Come
Music by Chava Mirel, lyrics by Stacey Zisook Robinson

Come, come all of you, come all of us and bless the one who blesses
Blessed is the blessed one, blessed is the giver of blessing, blessed in this moment now, and every now to come

P’tach Libi
Amidah, music by Rabbi Noam Katz

فتحה לביך ותנגן, ובמהלך ותלך שופשך,
ושש כלשת שבך, ושש כלשת ימיך,
ושש כלשת דשמה, ושש כלשת חורגת.

P’tach libi b’Toratecha, uv’mitzvotecha tirdof nafshi
aseih l’m’a’an sh’mecha, aseih l’m’a’an y’minecha
aseih l’m’a’an k’dushatecha, aseih l’m’a’an Toratecha

Open my heart to Your Torah—let my soul be eager to pursue Your mitzvot.
Do this for the sake of Your name; do this for the sake of Your strength;
do this for the sake of Your holiness; do this for the sake of Your Torah.

PART I

Psalm 121:1

Esa einai el heharim
m’ain yavo ezri?

I lift my eyes to the mountains;
from where will my help come?

Min HaMeitzar
Psalm 118:5-6, by Deborah Sacks Mintz

Min hameitzar karati Ya
Anani vamerchav Ya
Adonai li lo Ira
Ma yaaseh li adam

From the narrow place I called out to God;
[God] answered me with expansiveness.
Adonai is for me, I will not fear;
What can a person do to me?

Sometimes
By David Whyte

Sometimes
if you move carefully through the forest breathing
like the ones in the old stories

who could cross
a shimmering bed of dry leaves without a sound,
you come to a place
where the only task
is to trouble you
with tiny
but frightening requests
conceived out of nowhere
but in this place
beginning to lead everywhere.

Requests to stop what
you are doing right now
and
to stop what you are becoming while you do it,

questions that can make or unmake a life,
questions that have patiently waited for you,
questions that have no right to go away.

For quiet reflection:
What questions have been patiently waiting for you?
PART II

Psalm 121:2

Ezri m’im Adonai,
oseh shamayim va’aretz

My help comes from the Eternal,
maker of heaven and earth.

Yah Ana Em’tza’acha
Music by Dan Nichols, poem by Yehuda HaLevi

Ye’ara emtza-cha,
m’komcha naleh v’neelam
v’ana lo emtza’acha
k’vodcha malei olam
darashti kirvatcha
b’chol libi k’raticha
u’vtzeiti likratcha,
likrati, m’tzaticha

Where might I go to find You,
exalted, Hidden One?
Yet where would I not go to find You,
ever present, Eternal One?
My heart cries out to You:
Please draw near to me.
The moment I reach out for You,
I find You reaching in for me.

Sequoia Sempervirens
By Tamara Madison

…Some of these trees have been here
Since Vikings drove their boats
Onto the shores of Newfoundland
Some of these trees were seedlings
While the Mayans were worshiping time
While the dire wolf and saber-toothed
Tiger roamed North America
Some of these trees have survived
Lightning strikes and forest fires
Some of these trees house creatures
Of the forest floor in burned-out caves
At the base of their ruddy trunks.
Some of these trees have become
Living pipes, chimneys, hollowed out

By fire. They have grown beyond
Their trauma and focus now
On the daily climb, the adding-on
Of needle and bark, on nature’s drive
To rise above and see beyond
Until the day when death will fell them
And the earth will add them to its riches.
We can be like these trees, pull on
The layers of living like
Fine new garments
House the needy in the caverns of our grief,
Grow beyond the stories of our scars
Stretch our branches toward the bristling stars.

Lamdeini
Music by Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller, poem by Leah Goldberg

Teach me, O God, a blessing, a prayer
on the mystery of a withered leaf,
on ripened fruit so fair,
to breathe, to know, to hope, to despair.
Teach my lips a blessing, a hymn of praise,
as each morning and night
You renew Your days,
lest my day be today as the one before;
lest routine set my ways.

Lamdeini Elohai bareich
v’hitpalel lameid et sifotai
b’racha v’shir hallel.

Teach me, O God, a blessing, a prayer.
Teach my lips a blessing, a hymn of praise.

Musicians
Matthew Banks (clarinet)
Jesse Fry (piano)
Efren Guzman (percussion)
Max Einsohn and Shannyn Einsohn (singers)
Part III

Psalm 121:3-7

God will not let your foot give way; your guardian will not slumber; See, the guardian of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps! The Eternal is your guardian, Adonai is your protection at your right hand. By day the sun will not strike you, nor the moon by night. Adonai will guard you from all harm; Adonai will guard your life.

Holy
Music and lyrics by Netanel Goldberg, arranged by Philip Orem

Sing in full presents
Sing with the lion in the wild
Close your eyes and fill the wind that is blowing
Open up your hearts and sing
I am holy
I am holy
I am open to see flowers blooming
I am here to live this life

To the New Year
By W.S. Merwin

With what stillness at last
You appear in the valley
Your first sunlight reaching down
To touch the tips of a few
High leaves that do not stir

As though they had not noticed
And did not know you at all
Then the voice of a dove calls
From far away in itself
To the hush of the morning
So this is the sound of you
Here and now whether or not
Anyone hears it this is
Where we have come with our age
Our knowledge such as it is
And our hopes such as they are
Invisible before us
Untouched and still possible.

Ashira L’Adonai
Psalm 13:6, music by Yonatan Razell

I have trusted in Your loving kindness;
my heart will exult in Your deliverance;
I will sing to Adonai, who has dealt kindly with me.

For quiet reflection:
What are the sparks of holiness in your life?
Psalm 121

What to Do in the Darkness
By Marilyn McEntyre

Go slowly
Consent to it
But don’t wallow in it
Know it as a place of germination
And growth
Remember the light
Take an outstretched hand if you find one
Exercise unused senses
Find the path by walking it
Practice trust
Watch for dawn

Kinder
Music and lyrics by Copper Wimmin, arranged by Philip Orem

For quiet reflection:
What steps can you take to bring more light into your family, our community, and our world?

Psalm 121

Music by Yosef Karduner