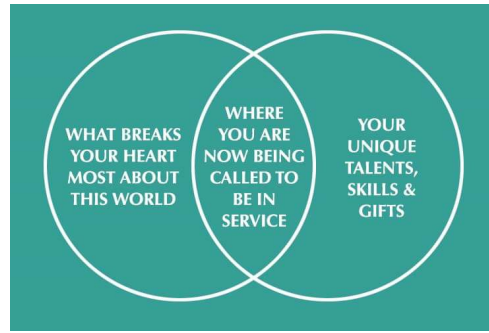


## Aleinu: It's On Us

Source Sheet by Rabbi Tiferet Berenbaum



### Siddur Ashkenaz, Aleinu

It is our duty to praise the Master of all, to acclaim the greatness of the One who forms all creation. For God did not make us like the nations of other lands, and did not make us the same as other families of the Earth. God did not place us in the same situations as others, and our destiny is not the same as anyone else's. *For they bow to vanity and emptiness, to a god who cannot save.* And we bend our knees, and bow down, and give thanks, before the Ruler, the Ruler of Rulers, the Holy One, Blessed is God.

The One who spread out the heavens, and made the foundations of the Earth, and whose precious dwelling is in the heavens above, and whose powerful Presence is in the highest heights. Adonai is our God, there is none else. Our God is truth, and nothing else compares. As it is written in Your Torah: "And you shall know today, and take to heart, that Adonai is the only God, in the heavens above and on Earth below. **There is no other.**

**Therefore** we put our hope in You, Adonai our God, to soon see the glory of Your strength, to remove all idols from the Earth, and to completely cut off all false gods; **to repair the world**, Your holy empire. And for all living flesh to call Your name, and for all the wicked of the Earth to **turn to You**. May all the world's inhabitants recognize and know that to You every knee must bend and every tongue must swear loyalty. Before You, Adonai, our God, may all bow

### סידור אשכנז, עלינו

עלינו לשבח לאדון הכל. לתת גְדֻלָּה לְיוֹצֵר בְּרֵאשִׁית.  
שְׁלֵא עָשָׂנוּ כְּגוֹיֵי הָאָרְצוֹת. וְלֹא שָׁמְנוּ כְּמִשְׁפָּחוֹת  
הָאֲדָמָה. שְׁלֵא שָׁם חָלַקְנוּ כְּהֵם וּגְוָרְלָנוּ כְּכֹל הַמוֹנִם:  
*שְׁהֵם מִשְׁתַּחֲוִים לְהֶבֶל וְרִיק*<sup>1</sup> *וּמִתְפַּלְלִים אֶל אֵל לֹא  
יוֹשִׁיעַ*<sup>2</sup>: וְאֵנַחְנוּ כּוֹרְעִים וּמִשְׁתַּחֲוִים וּמוֹדִים לְפָנֵי מֶלֶךְ  
מַלְכֵי הַמַּלְכִּים הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא:

שְׁהוּא נוֹטֵה שְׁמַיִם וְיוֹסֵד אֶרֶץ<sup>3</sup>. וּמוֹשֵׁב יָקָרוּ בְּשָׁמַיִם  
מִמַּעַל. וְשֹׁכֵנֵת עָזוּ בְּגִבְהֵי מְרוֹמִים: הוּא אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֵין  
עוֹד. אָמֵת מְלַכְנוּ. אֶפְסֵ זוּלָּתוֹ. כִּפְתוּב בְּתוֹרָתוֹ.  
וְיִדְעַת הַיּוֹם וְהַשַּׁבָּת אֶל לְבָבָהּ. כִּי ה' הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים  
בְּשָׁמַיִם מִמַּעַל וְעַל הָאָרֶץ מִתַּחַת. אֵין עוֹד<sup>4</sup>:

