

1) See the Problem• Knife, Birds by Daniel siegel

Isaac should have knocked the knife away,
 slung it down the mountain,
 broken it on a rock,
 whatever-
 as soon as he saw Abraham
 unwind the rope from the ass's saddle,
 He should have shouted in his father's
 sad-eyed face,
 'Your sadness is cheap!
 too sophisticated
 too programmed,
 weeping for Youth Dying Young
 according to Gd's will!
 Stop crying! Defy this mystery-laden
 Master, this Voice of yours
 and love me, your visible son!"

Would not the birds,
 stunned by the near-atrocity of the act,
 would they not have burst
 into a mighty Psalm-song
 to drown the clank of the knife
 rolling down the hillside
 and the roaring joy of Abraham?

- The Grandest Mystery of All by Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin
Faith is that attitude, part gift, part victory hard won, that allows each of us to look into our children's eyes, full of trust and purity, expectation and a little fear, and say to them, 'I am so glad that I was able to bring you into this world.' Despite all the ugliness we know that the world possesses, despite war and hatred, greed and poverty that spoil the planet and erode the spirit, despite even the inevitability of death itself, faith is what lets us say, 'Dear child, it is still good.' Faith is what causes us to hum absent-mindedly, and to dream about tomorrow, though tomorrow may never come. Faith may just be the grandest mystery of all. And who in this world doesn't love a mystery?"
- Litany for those who aren't ready for healing original by Dr. Yolanda Pierce, the Elmer G. Hemrighausen Associate professor of African American religion and literature at Princeton Theological Seminary adapted by Rabbi Starr

Let us not rush to the language of healing, before understanding the fullness of the injury and the depth of the wound.

Let us not rush to offer a band-aid, when the gaping wound requires surgery and complete reconstruction.

Let us not offer false equivalencies, thereby diminishing the particular pain being felt in a particular circumstance in a particular historical moment.

Let us not speak of reconciliation without speaking of reparations and restoration, or how we can repair the breach and how we can restore the loss. Let us not rush past the loss of this mother's child, this father's child, someone's beloved son.

Let us not value property over people; let us not protect material objects while human lives hang in the balance.

Let us not value a false peace over a righteous justice. Let us not be afraid to sit with the ugliness, the messiness, and the pain that is life in community together.

Let us not offer clichés to the grieving, those whose hearts are being torn asunder.

Let us mourn black and brown men and women, those killed extra judicially every 28 hours.

Let us weep at the death of police officers ambushed and murdered.

Let us cry at a criminal justice system, which is neither blind nor just.

Let us be silent when we don't know what to say.

Let us be humble and listen to the pain, rage, and grief pouring from the lips of our neighbors and friends.

2. Envision the world without this problem

- Untitled poem from "The Dinner Party" by Judy Chicago

And then all that has divided us will merge
 And then compassion will be wedded to power
 And then softness will come to a world that is harsh
 and unkind
 And then both men and women will be gentle
 And then both women and men will be strong
 And then no person will be subject to another's will
 And then all will be rich and free and varied
 And then the greed of some will give way to the needs
 of many
 And then all will share equally in the Earth's
 abundance
 And then all will care for the sick and the weak
 and the old
 And then all will nourish the young
 And then all will cherish life's creatures
 And then all will live in harmony with each other
 and the Earth
 And then everywhere will be called Eden once again

- Peace by Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Peace
 is not
 the absence of conflict,
 but
 the handling of conflict
 without
 loss of balance.

- Modim Anachnu Lach by Susan C. Bass

Modim anachnu lach, we give thanks, *Adonai*, for the blessing of community. Joining our voices, opening our minds, embracing one another, and enabling us to connect one to the other, creating a lasting bond.

Modim anachnu lach, we give thanks, *Shechinah*, for the blessing of our work. Guide our hands to do Your work, that we may bring meaning and holiness to all that we do and use our abilities to help those less fortunate, and learn to do good, *limdu heitev*.

Modim anachnu lach, we give thanks for the blessing of courage. Help us continue to raise our voices for the widow and the orphan, for those whose voices cannot be heard. Guide us to speak out against injustice and bigotry wherever and whenever we see it.

Modim anachnu lach, we give thanks for the blessing of vision. Help us see our way through changing and challenging times. Open our eyes to the possibilities before us, to what we can become.

Modim anachnu lach, we give thanks for the blessing of patience. Help us direct our energy to those things we *can* do, and learn to accept that sometimes the answer is ‘not yet.’

Modim anachnu lach, we give thanks for the blessing of leadership, for the call to serve You and the Jewish people through our work in our congregations, our communities, and the greater world. Guide us as we debate and discuss, listen and hear, and engage with one another in our sacred work.

- H. Thurman
The work of the season:
"To find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild nations,
to bring peace among brothers,
to make music in the heart."
- For Congregational Wisdom During Conflict by Alden Solovy
Gd of Old,
We come together
As a congregation,
A community of men and women,
Young and old,
In reverence for each other,
With challenges facing us as a community,
And we look for insight and guidance.

We have one desire:
To build a place of holiness,
A place of Torah,
A place of *chesed* and *rachamim*.

Grant us wisdom as we do this holy work.
Grant us the ability to speak with care,
And to listen with understanding.
Open our hearts
So that our words will build deeper connections
And stronger bonds,
In this holy congregation.

3. Believe you can make it happen

- Up-hill by Christina Rossetti

Does the road wind up-hill all the way?

Yes, to the very end.

Will the day's journey take the whole long day?

From morn to night, my friend.

But is there for the night a resting-place?

A roof for when the slow dark hours begin?

May not the darkness hide it from my face?

You cannot miss that inn.

Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?

Those who have gone before.

Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?

They will not keep you standing at that door.

Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?

Of labour you shall find the sum.

Will there be beds for me and all who seek?

Yea, beds for all who come.

You'll Never Walk Alone Song by Gerry & The Pacemakers

When you walk through a storm
Hold your head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark
At the end of a storm
There's a golden sky
And a sweet silver song of a lark
Walk on through the wind
Walk on through the rain
Or your dreams be tossed and blown
Walk on! Walk on! With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone

Get On Your Feet Song by Gloria Estefan

You say I know it's a waste of time, there's no use trying
So scared, that life's gonna pass you by, your spirit dying
Not long ago, I could feel your strength and your devotion
What was so clear is now overcast
With mixed emotions (emotions, emotions)
Deep in your heart is the answer
Find it, I know it will pull you through
Get on your feet
Get up and make it happen
Get on your feet
Stand up and take some action
I think it's true that we've all been through some nasty weather
Let's understand that we're here to handle things together
You gotta keep looking onto tomorrow
There's so much in life
That's meant for you
Get on your feet
Get up and make it happen
Get on your feet
Stand up and take some action

