

Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman
Congregation Shaarei Shamayim
Invocation at the Wisconsin State Legislature
February 11, 2020

Mekor HaChayim, Source of All Life,

As we begin this session, we come together as colleagues, working for the well-being of our state.

Amidst our differences, we sit together, we work together, and for now, we pray together.

We heed the words of the great prophet, Micah:

What does God require of you? Only to do justice, to love compassion, and to walk humbly with your God.

Let us reflect on these demands:

To do justice –

We are entrusted with a sacred task to treat all people fairly, to run our state with integrity, to ensure that every citizen of this state has a voice and a vote.

Let us speak out against racism, against white supremacy, against those who foment hatred in our state.

Let us speak up for the vulnerable, for the poor, for the refugee, for migrants fleeing violence, for those who have so little.

Let us serve them well.

To love compassion –

May we work for the common good by enacting wise legislation.

May we serve the rich and the poor with equal dignity and respect.

May we keep our children safe from bullets on the streets of their neighborhoods and in the hallways of their schools.

May we ensure that all people get the affordable medical care they need should they become ill.

Even as we make difficult decisions, may we always be open-hearted.

To walk humbly with your God –

May we protect our state's precious and fragile resources, the lakes and rivers, forests and prairies.

May we refuse to put profit and pollution over clean water and clean air.

Let us be stewards of the earth and share in the earth's blessings.

Let us listen, let us love, let us remember that another, more gentle world is possible.

Dear God, Holy one of blessing,

May we be blessed with the courage to follow our moral compass.

With the strength to resist injustice.

The compassion to heed the cries of the powerless.

The wisdom to reject corruption and arrogance.

And the audacity to believe that we can make a real difference.

Ken yehi ratzon. May it be so.