**Yom HaZikaron 2024**

Ceremony flow:

Music – invitation to sit down.

Opening remarks – Dolev

Tzfira

Yizkor – Rabbi Mike

Lighting a memorial candle

Eyal Twito z"l

Kadish – Rabbi Eve

Song – When the Sun will Rise Again

Prayer for Israel – Rabbi Valerie

Prayer for the soldiers – Rabbi Levi/Moshe

Video clip – Hurricane

Prayer for the hostages – Rabbi Aviva (sing)

Song – Am Yisrael Chai – Choir

From grief to hope – Dolev

Song – Here Comes the Sun – Rabbi Rachel/Sharon+Lisa?

HaTikva – Choir

**Opening Remarks:**

Shalom and good evening. Tonight, we are commemorating Yom HaZikaron, Israel’s Memorial Day for our fallen soldiers and victims of terror. In order to respect the day and this service, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices and please, refrain from applause throughout the ceremony.

Yom HaZikaron honors our fallen soldiers and our victims of terror on the same day, to honor those who gave their lives for Israel, for its freedom and independence. Since 1860, the beginning of the Jewish settlements in modern Israel, Israel has lost 24,213 soldiers and 4,255 civilians, each one a story, each one a family member or a friend. Tonight, in Central Mass, we join the people of Israel and the Jewish people around the world, in remembering those who gave their lives.

Last October, exactly 7 months and 5 days ago today, Israel faced its most brutal terror attack to date, which sparked the ongoing Swords of Iron war. These past 7 months have been some of the hardest that the current generation of Jews and Israelis have endured. We have lost friends, family, parents, grandparents, and children, both soldiers and civilians. We also remember all 133 hostages still held in captivity for over 218 days. All of which are in our hearts during tonight’s commemoration. On Yom HaZikaron, the entire nation remembers its debt, expresses eternal gratitude to its children, and honors those who gave their lives for the country’s independence and its continued existence, as well as those who have fallen through acts of terror. Every year, a siren is heard in Israel to keep their memory alive. The night of Yom HaZikaron we hear a one-minute siren, and the following morning, a two-minute siren. In Hebrew, it is called a Tzfira. We ask that you rise, in body or in spirit, and join us as we listen to the Tzfira.

**We remember those who are no longer with us with the words of Yizkor, please rise.**

May the people of Israel remember the brave and faithful sons and daughters, soldiers of the Israeli defense forces, Israel's earliest fighters, all members of the defense community, and members of the Israeli police force that gave their lives for the existence of the state of Israel. May we always remember all those who were murdered, both in and out of the state of Israel by terrorists and terror organizations.

יִזְכֹּר עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת בָּנָיו וּבְנוֹתָיו, הַנֶּאֱמָנִים וְהָאַמִּיצִים,

חַיָּלֵי צְבָא הַהֲגָנָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל,

וְכָל לוֹחֲמֵי הַמַּחְתָּרוֹת וַחֲטִיבוֹת הַלּוֹחֲמִים בְּמַעַרְכוֹת הָעָם,

וְאַנְשֵׁי קְהִלּוֹת הַמּוֹדִיעִין, הַבִּטָּחוֹן, הַמִּשְׁטָרָה וְשֵׁרוּת בָּתֵּי הַסֹּהַר,

אֲשֶׁר חֵרְפוּ נַפְשָׁם בַּמִּלְחָמָה עַל תְּקוּמַת יִשְׂרָאֵל,

וְכָל מִי שֶׁנִּרְצְחוּ בָּאָרֶץ וּמִחוּצָה לָהּ בִּידֵי מְרַצְּחִים מֵאִרְגּוּנֵי הַטֵּרוֹר.

We light this candle of commemoration in memory of all the fallen soldiers, and the victims of terrorism.

(Lighting the candle)

Please be seated.

**Eyal Twito:**

Person 1: Three Israeli army officers were killed on January 22nd, 2024, during combat operations in the southern Gaza Strip.

Captain Eyal Mevorach Twito, 22 years old was from Moshav Beit Gamliel. Rabbi Shimon Shushan, the head of Eyal's yeshiva, paid tribute to him: "Eyal was a socially responsible leader, activist and entrepreneur – both in the yeshiva and in the area where he lived."

Eyal was involved in the yeshiva's charity work, which includes packing food baskets and distributing them to families in need in the city of Yavne.

After completing his yeshiva studies, Eyal left for a year of service in 2019-2020 in Baltimore, Maryland, as a young emissary.

