

Life (Passages)

Shawn Zevit 2011

This recording follows the ebb and flow of the Jewish calendar year and lifecycle of the Jewish Sabbath morning (and some of the weekday) prayer service. As in my previous recordings, I have aspired to blend traditional melodies and words with contemporary versions of my own and other artists, some of whom do not have their own music recorded. The song/prayers and original words and melodies that I or my colleagues composed are from 1988 through 2009.

This CD has been recorded as a spiritual journey- one that one could focus on prayers for specific times or listen to in its entirety for a complete experiential journey through the calendar focusing on Shabbat, the Yamim Noraim (High Holy Days), Channukah, the Festivals, as well as life's peak and valley moments.

All songs written and copyrighted by Rabbi Shawn Zevit unless indicated otherwise.

What is Old (Will Be New) "*Hayashan yitchadesh*"

<https://youtu.be/e7JcLxebw9A?si=u32MkodUyEQXrH2p>

Words: English translation of words by R. Avraham Isaak Cook, first Chief Rabbi of Israel (d. 1935). Melody by Yosaif August, composed at the request of Reb Zalman Schachter at the first Aleph Kallah in Philadelphia, 1988.

What is Old will be new
And what is new will be made holy.

Hallel

<https://youtu.be/6Fo6Q2wO6hY?si=gbsX04nmQwzjmYRA>

(Hebrew taken from the traditional collection of psalms sung on the three Jewish pilgrimage festivals (Sukkot, Pesach, Shavuot), Rosh Hodesh (the new month) and other celebratory occasions. Melody and English translation, 1993, 2009, Shawn Zevit

From the narrow place I called to You
With loving tenderness You answered me- HalleluYah!
You are with me I shall not fear
You are with me in my power- HalleluYah!

Odekha ki anitahni, va'tihee lee l'yeshua
Evehn ma'asu habonim hiytah l'rosh pina

Ana, Adonai hoshi'ah-nah (2x)
Ana, Adonai hatzlicha-nah (2x)

Open to me the gates of righteousness
I will enter praising You- HalleluYah!
This is the gateway to all that is
In truth and justice we all come in- HalleluYah!

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Eli Atah, v'odekha, Elohi aromimekha- HalleluYah!

Open to me the gates of righteousness!

Gates of Jerusalem C- R. Shawn Israel Zevit, Dec. 2005

<https://youtu.be/HDB-OxsjmuA?si=yEMp4Nygx4eHiuGZ>

(Words and music by Shawn Zevit, written in Jerusalem, inspired by walking the holy city and exploring the caverns and ancient priestly homes below the ground at the southern wall, where a cry for Peace lies awaiting redemption).

Soul by Soul, through the gates of Jerusalem,
That's where I first felt your hand in mine
And we wandered there, in the footsteps of ancient tears
And prayed below the ground where the holy was born

On the wings of hope, for a life that cradles fears
And brings them home where they belong
And home we'll build, taking your hand in mine,
close to my heart, close to my soul.

Bridge: Monotheistic Chants/Prayers:

Yah Hu ha'Elohim (Jewish, "The Breath of Life is our God")

Our Father Who Art in Heaven... (Christian "Lord's Prayer")

Alhamdulillah (Arabic, meaning "Praise to God")

Step by step into new Jerusalem,
That's where we head, not knowing how
But we'll wander there, on the wings of Heaven,
Close to our hearts, close to our souls.

What a Road We're On

<https://youtu.be/FN3uGHNIgIY?si=sjAksctxBrhgHtB>

(begun Nov. 2005, finished, and dedicated to Jinen Jason Schulman, my teachers, and fellow healers upon graduation of the Integrated Kabbalistic Healing training program)

CH: Oh, Lord, what a road we're on
Broken hearts and a healing song
In a ray of light, well we're here and gone
I say, oh, Lord what a road we're on

Like jewels shining in the rays of the sun
Pure gifts of soul, we are each and everyone
Yet like glass we shatter and we come undone

As we run, run, run, run through our days (2x)

Chorus

Searching our whole lives to find where we are
Awake one day to find we haven't traveled very far
You were always here, You were always right here in our hearts
As we run, run, run, run through our days (2x)

Into Your hands, I rest my soul
In Your embrace, I am finally home
And through the gray, I carry on
Imminent touch and transcendent song
As we run, run, run, run through our days (2x) Chorus to end

Ana El Nah

<https://youtu.be/MgazqQqAlqI?si=R6gjhVBpIFm3aSKK>

(words: music: 1995, Shawn Zevit and Myriam Klotz, meditation by Myriam Klotz, 2009) The plaintiff words of Moshe on behalf of his sister Myriam, now a healing prayer for the ages. May you all find healing of body and soul in this prayer.

