

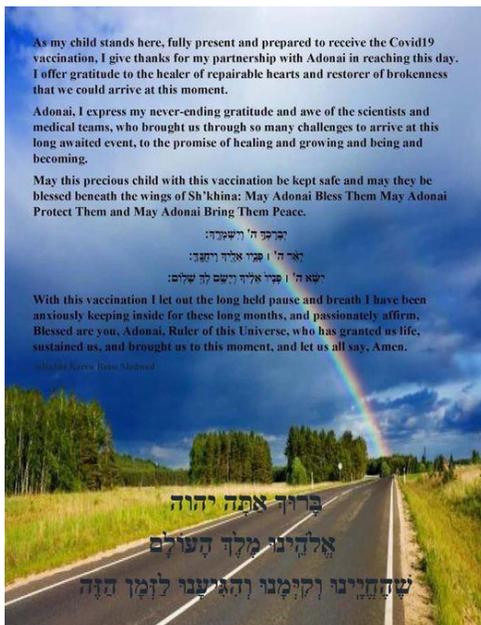
November 4, 2021  
Rabbi Wexler - *Toldot*

In this week's Torah portion, Toldot, we continue to read the story of our ancestors Isaac and Rebecca. Like most of the characters in the Torah, Isaac was a complicated individual, but one thing that was not so complicated about him was his attention and devotion to prayer. At numerous significant moments in his adult life, Isaac turns to prayer. When Isaac and Rebecca meet for the first time, she finds him praying in the field. And now, in Toldot, we find Isaac praying again, this time specifically for his beloved Rebecca as she struggles with infertility. Isaac teaches us of both the import and power of prayer.

Every morning when I wake up, I turn to God in prayer, giving thanks for a new day, giving thanks for the blessing of health, family, community, and love. I start each day with gratitude, specifically the words "*Modeh Ani Lifanekha*- Thank you God." Those words echoed large in my heart today as I recited them while I signed up my children, Meyer and Gavi, to receive the COVID-19 vaccine which was just approved for children five years and older earlier this week.

I am grateful. Grateful for science, medicine, and the countless individuals that have dedicated their work and their lives to helping all of us navigate through the pandemic. I am grateful for all of my fellow parents who are also currently signing their children up to be vaccinated. I am grateful for our children for their patience and for all of the sacrifices that they have made over the last 18 months to keep one another and all of us safe. I am grateful for life and for health. The pandemic continues, but the ability to now get many more of our children vaccinated brings us one step closer to protecting the health and well-being of our loved ones and our community.

In anticipation of the CDC's most recent announcement, numerous rabbis have composed prayers to thank God for helping us reach this moment, prayers to be recited as our children are vaccinated. I share one in particular with you, a prayer composed by Rabbi Karen Reiss Medwed. Becca and I plan to recite this prayer as Meyer and Gavi receive the vaccine in about 10 days:



*As my child stands here, fully present and prepared to receive the Covid19 vaccination, I give thanks for my partnership with Adonai in reaching this day. I offer gratitude to the healer of repairable hearts and restorer of brokenness that we could arrive at this moment.*

*Adonai, I express my never- ending gratitude and awe of the scientists and medical teams, who brought us through so many challenges to arrive at this long-awaited event, to the promise of healing and growing and being and becoming.*

*May this precious child with this vaccination be kept safe and they be blessed beneath the wings of the Sh'khina: May Adonai Bless Them May Adonai Protect Them and May Adonai Bring Them Peace.*

*With this vaccination I let out the long held pause and breath I have been anxiously keeping inside for these long months, and passionately affirm: Blessed are You, Adonai, Ruler of this Universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and brought us to this moment, and let us all say, Amen.*

Shabbat Shalom.