

Sermon in "song" a Rosh HaShanah Poem by Rabbi David J. Small, first day Rosh HaShanah
5781

There's got to be healing
There's got to be peace
The hurt keep coming without cease

World convulsed in violence
Voices full of hate
Begin the work of healing
Before it is too late

A nation that feels broken
Hearts cry out too much
Not a word was spoken
Somehow we keep in touch

Fires burn on the hillside
Fire burns on the street
The Angel walks among us
Not one I'd care to meet

Lying at home in bed
Parked out in the street
Standing at a party
Bullets knocked her off her feet

Talking heads all yammer
Prepare to cast their blame
Draw your own conclusions
The song remains the same

Find the cost of freedom
Buried in the ground
The dead did fight to save us
Now they make no sound

We walk on paths they watered
In their blood and sweat
Our job to build a future
That we will not regret

Plant a seed of friendship
Labor toward your dreams
Let Peace and Justice Flow
Like a mighty stream

Arise and feed the hungry
Lend clothes to those who shiver
Open gates to those who wait
Across the narrow river

Turn these hearts of stone
Into flesh and blood
Compassion that we cling to
In the middle of the flood

Cast off our ways of living
That foul the land and sky
Less wasteful and more humble
We can make it if we try

The Deep is dark around me
Seaweed in my hair
I kicked up to the surface
Inhaled the sweet sweet air

It seems that I was running
To just remain in place
Too frightened or too angry
To catch up to the race

And I heard a horn sound
It was calling out to me
"Assemble all you people
On air and land and sea"

The notes they penetrated
Electrified my soul
I could not remain sleeping
I rose to chase the goal

The soul it may be broken
And what is broke can heal
I promised I would not look away
But act and think and feel

The wailing horn awakened me
To look for what might be
And work hard in pursuit
Of love and liberty

Join hands of many colors
Listen care and learn
Arise and do some mitzvahs
Every day it is our turn

Stop fearing what others might think
Or stuck in what I've done before
I stand and walk listen and talk
Go through the open door.

God made us in God's image
It's with us every day
When we fight and when we love
And sleep and work and pray

These times remind us
Just how short
Life can seem to last
Yet all this change can open us
To overcome our past

Hope is a mighty power
When we harness it for good
Contribute to the healing
Do what we say we would

Be part of a solution
Let go of storm and strife
Each of can write our name
Into the book of life

This world is a mighty gift
And all of us partake
The future is in all our hands
A choice that we can make

Let's practice compassion
Live fair and strong and kind
Face the year with courage
And sound of heart and mind

God send us your blessing
Help us succeed
Overcome our failures
Help out those in need

All of us need inspiration
To rise above the fray
And to connect --do not reject
This great and holy day

Our prayers set before you
Receive in love and care
Give us the might to do what's right
As the shofar splits the air

Dear friends it's good to be with you
To share this sacred epic
We must be resourceful to
Surmount the grave pandemic

I thank you and I bless you
May God fulfill your ways
And bring us all --in love to-- share these
Holy Awesome Days