Anah-El-nah, refah na lah/lo
Please God, heal her/him now!

Serenity

https://youtu.be/OGKyaamVosA?si=FrkEI_5I1HEFeApi

adapted from the Serenity Prayer (public domain http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serenity_Prayer), with additional original lyrics by Geela Rayzel Raphael and Shawn Zevit December 2008

Oh God, Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change
Oh God, Grant me the courage to change the things I can
And the wisdom to know the difference (3x)
And in our lives Peace.

Eli, tayn bi et ha- shalva l'kabel
et asher aneyni yechola l'shanot
Eli, v'tayn bi et ha -ometz l'shanot ma ani oo-chal
v'et ha-chochma (2x)
v'et ha chochman l'havdil b'nayhem (2x)
b'hayaynu shalom.

Whether I take 12 steps or two,
I know I walk hand in hand with you;
In the midst of the chaos and the winds of change
In the eye of the storm, you keep me sane.
You are my journey and you are the destination
You are the source of my salvation.

You are the source of my salvation
Give me the courage
Grant me the serenity
And the wisdom, (3x)
for peace.

Podeh U'Matzil- words- Jewish liturgy, music R. Jeff Eisenstat a plaintiff song of yearning for comfort and an end to suffering.

https://youtu.be/gvAUKtf0D6M?si=JjIEY1uU_7yWmYl3

Podeh u'matzil
Um'farness u'mehrakhem
B'khol yet tzarah v'tzukah

Who answers us with loving care
In times of sorrow and despair

Re'eh

<https://youtu.be/DxsfKV-hUiM?si=UwszJv3A1o90m1ER>

Music and lyrics by c- Rabbi Shawn Zevit, July 1999

Based on Deuteronomy Chapters 11/12

I wrote this song for my private smichah (ordination) of July 1999, with Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, my friend and teacher a year following my graduation from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

For you stand this day
On the banks of the Jordan
Ready to take your promised place
Well, you can't act there
Like you've acted up 'til now
For you'll be walking on holy ground

CH: Re'eh- come and see the Glory of the One

Break down your idols
Challenge your addictions
Lest they take you down as you descend
And if your dreamers speak divine
Just wait and bide your time
For the true dream will come in the end

CH: Re'eh- come and see the Glory of the One

The Holy One of Blessing
Will fulfill your every need
And if you're wanting

You'll be blessed by what you have
Take heed- hear the word-
That today is given you
For the blessing and the promise are one
CH: Re'eh- come and see the Glory of the One

Light One Candle in the Dark (4:17)

https://youtu.be/znVSkqjo-ME?si=dcn_kyuyFJMyKkfm

(music and words- Shawn I. Zevit, 1994)

A song for Hanukkah, for spiritual rededication and identity reclamation, and for liberation of all peoples.

Huddled here the shadows dance against the wall,
The dark's embrace has come to call;
We gather tightly in the inner space
The prayer is whispered face to face...
into the nightfall.

We will not stand for mindless tyranny
To no stone throne would we bend a knee
We take the sword into oppression's heart
No callous threat can tear us apart
from our God.

Chorus:

Light one candle in the dark
for the miracles of old,
Light one candle in the dark
for the stories yet untold,
Light one candle in the dark
for the hope that will not die,
For freedom's never-ending spark,
Light one candle in the dark.

Today we stand blessed by being free,
Protected by your wings of liberty;
And yet there's places where the oil pours about;
Cannot hide while others' lights go out... and still be free.

(Chorus)

Ma-oz tzur yeh-shu-a-tee
L'cha na-eh li-sha-bey-ach.
Tee-kon beyt ti-fil-a-tee
Vi-sham to-dah ni-za-bey-ach.

Rock of Ages, let our song

Praise your saving power;
You amid the raging throng
Were our sheltering tower.

Light one candle in the dark...

The Ten Plagues (1:14)

<https://youtu.be/E4OVLfo-GfA?si=vSN7Xo0e8-loNZ5B>

(Hebrew from the Passover haggadah, additional words, S Zevit., 2000. Written originally for the Passover CD accompanying the Reconstructionist Press “A Night of Questions”.

