

## הצהרת אמונה

## **Affirmation of Jewish Identity**

Today I stand before God, my heart full of love and awe. I stand with Father Abraham and Mother Sarah, who left their ancestral home to follow the summons of God to a life of justice and service. I stand with Jacob, who became Israel when he wrestled with God and prevailed. I stand with Moses our teacher, who forsook a life of privilege to speak God's word to tyrants. I stand with Miriam the Prophet, who led our people in song and dance in celebration of our liberation from bondage and our service to God alone.

I stand with Prophets of Israel, who, passionate for God's words, dared to imagine a world where God's justice prevails. And I stand with Ruth, who chose the people of Israel and the God of Israel, and who created a new home in Israel for all time.

Today I affirm my membership in the People of Israel, having cast my lot with theirs, my hope with theirs, my pain and joy with theirs.

I have accepted the Torah of Israel, making her teachings mine. I have embraced her commandments and exhortations, her promises and her warnings. I commit myself to a lifetime of growth, study and holiness. I accept the challenge of listening for God's words, following God's teachings and cleaving to God's ways.

I declare that I am a part of God's covenant with Israel, that I am now and forever a member of the House of Israel. I do not worship anyone or anything except the God of Israel, the Creator of all things and all people. I repudiate allegiance to all other religious faiths and practices. Of my own free will and without reservation I am a Jew and do pledge to live a Jewish life. May nothing Jewish ever be foreign to me.

I pledge to keep a Jewish home, filled with the love of God, the study of God's Torah, the celebration of the Sabbath and Holy Days, and the honoring of all God's creatures. If in the future I am blessed with children, I pledge to enter my sons into the Covenant of Abraham through the rite of Brit Milah and to welcome both daughters and sons into the Jewish community by naming them in accordance with Jewish tradition. I further pledge to raise all minor children in my care as Jews, to provide them a Jewish education, and to imbue in them a love of Jewish practice and values.

I pledge today to deepen my Jewish observance by active participation in a synagogue. I pledge to give of my time, energy and resources to the worthy endeavors of the organized Jewish community, the building of the Land of Israel, and to helping fulfill our Prophets' vision of a world filled with justice and peace.

I pray I may always be worthy to walk in God's ways and to delight in God's testimonies. In the words of the Torah, I affirm the unity of God:

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ ה' אֶחָד

## Hear, O Israel! Adonai is Our God, Adonai is One!

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