

ברכו  
BAR'CHU / CALL TO WORSHIP

**ALL SING:** As we bless the source of life, so we are blessed. (repeat)  
And the blessing gives us strength,  
And makes our vision clear.  
And the blessing gives us peace,  
And the courage to dare.  
As we bless the source of life, so we are blessed.  
(Faith Rogow)

Life becomes infinitely more meaningful and worthwhile when we become aware, through our participation in public worship, of a common life that transcends our individual selves. (Adapted from Rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan)

When we worship in public, we know our life is part of a larger life, a wave of an ocean of being — the first-hand experience of that larger life which is God.  
(Rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan)

The main part of the evening service begins with the customary prayers: Bar'chu, Asher Bidvaro, Ahavat Olam, Sh'ma . . . . There is something reassuring about the familiarity of the liturgy, a security in knowing that even as we embark on the day of atoning, we travel a liturgical road which is remarkably similar to the one a Jew can walk every day of the year. The other days of the year lead us to Yom Kippur, and a bit of Yom Kippur's call to return is contained in the everyday.  
(Rabbi Richard Hirsh)

**ALL SING:**

בְּרַכּוּ אֶת יְהוָה הַמְּבָרֵךְ:  
בְּרוּךְ יְהוָה הַמְּבָרֵךְ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:

*Bar'chu et adonai ham'vorach.  
Baruch adonai ham'vorach l'olam va'ed.*

(Bless The Infinite, the blessed One!  
Blessed is The Infinite, the blessed One, now and forever!)

*Please be seated.*

**READER:** Awesome is the power  
That spins the day to dusk!  
Can we trap the wisdom with which the dawn gates open?  
Or ever understand how time and seasons come and go?  
Stand in wonder beneath the orbiting stars!  
Stand in amazement and proclaim:  
How wondrous is this evening twilight!

