Maimonides in *Hilchot Teshuva* says: “Awaken you sleepers from your sleep, and slumberers arise from your slumbering. Search your actions, and return in teshuva; remember where you come from…” (Maimonides *Hilchot Teshuva* 3:4)

On this day we are called to **Awaken** and **Open our eyes**. The shofar that we are about to hear works as an alarm clock to each of us, as individuals, as a community, as a society and as a world.

I like to imagine all Jews around the world hearing the shofar at the same time (I know it doesn’t work with time zone difference) waking up to the call of the shofar.

**What wakes you up?**

**What wakes your consciousness?**

**What makes your heart open?**

**What makes you see something you haven’t seen yet, or what makes you change your ways?**

We listen to the shofar as we stand on a tragic gap between the hard realities around us and what we know is possible not because we wish it were so, but because we’ve seen it with our own eyes. — As author and activist Parker Palmer once said.

He added: As you stand in the gap between reality and possibility, the temptation is to jump onto one side or the other. If you jump onto the side of too much hard reality, you can get stuck in corrosive cynicism..... If you jump onto the side of too much possibility, you can get caught up in irrelevant idealism.
Perhaps the process of this season is about learning to inhabit the uncomfortable space in this gap of refusing to choose between reality and ideal.

The sounds of the shofar are of brokenness and wholeness, one after the other, one within each other.

They are the sound of hard realities around us and the sound of what we know is possible.

It is within that gap, that we look for the Divine Presence.

And, perhaps this gap is not a tragic one, but a beautiful one. Perhaps this is what LIFE is about.

May the shofar awaken and strengthen our hearts as we take on the challenge of bridging the gap between reality and possibility and as we learn to find the Divine Presence in that uncomfortable space.

Shana Tova!