

**Mah tó-vu o-ha-lé-cha Ya-a-kov,**  
**mish-k'no-té-cha Yis-ra'eil.**

Va-a-ni b'rov chas-d'cha a-vo vei-té-cha,  
esh-ta-cha-veh el hei-chal kod-sh'cha b'yir-a-té-cha.  
A-do-nai, a-háv-ti m'on bei-té-cha,  
u-m'kom mish-kan k'vo-dé-cha.  
Va-a-ni esh-ta-cha-veh v'ech-rá-ah,  
ev-r'chah lif-nei A-do-nai o-si.

**Va-a-ni, t'fil-la-ti l'cha, A-do-nai,**  
eit ra-tzon,  
E-lo-him, b'rov chas-dé-cha,  
a-néi-ni be-e-met yish-é-cha.

מה טבו אהליך יעקב,  
משכנותיך ישראל.

ואני ברב חסדך אבוא ביתך,  
אשתחנה אל היכל קדשך ביראתך.  
י, אהבתי מעון ביתך,  
ומקום משכן כבודך.  
ואני אשתחנה ואכרעה,  
אברכה לפני יי עשי.

ואני, תפילתי לך, יי,  
עת רצון,  
אלהים, ברב חסדך,  
ענני באמת ישעך.

<sup>1</sup> How beautiful are your tents, Jacob,  
your God-spaces, Israel. (Num. 24:5)

Your great loving kindness brings me to Your house,  
and in awe I bow in Your holy space. (Ps. 5:8)  
Adonai, I love being in Your house,  
a place where Your presence is evident. (Ps. 26:8)  
I humble myself in Your presence,  
as I worship the God who made me.

(based on Ps. 95:6)

<sup>2</sup> In Your eyes, every moment is  
**eit ra-tzon** – the right time for prayer.  
You receive my prayers with great love,  
and You respond with true assistance.

(Ps. 69:14)

#### Tarah Studu

#### GUIDEPOSTS

**Preparations for Prayer.** The morning service begins here. At the beginning of the service, we move, both physically and spiritually, from our own private spaces into a communal prayer space, the place where God's glory dwells, where God's presence is felt. This prayer, with five Biblical verses, helps us make that transition.

#### COMMENTS

<sup>1</sup> The prayer begins with a verse that was initially uttered by Bilam, the "prophet" who was hired to curse the Jewish people. Instead, he blessed them, not once but repeatedly:

*How beautiful are your tents, Jacob,  
your dwelling places, Israel.*

What does this verse have to do with prayer space? The link is the word mishkan, which Bilam uses to refer to Israel's dwelling places, but which in the Bible usually means God's tabernacle. Perhaps the compilers of this prayer reinterpreted "dwelling places" as "tabernacles" – translated here as "God-spaces" – so that this verse could serve as the opening of their prayer on prayer space.