Person 2: Eyal's mom, Shiri, has said "He believed in what he did, he loved what he did – and left our world happy, believing in his work. He was in Gaza for 45 days; I didn't have days nor nights. I slept with one eye closed and one open, waiting for a knock on the door, can't breathe, paralyzed with fear and anxiety. After that his brothers calmed me down, I wasn't worried, even the day before receiving the news I never imagined this. He loved his time in Baltimore, with 8 amazing friends who worked with him there. He was hosted by 2 families there, yesterday the moms contacted me, they felt like they lost their son. He had magic in his heart, love, kindness, and justice. He never said anything bad about anyone. A few days before, he called us after 3 weeks in which we hadn't heard from him. The whole family gathered around to listen and speak with him. I'm glad it was our last family call. He asked about basketball, his father, his dog, nephews. Everything we asked him he pushed aside and said, 'All is good, we're okay, staying safe, and I'm keeping my soldiers safe' ".

Person 3: Eyal wrote in his journal:   
"What do I fight for?": My country – the essence for which I live. My land - every piece of earth in my amazing land, the most beautiful place in the world. My people, my friends – my moral compass right in front of me. My team – those for whom I'm willing to take a bullet. My family – the landscape of my childhood, the people who raised and grew with me, they are everything to me. My grandfather immigrated to this land and instilled in us the values of friendship, family, and Zionism. Grandpa fought and insisted on coming here, and I'm making sure we stay here forever."

"One of the most meaningful moments I experienced in combat, but not from the combat side, but from the soul, was the Kabbalat Shabbat I held with the team inside Gaza. The fighters talked about the Kiddush they wanted on Friday night, and I just wanted to sing some Shabbat songs. I brought my sergeant with me, who's also religious, and we started to pray. Everyone around us sat in the living room, busy with their own thoughts, and gradually more and more guys quieted down on the sides and began to listen to the singing. When we got to 'Lecha Dodi,' everyone who wasn't on duty was standing with me, those who knew - sang, and those who didn't - simply stood, watched, and felt present, all of us together. The feeling of welcoming Shabbat and experiencing Shabbat on the land of Gaza - it's a powerful experience I'll never forget. On that evening, my sense of mission strengthened. With Israel relying on us, we are committed to winning here, and that's what we'll do."

**Mourner's Kaddish:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Yitgadal v’yitkadash sh’mei raba b’alma di-v’ra  chirutei, v’yamlich malchutei b’chayeichon  uvyomeichon uvchayei d’chol beit yisrael, ba’agala  uvizman kariv, v’im’ru: “amen.”  Y’hei sh’mei raba m’varach l’alam ul’almei almaya.  Yitbarach v’yishtabach, v’yitpa’ar v’yitromam  v’yitnaseh, v’yithadar v’yit’aleh v’yit’halal sh’mei  d’kud’sha, b’rich hu,  l’eila min-kol-birchata v’shirata, tushb’chata  v’nechemata da’amiran b’alma, v’im’ru: “amen.”  Y’hei shlama raba min-sh’maya v’chayim aleinu  v’al-kol-yisrael, v’im’ru: “amen.”  Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya’aseh shalom aleinu  v’al kol-yisrael, v’imru: “amen.” | אבל: יִתְגַּדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא. [קהל: אמן]  בְּעָלְמָא דִּי בְרָא כִרְעוּתֵהּ וְיַמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתֵהּ בְּחַיֵּיכון וּבְיומֵיכון וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשרָאֵל בַּעֲגָלָא וּבִזְמַן קָרִיב, וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן: [קהל: אמן]  קהל ואבל: יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלַם וּלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמַיָּא:  אבל: יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאַר וְיִתְרומַם וְיִתְנַשּא וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ דְּקֻדְשָׁא. בְּרִיךְ הוּא. [קהל: בריך הוא:]  לְעֵלָּא מִן כָּל בִּרְכָתָא בעשי”ת: לְעֵלָּא לְעֵלָּא מִכָּל וְשִׁירָתָא תֻּשְׁבְּחָתָא וְנֶחֱמָתָא דַּאֲמִירָן בְּעָלְמָא. וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן: [קהל: אמן]  יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשרָאֵל. וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן: [קהל:אמן]  עושה שָׁלום בעשי”ת: הַשָּׁלום בִּמְרומָיו הוּא יַעֲשה שָׁלום עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשרָאֵל וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן: [קהל: אמן] |

