



National Inaugural Prayer Service 1.21.21  
Rabbi Sharon Brous

*Makor haHayim*, Holy One, we stand before you in this moment full of pain and full of promise.

In the midst of pandemic, in the shadow of violent insurrection, we lift up the ancient Jewish promise that after the long night of suffering, a redemptive dawn will come: *yeridah l'tzorekh aliyah*.

We stand now at the inflection point between that tearful night and the joyous, new day.

Give us strength, God, as we usher in the dawn of a new America, a justice-driven, multiracial democracy.

A new America, that lifts up the poor and protects those most vulnerable.

Help us, today, to imagine a new America, that leaves behind the fallacy of profit over people, and instead affirms that every one of us deserves to live in full dignity.

A new America, built on the recognition that we are all part of an invisible web of humanity, that we belong to one another.

That our highest calling as a nation is the sacred responsibility of caring for one another.

A new America, rooted in a shared commitment to healing, protecting and sustaining the earth.

A new America, that finally abolishes the heresy of white supremacy and enlists all of us in dismantling racism and lifting up a theology of radical equality.

A new America, built on love, rooted in justice and propelled by our moral imagination.

Together, we rise to meet this new dawn, to birth a new America.

Together, we affirm that the only way to heal is *to tell the truth*.

Together, we reckon with our past, and we lay the foundation for a more just future.

Holy One, we ask you to protect President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, and strengthen their resolve as they lead us in rebuilding this nation with love. For after the long night of suffering, a redemptive dawn is near.

Amen.