

הריני מכוון ומוכן בהצבעתי היום
לדרש שלום בעד המדינה הזאת כמו שכתוב
"וּדְרָשׁוּ אֶת שְׁלוֹם הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר הִגַּלְתִּי אֶתְכֶם שָׁמָּה
וְהִתְפַּלְלוּ בְעֵדָה אֶל ה' כִּי בְשְׁלוֹמָהּ יִהְיֶה לְכֶם שְׁלוֹם:"
יְהִי רְצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ שֶׁהַהֲצָבָעוֹת נִמְנוּ נְאֻמָּנוֹת
וְתִמְנָה הַהֲצָבָעָתִי כְּאֵלוֹ קִיַּמְתִּי הַכָּתוּב הַזֶּה בְּכֹל עֲצָמְתִּי
וְטוֹב יִהְיֶה בְּעֵינֶיךָ שֶׁתֵּתֵן לְכָב חֲכָמָה
לְמִי שְׁאֵנוּ בּוֹחֲרִים | תּוֹמְכִים הַיּוֹם
וְתִשָּׂא עֲלֵינוּ מִמְשָׁלָה לְטוֹבָה וְלִבְרָכָה
לְהֵבִיא מִשְׁפָּט וְשְׁלוֹם לְכָל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל וְלִירוּשָׁלַיִם
כִּי הַמְּלָכוֹת שֶׁלְךָ הֵיא
וּכְשֶׁם שֶׁהִשְׁתַּתְּפָתִי בְּבַחֲרֹת הַיּוֹם
כֵּן זְכַנִּי לַעֲשׂוֹת מַעֲשִׂים טוֹבִים וְלִתְקַן עוֹלָם
בְּכָל פּוֹעֲלֵי וּבַפְּעוּלֹת ... שְׁאֲנִי מִתְנַדָּב לְקִיַּם הַיּוֹם
בְּעֵד כָּל הַבְּרִיאוֹת בְּזִכְרוֹן בְּרִית מִי נֹחַ
לְהִגֵּן וְלִבְל תִּשְׁחִית אֶרֶץ וּמְלוֹאָהּ
תֵּן לְכָל עַמֵּי הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת הַכֹּחַ וְהַרְצוֹן
לְרַדֵּף צְדָקָה וְלִבְקֹשׁ שְׁלוֹם כְּאִגְדָּה אַחַת
לְהַצְמִיחַ בְּכָל הָעוֹלָם חַיִּים טוֹבִים וְשְׁלוֹם
וְקִיַּם לָנוּ הַכָּתוּב
וְיִהְיֶה נֵעִם אֲדָנִי אֱלֹהֵינוּ עָלֵינוּ
וּמַעֲשֵׂה יָדֵינוּ כּוֹנֵנָה עָלֵינוּ וּמַעֲשֵׂה יָדֵינוּ כּוֹנֵנָהּ:

With my vote today I am ready and intending
to seek peace for this country, as it is written:
“Seek the peace of the city where I cause you to roam
and pray for her sake to *Yah Hashem*, for in her peace you all will have peace.”
May it be Your will that votes will be counted faithfully
and may You count my vote as if I had fulfilled this verse with all my power.
May it be good in Your eyes to give a wise heart
to whomever we elect [*for primaries*: whomever we support] today
and may You erect for us a government whose rule is for good and blessing
to bring justice and peace to all the inhabitants of the world and to Jerusalem
for rulership is Yours!
Just as I participated in elections today
so may you help me to do good deeds and repair the world
with all my work, and with the deed which I pledge today [*fill in your pledge*]
on behalf of all creatures and in remembrance of the covenant of Noah’s waters
to protect and not destroy the earth and her plenitude
May you give to us, to all the peoples of this country the strength and will
to pursue righteousness and to seek peace as one unity
to cause to flourish, throughout the world good life and peace
and fulfill for us the verse:
“May the pleasure of *Adonai* our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands for us, make the work of our hands endure.”

This prayer is based in part on the custom of making a pledge to give *tsedakah*, charity, on the occasion of going up to the Torah. You, the reader, are invited to add your pledge to do a good deed on the occasion of “going up” to the voting booth. The two lines following this pledge suggest an intention to act not just for anyone’s particular interest but rather in the highest interests of all living things. Only acts taken this spirit can become truly “established.” But please add to or modify these lines to express whatever your highest sense of purpose may be. In this election season of 2008 we have a meaningful hope of seeing candidates from both parties who will have this highest sense behind the way they conduct their campaigns. So may they and we all be inspired.