

## FROM THE CANTOR

*The beginning of prayer is praise. The power of worship is song. To worship is to join the cosmos in praising God... Prayer is meaningless unless it is subversive, unless it seeks to overthrow and to ruin the pyramids of callousness, hatred, opportunism, falsehoods. The liturgical movement must become a revolutionary movement, seeking to overthrow the forces that continue to destroy the promise, the hope, the vision.*

--Abraham Joshua Heschel

Shalom friends,

At OZ, we believe that our *Tefillah* (prayer offerings) and our *Tzedek* (Justice) work in repairing the world can be intimately interconnected. We believe that our prayer practice has the ability both to inspire us to *change the world* around us, while also helping us to *be with the world as it is*. Prayer, at its best, can awaken each of us to our own unique task in bringing light into the world.

I want to draw your attention in particular to OZ's **First-Friday Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service**, beginning **Friday March 4 at 6:00 pm** (and continuing on April 1, May 6, June 3 and July 8). This joyous 1-hour music-infused service will help you to let go of the week that was, and to enter into Shabbat's "sanctuary in time" (to borrow another Heschel quote). We are very fortunate to have the soulful melodies of Kabbalat Shabbat enlivened by a instrumental prayer ensemble that includes both OZ community members (guitarist **Eric Friedman** and saxophonist **Marty Fogel**) and from the broader musical world in Vermont (violinist **Laura Markowitz** and percussionist **Brian Johnson**). These musicians will help add texture to the diverse melodies, but even more importantly, will help to empower all of our voices in song! In addition to its potential *subversive* nature (referenced by Heschel), OZ's Musical Kabbalat Shabbat experience aims to be *immersive*—enveloping each one of us in a feeling of connection—connection to our community, to God/Spirit, and to our own authentic selves.

I can't wait to gather with you in song in the sanctuary (or on Zoom) for this immersive musical Kabbalat Shabbat experience on March 4 (and on subsequent First Fridays April 1, May 6, June 3).

*B'shirah/In Song*

*Cantor Steve*

[cantorsteve@ohavizedek.org](mailto:cantorsteve@ohavizedek.org)