



Spiritual Care Resources  
High Holidays – Simchat Torah

### **Kol Hanearim – From Isolation to Inspiration**

The holiday of Simchat Torah includes the whole family in celebration – dancing, singing and honors at the Torah for all. The tradition to call everyone up the Torah during Simchat Torah brings about the occasion to invite all the children especially (Kol Hanearim for boys in the traditional realm) so they know that they are included in the inheritance of Torah as well.

The High Holidays in general and rituals like this one in particular can be difficult for people struggling to have children. This ritual, however, can also become an opportunity to move from isolation to inclusion.

It is also considered a special honor to have the Aliyah with the children during the Kol HaNearim Aliyah, the last Aliyah for Simchat Torah. To reside under a canopy of a tallit with all of the children is to share in the honor of introducing them to Torah, which is considered the highest form of parenting. So often the honor is given to someone to show the communities belief in their merit to have grandchildren.

Take the opportunity to add comments to recognize that children, however, are not always granted on merit. That we know people among us are quite worthy and still hoping to be parents... and grandparents.

Say a prayer on behalf of those in the community who might find this child focus difficult because they are experiencing challenges building their family or someone they love is struggling.

Below is a prayer that can be read at this or any occasion during the High Holidays\* to send a message of support and inclusion to those among us struggling with infertility and other family building issues.

May the one who blessed our mothers Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah,  
bless those who are struggling to build their families.

God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,  
hear their prayers and grant them courage and strength.

At this season as we celebrate Your power of life, creation, and love,  
remember them, bless them with children, and comfort them.

Author of the Book of Life whose lovingkindness never ends  
have compassion and mercy on them and inscribe them for life.

\*The Torah service when reading about Sarah and Isaac or preceding the Haftarah about Hannah are easily connected themes to introduce this prayer.