עַל כֵּן נִקְוָה לָּהּ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ לְרֵאוֹת מְהֵרָה בְּתַפְאֲרַת  
עֲזָהּ. לְהַעֲבִיר גְּלוּלִים מִן הָאָרֶץ. וְהָאֱלִילִים כְּרוֹת  
כִּפְרָתוֹן. לְתַקֵּן עוֹלָם בְּמַלְכוּת שְׁדֵי. וְכָל בְּנֵי בָשָׂר  
יִקְרְאוּ בְשִׁמְךָ לְהַפְנוֹת אֵלֶיךָ כָּל רִשְׁעֵי אֶרֶץ. יִכִּירוּ  
וְיִדְעוּ כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תְבֵל. כִּי לָּהּ תִּכְרַע כָּל בְּרֵהּ. תִּשְׁבַּע  
כָּל לְשׁוֹן. לְפָנֶיךָ ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ יִכְרַעוּ וְיִפְלוּ. וְלִכְבוֹד  
שִׁמְךָ יִקְרְאוּ יִתְנוּ. וְיִקְבְּלוּ כָּלְּם אֵת עַל מַלְכוּתְךָ. וְתִמְלֹךְ  
עֲלֵיהֶם מְהֵרָה לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד. כִּי הַמַּלְכוּת שְׁלֹךְ הִיא  
וְלְעוֹלָמֵי עֵד תִּמְלֹךְ בְּכָבוֹד. כִּפְתוּב בְּתוֹרָתְךָ. ה' יִמְלֹךְ  
לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד<sup>5</sup>: וְנֹאמַר. וְהִיא ה' לְמִלְכָּה עַל כָּל הָאָרֶץ<sup>6</sup>.  
בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא יִהְיֶה ה' אֶחָד וְשִׁמוֹ אֶחָד:

<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 30:7

<sup>2</sup> Isaiah 45:20

<sup>3</sup> Isaiah 51:13, Zechariah 12:1

<sup>4</sup> Deuteronomy 4:39

<sup>5</sup> Exodus 15:18

<sup>6</sup> Zechariah 14:9

down, and give honor to Your precious name, and may all take upon themselves the yoke of Your rule. And may You reign over them soon and forever and always. Because all rule is Yours alone, and You will rule in honor forever and ever. As it is written in Your Torah: "Adonai will reign forever and ever." And it is said: "Adonai will be Ruler over the whole Earth, and on that day, God will be One, and God's name will be One.  
-Jewish Virtual Library Translation  
-Italics usually omitted.

## Aleynu, an Interpretive Translation by Rabbi Josh Guttoff

Ours is to praise the Master of all;  
to recognize the greatness of the One who  
fashioned our beginning.  
Not as a nation-state, nor as a tribe;  
but by giving us a particular task, a particular fate:

to bow, to bend, to acknowledge the Authority  
over all authority, the Blessed Holy One, who  
stretched out the expanse and gathered the  
substance, filling the farthest emptiness and  
humbling the heights. This alone is our God, the  
one true ruler. As it is written:  
"That you may know today and understand this  
truth: that Adonai alone is God in the heavens  
above and on Earth below; there is none other."

And so we put our hope in You, Adonai our God,  
to see your power revealed in its beauty, erasing

that which is wicked, that which is false. To  
restore Creation under Your nurturing rule;  
that all life be able to call upon You, and even the  
evil will return to the light. All who share this  
earth will see that only to You need we be humble,  
only to You need we be loyal. Then, Adonai our  
God, all will bow and bend before You,  
acknowledging Your name as precious. All  
humanity will join in the task You set, and You will  
lead all humanity forever. For You are the true  
Ruler, and will rule gloriously forever.  
As the Torah teaches, "Adonai will rule for all  
eternity."

And it is said:  
"And Adonai shall be king over all the earth;  
In that day who Adonai is and how Adonai is  
called will be one."

## Reconstructionist Siddur Kol HaNeshama version:

### ALEYNU

*We rise for Aleynu. It is customary to bow at "bend the knee." For an alternative version see page 126. For additional readings see pages 737-739, 748, 772-774, 776-777, 803-804. Choose one of the following:*

It is up to us to offer praises to the Source of all,  
to declare the greatness of the author of Creation,  
who gave to us teachings of truth  
and planted eternal life within us.



