SONGSHEET

Service of Celebration and Hope
January 20, 2021
8 Shvat 5781

Rabbi Barbara Penzner
Temple Hillel B’nai Torah West Roxbury, MA
When Israel went forth out of Egypt,
House of Jacob from the people of a foreign tongue,

Judah became God’s holy place,
Israel became God’s seat of rule.

The Sea beheld and fled,
the Jordan turned, reversed its flow.

The mountains danced about like rams,
the hills, like flocks of lambs.

What’s wrong with you, O Sea, that you should flee?
And you, O Jordan, that you turn around?

You mountains, why do you rejoice like rams,
you hills, like flocks of lambs?

Tremble, earth, before the mighty one,
before the God of Jacob,

who turns the rock into a pool of water,
the flint into a bubbling fount!→

Psalm 114

H.L.

COMMENTARY. This psalm juxtaposes two crossings of water—that of the Reed Sea and, forty years later, of the Jordan. The repetition of the final miracle of the Exodus at the time of the initial entry to Canaan connects those two events and suggests that the second is the fulfillment of the first. H.L.
בattività ישראל מ밋ריים
ישראל ממעשרותיו:
המשה יהודה לברשה
נקרד יסב לאחור:
נקרれた קורט יسرائيل:
נקרד תחפפ ניס:
נקרד הספ ענני:
נקרדת קורט יسرائيل:
מלפתי ארוח חללי ארא
חלפים לשם הנסיך:
—

Betzeyt yisra’el mimitzrayim beyt ya’akov me’am lo’ez.
Hayetah yehudah lekodsho yisra’el mamshelotav.
Hayam ra’ah vayanos hayarden yisov le’a’hor.
Heharim rakedu ḫe’eylim geva’ot kivney tzon.
Ma leха hayam ki tanus hayarden tisov le’a’hor.
Heharim tirkedu ḫe’eylim geva’ot kivney tzon.
Mi lifney adon ḫulti aretz milifney eloah ya’akov.
Hahofחי hatzur agam mayim ḥalamish lemayno mayim.
And now, what shall I give back to God?—
for all God’s bounties are upon me!

Salvation’s cup I raise,
and in the name of The Eternal, I call out.

My vow to The Redeemer I repay—
here, I pray, before all those assembled here!

The Merciful does not regard as trivial
the death of those who care for God.

Now, Abundant One, I am your servant.
I, your servant, child of your servant,
I whose fetters you have opened up.

To you I make my offering of thanks,
and in the name of The Redeemer I call out.
My vow to The Eternal I repay—
here, I pray, before all those assembled here
in courtyards of the House of God,
amid Jerusalem’s most hallowed inner halls:
Halleluyah!

Psalm 116:12-19
Give thanks to The Eternal, who is good, whose love is everlasting!

Let Israelites declare today,
God’s love is everlasting!

Let the House of Aaron say,
God’s love is everlasting!

Let those in awe of God declare,
God’s love is everlasting!

Psalm 118:1-4
הודי ליווה כי טוב

יאמר נא ישראל

יאמר נא בית אחא

יאמר נא עריא יהוא

Hodu ladonay ki tov
Yomar na yisra’el
Yomru na veyt aharon
Yomru na yirey adonay

Ki le’olam ḥasdo.
Ki le’olam ḥasdo.
Ki le’olam ḥasdo.
Ki le’olam ḥasdo.
In my distress, from the narrow space I cried out to you
You answered me, bringing great release.

The ONE is with me, I shall have no fear.
What can a human being do to me?

The ONE is with me, bringing help.
I gaze triumphantly upon my foes.

To trust in the INVINCIBLE is good,
and surer than a trust in human benefactors.

All nations have surrounded me,
but with God’s name I cut them off.

They surrounded me; yes, they surrounded me,
but with God’s name I cut them off.

They surrounded me like swarming bees.
Like a brushfire, they were quenched,
and with God’s name I cut them off.

You pushed me down, pushed me to fall,
But THE REDEEMER has brought help to me.

My might and my song is Yah
You have become my rescue.
The sound of song rejoicing in God's help
resounds amid the tents of all the just:
"THE MIGHTY ONE's right hand delivers strength!
THE MIGHTY ONE's right hand is lifted up,
THE MIGHTY ONE's right hand delivers strength!"

