

**Prayer for Resuming In-person Services written by Rabbi Hazzan Jeff Myers and  
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**June 5, 2021 - Shabbat Parashat Shlach Lekha**

*Eloheinu v'elohei avoteinu v'imoteinu*: Our God and God of our ancestors:

So many of us have been wondering when we would be able to gather safely again in this sanctuary. We waited, we worried, and we wondered some more. When we finally decided to plunge into Zoom, it was hard at first, strange and awkward. And then, well, we got used to it. We enjoyed attending shul in our pajamas, on our sofas, with our snacks and coffee. We could play with our little ones, enjoy the comfort of our homes, and still hear your teachings through the screen. We forgot what it was like to be together - REALLY together.

Some of us aren't ready to venture out. We need time to feel like we are truly safe - even in the most sacred of spaces. Please be with us as we find our way back to our congregational home.

Whether we are here physically or not, we stand before You with full hearts: Grateful that many can safely gather to pray in-person; sorrowed by the immense loss of human life; happy to see our fellow congregants face-to-face; mindful of the fragility of our lives. It has been 448 days since we have stood together in this Holy Place to praise Your name and study Your Torah.

*Modim Anachnu Lach*. We thank You for Your Divine guidance enabling scientists to devise vaccinations at such a remarkable rate. We thank You for populating the earth with so many helpers, whose Divine spark shown through this horrific pandemic. We thank You that we are able to stand today and merely offer this *bracha* of thanks:

*Baruch Ata Adonai Eloheinu Melech Ha-olam, Shehecheyanu V'kiy'manu V'higianu Lazman Hazeh*.

Praised are You, Sovereign of the Universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this moment.

Amen