

SHABBAT TKUMAH – From Mourning to Revival

Reform congregations in Israel invite Reform, liberal and progressive congregations around the world to celebrate Israel's independence on the Shabbat that falls in between the "Three Yoms" - Yom ha'Shoa - Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom ha'Zikaron – Memorial Day for fallen IDF soldiers and victims of terror and Yom ha'Atzmaut – Israel's Independence Day. This Shabbat is referred to at our Israeli congregations as Shabbat "Tkumah".

The end of the month of Nissan and the beginning of Iyar in Israel are a complex period of time which connects within one week between the three main Zionist commemorative days – Yom ha'Shoah, Yom ha'Zikaron and Yom ha'Atzmaut. Alongside the change in weather in the period between winter and summer, every Israeli and Zionist experiences this transition period between sadness and grief over the memory of those who have perished in the Holocaust and Israeli wars, and the joy of independence and redemption. This process, which is experienced by many as a sort of collective rollercoaster, invites us to have a philosophical and theological discussion about these three days. In the process of forming the Jewish and Israeli calendar in the modern age in a way that will be relevant and meaningful to our lives, the Israel Reform Movement seeks to connect between these three days and point their relevance to one another.

In the time period between these three days is the Shabbat that is called at Reform congregations Shabbat "Tkumah" – Shabbat of Revival, as mentioned above. The word "Tkumah" in Hebrew originates from the word "la'kum", to rise, or to stand up, and the process of revival which we commemorate expresses the revival from the disaster and ashes of the Holocaust, through the heroism and grief of Israeli wars, all the way to the joy over the miracle of Jewish independence.

The initiative to set a special Shabbat before Yom ha'Atzmaut, on the same token as Shabbat Shuva before Yom Kippur, Shabbat HaGadol before Passover and Shabbat Hazon before Tisha b'Av, began at Kehillat Har'el – the most veteran Israeli Reform congregation, about 60 years ago. Since then, this tradition has spread to all Reform congregations across the country, who commemorate this Shabbat in a variety of ways – beginning with the blowing of the shofar, reading the Israeli Declaration of Independence in trope and lighting the seven candlestick menorah to signify Israel's independence.

As we near Israel's 70th Yom ha'Atzmaut, we hope that our partner congregations around the world will join us in instilling meaning and content into the special Shabbat which occurs in the midst of the transition between Yom ha'Shoah and Yom ha'Atzmaut.

Suggestions for Additions to the Shabbat Services on SHABBAT TKUMAH

Reading Israel's Declaration of Independence with the Biblical Trope

"אָנוּ מְכַרְיִזִים בְּזָאת עַל הַקְּמַת מְדִינַה יְהוּדִית בְּאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל הִיא מְדִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל:"

"We hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel."

In preparation for the State of Israel's 70th Independence Day, the IMPJ is continuing its project of integrating the reading of Israel's Declaration of Independence into Shabbat Tekumah and Yom HaAtzmaut ceremonies and prayer services. As part of this project, the traditional tropes, which are used to read the Haftarah and Megillot during the rest of the Jewish calendar year, were incorporated into the Declaration of Independence.

The combination of the traditional trope is intended to present the Declaration of Independence as one of the formative texts of the Jewish people, which expresses the unique historical weight of the establishment of the State of Israel.

We suggest including the reading of the Declaration of Independence towards the end of the Kabbalat Shabbat service, or during the Torah reading and Haftarah of the Shabbat morning service.

[Read more and download full text with tropes](#)

Connecting to Parashat Tazriyah-Metzorah

On non-leap years, such as this year, on this Shabbat we read the Torah portions "Tazriyah" and "Metzorah" together.

See a [D'var Torah by IMPJ president and CEO Rabbi Gilad Kariv](#) about Shabbat Tkumah and the relationship between these Parashot and the celebration of independence.

Lighting the seven candlestick Menorah

“Rabbi Yohanan said: the People of Israel said to the Blessed Be He: we had made for you a Menorah during the time of Moses – and its fire was extinguished; in the days of Solomon – and its fire was extinguished; from now on out we only await your light”

(Yalkut Shimoni, Isaiah 60, 247 499).

The seven candlestick Menorah is one of the most ancient symbols of the Jewish people, and today it is used as the official emblem of the State of Israel. The Menorah was one of the holy items in the Temple and served as one of the most important symbols of Jewish sovereignty and renewal.

The lighting of the seven candlestick Menorah is especially meaningful on Israel’s 70th year of independence celebrations. Many Israeli communities conduct a festive candle or torch lighting during Shabbat Tkumah or Yom ha’Atzmaut, with each candle symbolizing a different topic. We suggest dedicating the seven candles to the following topics –

- A candle in memory of those who perished in the Holocaust
- A candle in memory of fallen IDF soldiers
- A candle of revival and independence
- A candle of Jewish peoplehood
- A candle of Tikkun Olam
- A candle of peace

You can invite a person connected to the topic in some way to light each respective candle.

Israeli songs

Throughout the service, we encourage you to incorporate Israeli songs related to memory, revival and independence.

[See attached songbook for ideas](#)

Blowing the Shofar

וּבְיוֹם שְׂמֵחַתְּכֶם וּבְמוֹעֲדֵיכֶם וּבְרֵאשֵׁי חֳדָשֵׁיכֶם וּתְקַעְתֶּם בַּחֲצֹצְרוֹת עַל עֲלִיתֵיכֶם וְעַל זְבַחֵי שְׁלָמֵיכֶם וְהָיוּ לָכֶם לְזִכְרוֹן
לְפָנַי אֱלֹהֵיכֶם אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם. (במדבר י' י')

On the day of your gladness also, and at your appointed feasts and at the beginnings of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings. They shall be a reminder of you before your God: I am the LORD your God.”
(Numbers 10; 10).

Blowing the Shofar on Shabbat Tkumah connects between the Jewish tradition on holidays and festivities and the sirens heard across Israel on Yom ha'Zikaron (Memorial Day for fallen IDF soldiers and victims of terror). We suggest including the blowing of the Shofar before the reading or reciting of the Israel Declaration of Independence or at the end of the service, following singing of “HaTikvah”.

Additional elements and texts to include during the service:

- A prayer for the State of Israel
- The Hallel service
- Psalms 126- Shir Ha'Ma'a lot
- Raising the Israeli flag
- Singing “HaTikvah”

יום עצמאות שמח!
Happy Yom Ha'Atzmaut!