

THANKSGIVING SERVICE (outline)

MEDITATION: (excerpt from “Hurrying—A Hindrance from the Holy”*)

Lord, there’s so much to do—so little time--
teach us how to separate trash from treasure.
We pray that a modern vice might be converted and returned to a life of virtue.
Let us pray for discrimination.
Let us distinguish between the work of the blessed
and the work of the busy-busy.
Let us discriminate, then begin to eliminate.

Children of God--
let each of us find a sandpile, a little desert lot, behind the garage or at the beginning of
the day,
silent and strong with the slow scent of sagebrush, and there, as in our youngerdays—
the Divine Friend will speak—
not to our heads but to our hearts!

Free from haste and the violence of rushing,
we can do one thing, slowly, at a time.
Then we can respond as in the days of our youth—
with abundant affection, dedication, and dreams.

Coming forth from those empty spaces, desert-places—
kissed by silence, we shall be able to savor—
The Spirit Supreme, sip by sip
in every, *every* segment of our lives.

LESSON: The Blessing Way

Cusp: Nature flaunts her glory
Prepares for deep, abiding sleep
Praise & Thanksgiving
Anticipation of Advent

Blessing:
Create sense of sacred space—heart and world

Journey from Thanksgiving to Celebration—birth of Love
Circle of blessing—blessings have power

Judaic Tradition**

1. “a **spiritual path** that links each one of us to the greater whole and to God.
2. “a **way of life**, and a personal empowering energy that can be awakened within our deepest self to infuse all life with joy, strength and inspiration.”
3. **purpose** “As the individual and collective human beings that we are, a major part of our mission in this world is to create, energize & amplify the circle of blessing.
4. “by **harmonizing our will** to the possibilities latent in the natural order of things, **we bless the earth** to bring forth its bounty, to bring peace and healing...”
5. “Our blessings have power because they **connect us to the power source of the universe**...catalyzing transformation and regeneration through the simple act of giving our blessing.
6. Activity of blessing < skill and depth of conviction
7. **i < I + power of intention**, “we give name and form to something that is either latent or already exists to facilitate its manifestation in the world.”

Let the river of blessings flow forth as healing, cleansing-- renewing and restoring each of us to the fullness of life which we so deeply desire.

RESOURCES:

***Pray All Ways** by Edward Hays

****Traditions: The Complete Book of Prayers, Rituals, and Blessings for Every Jewish Home**

NOTES:

Bold type indicates action notes in Judaic section; I have included the quote for clarity of understanding.