It is up to us to offer praises to the Source of all,  
to declare the greatness of the author of Creation,  
who created heaven's heights and spread out its expanse,  
who laid the earth's foundation and brought forth its offspring,  
giving life to all its peoples,  
the breath of life to all who walk about.

### עֲלֵינוּ

*We rise for Aleynu. It is customary to bow at "korim." Choose one of the following:*

Aleynu leshabe'ah la'adon hakol  
latet gedulah leyotzer bereyshit  
shenatan lanu torat emet  
vehayey olam nata beto'henu.

עֲלֵינוּ לְשַׁבְּחַת לְאֲדוֹן הַכֹּל  
לְתַת גְּדוּלָה לְיוֹצֵר בְּרָאשִׁית  
שְׁנָתָנוּ לָנוּ תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת  
וְחַיֵּי עוֹלָם נִטַּע בְּתוֹכֵנוּ:

*Continue on page 123.*

Aleynu leshabe'ah la'adon hakol  
latet gedulah leyotzer bereyshit  
bore hashamayim venoteyhem  
roka ha'aretz vetze'etza'eha  
noten neshamah la'am aleha  
veruah laholehim bah

עֲלֵינוּ לְשַׁבְּחַת לְאֲדוֹן הַכֹּל  
לְתַת גְּדוּלָה לְיוֹצֵר בְּרָאשִׁית  
בוֹרֵא הַשָּׁמַיִם וְנוֹטֵייהֶם  
רוֹקַע הָאָרֶץ וְצֹאֵצְאֵיהָ  
נֹתֵן נְשָׁמָה לְעַם עֲלֵיהָ  
וְרוּחַ לְהַלְכֵימ בָּהּ:

*Continue on page 123.*

*Aleinu l'shabei-ach laadon hakol,  
lateit g'dulah l'yotzeir b'reishit —  
shehu asanu l'shomrei haadamah,  
v'hu samanu lishlichei haTorah;  
shehu sam chayeinu itam,  
v'goraleinu im kol haolam.  
Vaanachnu korim,  
umishtachavim, umodim  
lifnei melech malchei ham'lachim:  
HaKadosh, baruch hu.*

עֲלֵינוּ לְשַׁבַּח לְאֲדוֹן הַכֹּל,  
לְתַת גְּדֻלָּה לְיוֹצֵר בְּרֵאשִׁית,  
שֶׁהוּא עָשָׂנוּ לְשׁוֹמְרֵי הָאָדָמָה,  
וְהוּא שָׁמָנוּ לְשִׁלְיַיִחֵי הַתּוֹרָה,  
שֶׁהוּא שָׂם חַיֵּינוּ אִתָּם,  
וְגָרְלָנוּ עִם כָּל הָעוֹלָם.  
וְאָנַחְנוּ כּוֹרְעִים  
וּמְשִׁתַּחֲוִים וּמוֹדִים  
לְפָנֵי מֶלֶךְ מַלְכֵי הַמַּלְכִּים,  
הַקָּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא.

Our calling is to praise the Living Source. Our duty is to make known the greatness of the One Creator, who trusts us to be guardians of the earth and messengers of Torah; who gives us a destiny shared with all human beings, and who binds our lives to theirs. And so we bend, bow, and give thanks before the Blessed One whose realm is unfathomable, whose sovereignty over all makes all life holy and precious.

-Rabbi Dan Medwin, now in Mishkan HaNefesh

#### Further resources:

- <https://anshesholomnewrochelle.org/sermons/the-origins-of-aleinu/>
- <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/aleinu-a-call-to-divine-service/>
- Hoffman, L. A., Ed. (2002) My people's prayer book: traditional prayers, modern commentaries. (Vol. 6: Tachanun and concluding prayers). Jewish Lights. Pps. 133-148

*Source Sheet created on Sefaria by Tiferet Berenbaum*