

# Rosh Hashanah in the Round 5779

Rabbi Sarah Graff and Rabbi Amy Eilberg

עֲבֹדוּ אֶת ה' בְּשִׂמְחָה

SERVE GOD WITH JOY

(Psalm 100:2)

What is the message in these words for you?

עֲבֹדוּ / SERVE - When do you feel like you are serving?

אֶת ה' / GOD - When do you feel like you are serving God?  
Who or what else do you serve?

בְּשִׂמְחָה / WITH JOY - Think of a time when you chose to approach  
a task with joy. How did you do it?

Which element do you find the hardest?

Man's sin is in his failure to live what he is. Being the master of the earth, man forgets that he is the servant of God.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

In Judaism, faith is not a rival to science, an attempt to explain the universe. It's a sense of wonder, born in a feeling of gratitude. Judaism is about taking life in both hands and making a blessing over it. It is as if God had said to us: I made all this for you. This is my gift. Enjoy it and help others to enjoy it also. Wherever you can, heal some of the pain that people inflict on one another, or the thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to. Because pain, sadness, fear, anger, envy, resentment, these are things that cloud your vision and separate you from others and from Me.

Kierkegaard once wrote: "It takes moral courage to grieve. It takes religious courage to rejoice."<sup>[3]</sup> I believe that with all my heart. So I am moved by the way Jews, who know what it is to walk through the valley of the shadow of death, still see joy as the supreme religious emotion. Every day we begin our morning prayers with a litany of thanks, that we are here, with a world to live in, family and friends to love and be loved by, about to start a day full of possibilities, in which, by acts of loving kindness, we allow God's presence to flow through us into the lives of others. Joy helps heal some of the wounds of our injured, troubled world.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Re'eh 5776

Don't ask what you want from life. Ask what life wants from you.

Victor Frankl, psychotherapist and Auschwitz survivor

וְאַנְחֵנוּ לֹא נֵדַע מַה נַעֲבֹד אֶת־ה' עַד בֵּאֵנוּ שָׁמָּה  
*Va'anachnu lo nayda mah na'avod et Hashem ad bo'einu shamah*  
We don't know how we will serve God until we get there.  
(Exodus 10:26)

וְטַהַר לִבֵּינוּ לְעַבְדְּךָ בְּאֵמֶת  
*V'taher libeinu l'ovdecha b'emet*  
Purify our hearts that we may serve you faithfully.  
(from the shabbat and festival amidah)

עֲבֹדוּ אֶת־ה' בְּשִׂמְחָה בָּאוּ לְפָנָיו בְּרִנָּה  
*Ivdu et Hashem b'simcha, bo'u lefanav birnana*  
Serve God with joy, come before God with song. Psalm 100:2

## Malchuyot, Zichronot, and Shofarot - Verses for Contemplation

Malchuyot - Sovereignty

שִׁמְעֵ יִשְׂרָאֵל, ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ, ה' אֶחָד.

*Shema Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad.*

Listen Israel, Adonai is our God, Adonai is One. (Deut. 6:4)

Zichronot - Remembrances

זָכַרְתִּי לָךְ חֶסֶד נְעוּרַיִךְ, אֲהַבַת כְּלוּלֹתַיִךְ, לְכַתֵּךְ אַחֲרַי בַּמִּדְבָּר, בְּאֶרֶץ לֹא זְרוּעָה

*Zacharti lach chesed ne'urayich,*

*ahavat kelulotayich, lechtech acharai bamidbar, b'erezt lo z'ruah.*

I remember the affection of your youth, your love when we were betrothed  
when you followed Me in the wilderness, a barren land. (Jeremiah 2:2)

Shofarot

כָּל הַנְּשָׁמָה תְהַלֵּל יְהוָה הַלְלוּיָהּ

*Kol haneshamah tehallel Yah, Halleluyah.*

Let every breath of life praise Adonai, Halleluyah. (Psalm 150)