

## **A PRAYER FOR PEACE (2010)**

by Rabbi Naomi Levy

God, we come here with differing perspectives,  
With our fiery passions,  
But there is only one prayer in our hearts:  
It is a prayer for Israel's peace.

We pray that the peace that seems so far off  
Will at last be in our reach.  
We pray for wisdom  
For Israel's leaders and  
For Palestinian leaders,  
For the destinies of both peoples are inextricably entwined.

Help us, God, teach us to rise above our differences.  
Open our eyes, open our hearts to creative responses  
To a crisis that appears to be never-ending.  
Show us the way, God,  
Let violence give way to cooperation,  
Let hate give way to understanding,  
Let the bitterness of the past give way  
To a sweet future filled with hope.  
Let resignation and despair give way  
To a bright, radiant, glorious promise.

We are tired of praying for "The Day"  
When this conflict will end.  
Rise up, God, let "That Day" be now!  
Give us the eyes to envision it,  
The heart to believe it,  
The will to fight for it,  
And the hands open wide to receive it.  
May we be blessed as our father Jacob was,  
To stand before an enemy and embrace him as a brother.

God in heaven, who brings peace to the heavens,  
Bring peace to the earth,  
Spread peace over Israel,  
Peace over all people,  
And let us say,  
Amen.