I shall not die, but I shall live,
and I shall tell the acts of Yah.

I truly have been tried by Yah,
but I was never given up to die.

Open to me, O you gateways of justice,
Yes, let me come in, and give thanks unto Yah!

This is the gateway to ONE EVERLASTING,
let all who are righteous come in.
Lift Every Voice and Sing
by James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand.
True to our God,
True to our native land.
This Land Is Your Land  
Words and Music by Woody Guthrie

This land is your land and this land is my land  
From California to the New York island  
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters  
This land was made for you and me

As I went walking that ribbon of highway  
I saw above me that endless skyway  
Saw below me that golden valley  
This land was made for you and me

I roamed and rambled and I've followed my footsteps  
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts  
All around me a voice was sounding  
This land was made for you and me

When the sun come shining, then I was strolling  
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling  
The voice was chanting as the fog was lifting  
This land was made for you and me

As I went walking I saw a sign there,  
And on the sign it said "No Trespassing."  
But on the other side it didn't say nothing.  
That side was made for you and me.

In the shadow of the steeple I saw my people,  
By the relief office I seen my people;  
As they stood there hungry, I stood there asking  
Is this land made for you and me?

Nobody living can ever stop me,  
As I go walking that freedom highway;  
Nobody living can ever make me turn back  
This land was made for you and me.
BLESSING UPON HEARING GOOD NEWS

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha’olam hatov ve-hamaytiv

We acknowledge the Source of All for what all that is intrinsically good and for all that is becoming good.

BLESSING FOR ONE-OF-A-KIND AND NEW EVENTS

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha’olam shehe-cheyanu veki-yemanu vehi-gi’anu laz’man hazeh

We acknowledge the Source of All and give thanks that we have been given life, we are still alive, and we are blessed to be present for this moment.
Prayer for America
by Rabbi Victor Hillel Reinstein

Compassionate One, fill our hearts with love and compassion for each other, that in truth we might be one nation indivisible. Bless our country, its government, its leaders, and its people. Bless the vision that is America and help us all to make it real. Help us to be for each other a mirror in which to see the best we are, and when we stray give to each one the courage to remind, speaking truth to power when need be.

Of qualities that built this land, help us to distinguish between their light and shadow sides, and to know the upright way, that good not be twisted into evil. Let not our confidence become arrogance, nor might the measure of right; mature enough in our independence, may we celebrate with all nations the interdependence from which a greater good will come. And take the violence from us, so much part of what has been.

Thirsting for peace, help us to sing an anthem now, not of bombs bursting, but of amber waves of grain and purple mountain majesties; the beauty of this land we love, your blessing manifest, not of destiny, but of goodness spreading out from sea to shining sea; and not upon us alone Your blessing bestow, but upon every nation and people in the world of Your creation.

In our caring for the earth, the sky and water, may we honor those who first dwelled upon this land, and in small measure so atone for all the wrong done to them.

With liberty and justice for all, that freedom not ring hollow, help us to insure that health and knowledge, bread and roses, be the birthright of every child born, each one free to be, dreams deferred no more. Bring near the day, soon to rise, when in rainbow chorus we shall sing, we have overcome.
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL: 2020 Version
With 3 new verses by Jesse Palidofsky and John Morris  Copyright 2020

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain’s majesties
Above thy fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed much grace on thee
So spread the love sent from above
From sea to shining sea

O beautiful thy immigrants
Who hail from every land
Their hope and heart and diligence
Like gifts from God’s own hand
America! America!
Thy grace shall yet remain
To greet the poor who reach thy shore
With open arms again

O beautiful O Mother Earth
All nestle at your breast
Just as we sing with love and pride
So all nations are blessed
America! America!
Alone cannot abide
God give thee pause to mend thy flaws
With Truth thy only guide

O beautiful thy working folk
Built cities, tilled thy soil
Proud Africans in bloody chains
The wealth built from their toil
America! America!
God shed much grace on thee
So spread the love sent from above
From sea to shining sea
Ring sisterhood! Ring brotherhood!
From sea to shining sea