

Based on Jewish prayers offered just before the new moon appears, this prayer is adapted with particular intention for the week of March 7, 2011, in the United States (coinciding with the new month of Adar 2 in the Jewish calendar).

Everyone is invited to use this prayer – adapting it further, as suits individual or congregational circumstances – in standing shoulder to shoulder with fellow citizens of all faiths and philosophies and in prayer for greater unity in difference.

At the New Moon, In Solidarity, For Understanding

Oh God, our God and God of our ancestors,
everything we accomplish is but a reflection of Your gifts to us,
much as the moon only reflects the light of the sun.
At the new moon, only the barest sliver of moon is visible to us,
and there is much we cannot see.
Today, too, from our separate communities, we see but a sliver of the whole.
There is much we cannot see.
As the moon waxes, so too may our understanding of the wider world of faith and thought,
particularly, those with whom we differ.
Renew our lives, we pray,
for a life of peaceful co-existence in our belief variety;
for a life of goodness,
 enriched by a widening sense of community;
of blessing; of sustenance; of health;
marked by piety and fear of sin, as we recognize
 the image of God in each individual;
free from shame and reproach, as we renew our efforts
 to guard our tongues and our thoughts;
of abundance with honor;
filled with love of Your word, in all its facets,
 and reverence for You,
in which the worthy desires of our hearts
 will be fulfilled for good.

May the One who has done wonderful things for our ancestors,
who redeemed them from slavery to freedom,
bring us from the narrow confines of our own philosophies and practices
to a wider understanding and love for our people, scattered to the four corners of the world.
Bring us together toward a world united,
for life, rejoicing, happiness, salvation and consolation.
And let us say: AMEN.

--Virginia Avniel Spatz, "A Song Every Day" <http://songeveryday.wordpress.com>