

# Blessing of Appreciation for People of Different Identities within Our Synagogue

By Rabbi Maurice Harris – Rabbi / Senior Educator, *InterfaithFamily*

Optional Hebrew opening can be chanted to a typical Mi Sheberach tune or read aloud:

מְקוֹר הַבְּרָכָה לְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ וְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ  
הִיא תְּבַרַךְ אֶת כָּל הָאֲנָשִׁים מְדַתוֹת  
שׁוֹנוֹת  
שְׂדָבְקוּ בְּקִהְלָה הַזֹּאת תַּחַת כַּנְּפֵי  
הַשְּׂכִינָה

*Feminine God-language*

מִי שְׂבִרַךְ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ  
הוּא יְבָרַךְ אֶת כָּל הָאֲנָשִׁים מְדַתוֹת  
שׁוֹנוֹת  
שְׂדָבְקוּ בְּקִהְלָה הַזֹּאת תַּחַת כַּנְּפֵי  
הַשְּׂכִינָה

*Masculine God-language*

May the One who blessed our ancestors before us  
Bless all those of different faiths and identities  
Who contribute to the life of this synagogue;  
Who give of their time and their hearts;  
Who help bring Judaism to life for all of us  
and for the next generation;  
Who volunteer and serve this community  
in ways seen and unseen;  
And who give the gifts of love and support to their  
Jewish partners and family members.  
We give thanks to them and to You, Source of Life.  
Since ancient times people of other religions  
and nations have been part of the  
Jewish community, helping us face our  
challenges and deepen our sense of purpose.

And now today, the Jewish people are blessed with  
the loving, patient, and generous participation and  
care of people of various traditions and beliefs.  
Holy One, please bless them to find acceptance,  
appreciation, and joy here in this synagogue.  
And during life's sorrows may they  
know they can take refuge among us,  
under the Wings of your Protection.  
May they know that they are immeasurably  
valued just as they are.  
May the works of their hands be blessed with  
much success, and may they walk the paths of  
peace along with their sisters and brothers in the  
Household of Israel and the wider human family.  
And let us say, Amen.