

Jerusalem Gathering 2006
Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial
“Valley of the Communities” Prayer Service
Jerusalem, Israel – 5766, Friday, January 13, 2006

Closing Prayer

Gracious Creator, Lord of Life, God of our fathers and mothers –
What language shall we borrow
to come before Your throne of grace and
to say what we feel on this sacred ground?
What words are adequate and eligible
to sum up our awe and astonishment and horror
as we remember?

You alone have the power
to intercede for us,
to lift our faltering speech,
to give wings to our prayers,
to quicken our hearts and minds and souls to take up the tasks set to our hands.
You, above all, have the power, with sighs too deep for words, to help us to pray.

Here us as we confess:
The good we would have done,
we did not do.
The evil we would never have done
is the very thing we did
or we allowed to happen
or we forgot
or we did not care
or we did not care enough.

Hear us as we engage that most sacred of human callings – memory –
remembering the lives and the loss of the millions,
remembering the cost to the world,
remembering the eyes and the dreams,
remembering the hands and the promise,
remembering the families and the years.

Give us grace and hearts strong enough
to say with conviction and without equivocation:
We *know* Your calling to us now, this day, in this place –
treading the land where Abraham bound Isaac,
walking where Jesus walked,
recalling those who were taken from the world
but whose legacy can not, should not ever be forgotten –
We are here, here, now,
and we are not leaving.
Amen.