Dam, tzfardai’ah, kinim, arov, dever, schin, barad, arbeh, choshech, makat b’chorot
Blood, frogs, l
None of us are free, ‘til all of us are free

Ki L’Olam Chasdo (Psalm 136) (3:26)

https://youtu.be/kmDxGFozhol?si=QUWyH4tpAN0Af_BU

(English translation Shawn Zevit, music from my family’s tradition taught to us by my grandfather Aaron Zevit at annual Passover Seders)

ki l’olam khasdo/ Your love is everlasting

Hodu L’Adonai ki tov, ki l’olam khasdo
Praise You, Source of goodness
The Many in the One
The Power of the Power
In all of Wondrous Action
Presence of the Universe
Earth and the Waters
The Wind and the Fire
Sunlight to Shadow the Day
Moon and Stars in the Night
In our Heartbreak we’re Remembered
Shattering our Narrowness
Sustenance for All Beings
Praise to Heaven and Earth

Chad Gadya (6:46)

<https://youtu.be/z7KXS62GSSU?si=BWOxYrmmFNd03Swk>

(Music adapted by Aaron Zevit and Shawn Zevit, words from the traditional Passover Haggadah, Introduction by Shawn Zevit). This melody is a family favorite of ours that my grandfather and his siblings (Celia, Etta, Channah, Dave) brought over with them from Russia. The journey from the cycle of life from the little goat to the Holy One of Blessing is often a closing song to the Passover Seder.

Hallel (slow) (4:14)

<https://youtu.be/O6Bcbn776FI?si=D2ehloWhN-9Qkn-B>

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Eli Atah, v'odekha, Elohi aromimekha- HalleluYah!

Open to me the gates of righteousness!

Leavin' Shabbes Blues (4:21)

<https://youtu.be/gt4pqAhQpSI?si=hLrm6xd9uoxbCiE3>

© 1997 (R. Micah Becker-Klein, R. Rayzel Raphael, Juliet Spitzer, R. Margot Stein, R. Shawn Zevit)

Chorus: We've got the leaving, leaving, leaving Shabbes blues (2x)

We're leaving a place where we've been restful

Going to the week which may be stressful.

There was no e-mail, no fax, no telephone

We've been hanging in the Shabbes zone

Chorus:

We had light on Friday night, plus an extra soul,

Three square meals and G only knows.....

Lit the candles, drank sacred wine,

Ate the challah, had a hellova time Chorus:

All week we rush around, never stop

Driving ourselves by the external clock,

But when Shabbes comes we kick back

Lay it down, take a holy nap Chorus:

Shechinah was my bride, she came right to my door,

Invited her in –took some time to restore

All week long we're on the go,

but on Shabbes time we do it nice and slow. Chorus:

Shabbos is my baby, held her in my arms,

She showed me her wisdom, she turned on her charm,

Now she's gotta go, won't see her for a while

When Friday rolls around, she gonna make me smile. Chorus:

Angels sang their songs, the place was clean for a time,

Sat around with friends, took time off from the climb,

Studied a little Torah, jammed some ancient tunes,

Oh, Please Shabbes won't ya comeback soon. Chorus:

Peace Be With You (4:52)

<https://youtu.be/tRm455v4Nik?si=CYqL595NAZJM9mMN>

Written in Colorado in January 2006 at the annual Ohalah clergy conference- inspired by an abiding sense of God's Presence and a longing for peace in the beauty of the natural world surrounding us.

Night Prayer (4:02)

<https://youtu.be/mYQnhBw6aig?si=nwmGLYLkoZ0tUpnO>

Inspired by the traditional Jewish children's bedtime prayer, music, and lyrics by Shawn Zevit 1993-4. Dedicated to my goddaughter Anya Shira Friedman Hutter

My heart, Source of blessing
You close my eyes in sleep
And tired lids in slumber
Grant that I lie down in peace
And rise again to life
To be that I may be
With Your love

You are the blessings by day
You are the blessings by night
You are the blessings when we sleep
You are the blessings when we rise
Dear One

Even when I drift in day
And wrestle with the angels at night
Your spark within lies on always
And brings me to the light

Into your hand
I commit my soul
Dear God, dear One
My saving heart
Lylah tov...