

A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

Rabbi Carie Carter, Park Slope Jewish Center

Our God and God of our ancestors,

As the peacefulness of Shabbat enters our hearts, we center ourselves anew, and we stand together to honor all those who passionately and courageously defend this nation and the values we hold dear---on the battlefield, in the streets, in the courtrooms of our country, in the halls of power and in quiet back rooms, where injustice may quietly raise its ugly head.

We stand here, abundantly aware that threats to this nation and the values upon which it has been guided for more than 2 centuries, continue to this very day. And so we ask your continued blessing on this country and on all who call it home.

Help us to be aware of the many gifts you have bestowed upon us. May a spirit of courage, cooperation, and respect, a celebration of difference and diversity, be manifest in all our thoughts and all our deeds. May we foster these ideals in our homes, in our schools, and in our communities, so that our nation will become an inspiration to the world, and a model of moral vision for our children.

Even as we realize the depth of the divisions amongst us, help us to find a path to understanding. Help us to heal the rifts that have developed.

Give us the courage to have the difficult conversations, to create not walls to separate us, but bridges with the possibility of bringing us together.

Guide the citizens of this country as well as our elected leadership with wisdom and compassion. Place in our hearts a sense of justice and ultimate respect for the dignity of all people. Open our ears to hear the voices of even the most marginalized in our world so that indeed justice and righteousness, peace, security and freedom will forever abide in our midst. Help us all to do the work that is necessary so that our nation will indeed be a place of freedom, a place of safety and security, of possibility and opportunity for all who call it home.

And let us all say: Amen