**Song – When the Sun Will Rise Again**

**Prayer for Israel:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | אָבִינוּ שֶׁבַּשָּׁמַיִם, צוּר יִשְׂרָאֵל וְגוֹאֲלוֹ, בָּרֵךְ אֶת מְדִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל, רֵאשִׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאֻלָּתֵנוּ. הָגֵן עָלֶיהָ בְּאֶבְרַת חַסְדֶּךָ, וּפְרֹשׂ עָלֶיהָ סֻכַּת שְׁלוֹמֶךָ, וּשְׁלַח אוֹרְךָ וַאֲמִתְּךָ לְרָאשֶׁיהָ, שָׂרֶיהָ וְיוֹעֲצֶיהָ, וְתַקְּנֵם בְּעֵצָה טוֹבָה מִלְּפָנֶיךָ. חַזֵּק אֶת יְדֵי מְגִנֵּי אֶרֶץ קׇדְשֵׁנוּ, וְהַנְחִילֵם אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְשׁוּעָה וַעֲטֶרֶת נִצָּחוֹן תְּעַטְּרֵם, וְנָתַתָּ שָׁלוֹם בָּאָרֶץ, וְשִׂמְחַת עוֹלָם לְיוֹשְׁבֶיהָ. |

**Prayer for the soldiers:**

**Video clip – Hurricane**

**Prayer for the hostages:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Our brothers, the entire house of Israel,  who are in distress and captivity,  who stand between the sea and the dry land,  may G-d have mercy upon them,  and bring them from distress to relief,  from darkness to light,  and from subjugation to redemption,  now, swiftly, and in the near future.  And let us say, Amen. | אַחֵינוּ כָּל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל  הַנְּתוּנִים בַּצָּרָה וּבַשִּׁבְיָה  הָעוֹמְדִים בֵּין בַּיָּם וּבֵין בַּיַּבָּשָׁה  הַמָּקוֹם יְרַחֵם עֲלֵיהֶם  וְיוֹצִיאֵם מִצָּרָה לִרְוָחָה  וּמֵאֲפֵלָה לְאוֹרָה  וּמִשִּׁעְבּוּד לִגְאֻלָּה  הָשָׁתָא בַּעֲגָלָא וּבִזְמַן קָרִיב  וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן |

**From Grief to Hope:**

It's hard to commemorate Yom HaZikron, Israel's Memorial Day for the fallen soldiers and terror attack victims, this year, when a war is still going on. In 1951, the government established a general day of remembrance on this date, and formulated the nature of the day and its customs, as they are known to this day. Yom HaZikaron in Israel is statutory. It was decided to commemorate it the day before Yom Haatzmaut, Independence Day, for a reason. We need to remember why, and because of who we have our independence. We wouldn't have been here today without the sacrifice of the fallen soldiers.

Two of the most impressive qualities I see in the Jewish people around the world are resilience and unity. Each person has their own way of practicing them, and I'd like to offer another. A big noticeable theme we see in the transition from Yom HaZikaron to Yom Haatzmaut is the transition from grief to hope. From commemoration to celebration. But I'd argue that it doesn't have to be a transition, we can feel and express both together. Like the singer Nunu said "just hold my hand when you're able, just hold my hand when you can, just hold my hand and we'll get there, when the sun will rise again". Our unity and support for one another is what helps us build our resilience, it helps us focus on the good in times of struggle, it helps us take another step forward, holding on until the sun will rise again and fill us with warmth.

Before we conclude tonight’s ceremony with the singing of "Here Comes the Sun" and then "HaTikva", the national anthem of the State of Israel, I’d like to ask you on your way from the sanctuary to the social hall, to stop by the board outside, and write a little note of hope. Together, we can make a wall of roses of hopes, and walk together towards the rising sun. L’hitraot, thank you and erev tov.

**Song – Here Comes the Sun**

**HaTikva:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Kol ‘od balevav penimah  Nefesh Yehudi homiyah,  Ulfa’atey mizrach kadimah,  ‘Ayin leTziyon tzofiyah;  ‘Od lo avdah tikvatenu,  Hatikvah bat shnot ’alpayim,  Lihyot ‘am chofshi be’artzenu,  ’Eretz Tziyon v'Yerushalayim. | כֹּל עוֹד בַּלֵּבָב פְּנִימָה  נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדִי הוֹמִיָּה,  וּלְפַאֲתֵי מִזְרָח קָדִימָה,  עַיִן לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה;  עוֹד לֹא אָבְדָה תִּקְוָתֵנוּ,  הַתִּקְוָה בַּת שְׁנוֹת אַלְפַּיִם,  לִהְיוֹת עַם חָפְשִׁי בְּאַרְצֵנוּ,  אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם. |

נר/שמש מסרטים צהובים כתפאורה

להכין 'טיימליין'/חוברת לטקס לקהל