havdalah, food for guests, bread for the hungry, tzedakah for the poor, and shelter for the homeless; ► and all who faithfully devote themselves to the needs of this community and the Land of Israel. May the Holy One reward them, remove sickness from them, heal them, and forgive their sins. May God bless them by making all their worthy endeavors prosper, as well as those of the entire people Israel, their brothers and sisters. And let us say: *Amen*.

יקום פֿרקן מן שְׁמִיָּא, חֲנָא וְחֶסֶדָא וְרַחֲמֵי וְחַיֵּי אַרְיֵכִי  
וּמְזוּנֵי רוּיְחֵי וְסִיעָתָא דְשְׁמִיָּא, וּבְרִיּוֹת גּוּפָא וּנְהוּרָא  
מַעֲלִיָּא, וְרַעָא חַיָּא וְקִיָּמָא, וְרַעָא דִּי לֹא יִפְסֹק, וְדִי  
לֹא יִבְטֹל, מִפְתָּגְמֵי אוּרִיתָא, לְכָל־קְהָלָא קְדִישָׁא הָדִין,  
רַבְרְבִיָּא עִם זְעִרִיָּא. מְלָכָא דְעֵלְמָא יְבָרֵךְ יְתִבּוֹן, יִפִּישׁ  
חַיִּיכוֹן, וְיִסְגֵּיָא יוֹמֵיכוֹן וְיִתֵּן אַרְכָּא לְשָׁנֵיכוֹן, וְתַתְּפָרְקוֹן  
וְתִשְׁתַּבְּחוּ, מִן כָּל־עֲקָא, וּמִן כָּל־מַרְעִין בִּישׁוֹן.  
מָרְן דִּי בְשְׁמִיָּא יְהֵא בְּסַעֲדָכוֹן, כָּל־זְמַן וְעַדוֹן.  
וְנֹאמֵר: אָמֵן.

מי שְׁפָרֵךְ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ אֲבִרָהֶם יִצְחָק וְיַעֲקֹב, וְאֲמוֹתֵינוּ  
שָׂרָה רַבֵּקָה רַחֵל וְלֵאָה, הוּא יְבָרֵךְ אֶת כָּל־הַקְהָל  
הַקְדוֹשׁ הַזֶּה, עִם כָּל־קְהָלוֹת הַקְדָּשׁ, הֵם וּמִשְׁפָּחוֹתֵיהֶם  
וְכָל אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם, וּמִי שְׁמִיָּחֲדִים בְּתֵי כְּנָסִיּוֹת לְתַפְּלָה,  
וּמִי שְׂפָאִים בְּתוֹכָם לְהַתְּפַלֵּל, וּמִי שְׂנוֹתְנִים נֵר לְמֵאוֹר  
וְיִין לְקְדוּשׁ וּלְהַבְדִּילָהּ, וּפֶת לְאוֹרְחִים וְלֶחֶם לְרַעֲבִים  
וְיִין לְעֵנִיִּים וּמִכֶּסֶה לְחַיִּים בְּרַחוּב, ◀ וְכָל־מִי  
שְׁעוֹסְקִים בְּצָרֵכֵי צָבוֹר וּבִבְנִין אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאַמוּנָה.  
הַקְדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא יִשְׁלַם שְׂכָרָם, וְיִסִּיר מֵהֶם כָּל־מַחֲלָה,  
וְיִרְפָּא לְכָל־גּוּפָם, וְיִסְלַח לְכָל־עֲוֹנָם, וְיִשְׁלַח בְּרָכָה  
וְהַצְלָחָה בְּכָל־מַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵיהֶם, עִם כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל אַחֵיהֶם  
וְאֲחִיוֹתֵיהֶם, וְנֹאמֵר אָמֵן.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS.** The Torah service became an occasion for expressing communal concerns. Y'kum Purkan is written in Aramaic, the common language of Jewish communities of the Eastern Mediterranean and Babylonia during much of the 1st millennium. It originated in Babylonia and the text has evolved over time. It petitions God on behalf of the local synagogue community, and is followed by a Hebrew prayer (Mi Sheberakh) of similar purpose. The first prayer expresses the hope that all may enjoy long, prosperous lives; the second singles out those who give of their means and time to support Jewish communal institutions and needy individuals.