

Morning Service

Kavvanah: How many blessings!

*How many blessings come to us!  
Each week, each day, each hour.  
Indeed, at each and every moment of our lives.  
Blessings, more than we can count,  
More than we have earned, they come to us.  
Let us bless their source  
For blessing us so richly. (Rabbi Hershel Matt)*

**Kavvanah: As We Bless**  
*As we bless the source of life,  
so we are blessed.  
And the blessing gives us strength,  
and makes our visions clear.  
And the blessing gives us peace,  
and the courage to dare.  
As we bless the source of life,  
so we are blessed. (Faith Rogow)*

See note at left.

*It is customary to stand for the next two verses, bowing at the initial word of each. The first verse is a "call to prayer," recited by the leader; the community responds by reciting the second verse aloud, which the reader then repeats. (As with the Kaddish, the "call to prayer" is recited only when a minyan is present.)*

Ba·r'chu et A·do·nai  
ham·vo·rach!

בְּרַחוּ אֶת יי  
הַמְבַרְכֵךְ.

Ba·ruch A·do·nai,  
ham·vo·rach,  
l'o·lam va·ed.

בְּרוּךְ יי,  
הַמְבַרְכֵךְ,  
לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.

Ba·ruch At·tah A·do·nai  
E·lo·héi·nu, mé·lech ha·o·lam,  
Yo·tzeir or, u·vo·rei chó·shech,  
o·seh sha·lom,  
u·vo·rei et ha·kol.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
יוֹצֵר אוֹר, וּבוֹרֵא חֹשֶׁךְ,  
עֹשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם,  
וּבוֹרֵא אֶת הַכֹּל.

Ha·kol yo·dú·cha,  
v'ha·kol y'shab·b'chú·cha,  
v'ha·kol yo·m'ru:  
"Ein ka·dosh kA·do·nail"  
Ha·kol y'ro·m' mú·cha sé·lah, yo·tzeir ha·kol.

הַכֹּל יוֹדוּךָ,  
וְהַכֹּל יִשְׁבְּחוּךָ,  
וְהַכֹּל יֹאמְרוּ:  
"אֵין קָדוֹשׁ כִּיּוֹ!"  
הַכֹּל יְרוֹמְמוּךָ סֵלָה, יוֹצֵר הַכֹּל.

<sup>1</sup> Bless Adonai,  
the source of all blessings!

We bless Adonai,  
the source of all blessings,  
at every moment, now and forever.

We bless You Adonai  
our God, ruler of the universe.  
<sup>2</sup> You create light and darkness,  
You make peace,  
and create all things.

All acknowledge You,  
all praise Your unique holiness,  
all declare: (1 Sam. 2:2)  
"Ein ka·dosh kA·do·nail!"  
All exalt You, for You create everything.

**KAVVANOT**  
<sup>1</sup> Either of the two kavvanot above may be recited prior to the call to prayer.

**GUIDEPOSTS**  
**Call to Prayer.** "Barchu et Adonai hamvorach!" is the call to prayer. It is the beginning and initial focus of the morning service, or Shacharit; shachar is the Hebrew word for dawn. Imagine that once upon a time, these words were shouted at the break of dawn, that the first words everyone heard upon awakening were this call to prayer. Perhaps the Rabbis added all the preceding prayers because they felt that sincere prayer requires preparation, or perhaps they were concerned that reciting the Barchu prayer at sunrise might lead to sun worship.  
**First B'rachah. God as Creator.** The first b'rachah before the Sh'ma (pp. 42-48) focuses on the image of God as creator of the world. The hymns focused on God as creator are discussed in detail below.

**COMMENTS**  
<sup>2</sup> These phrases are based on Isaiah 45:7 which speaks of God as "forming light, creating darkness, making peace [or wholeness], and creating evil." However, the Rabbis radically altered the verse, replacing "creating evil" with "creating all." (Note that this "hakol – all" is echoed repeatedly in the next paragraph.)