

Shiru L'Adonai Iyun Preceding An Election
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For *Kabbalat Shabbat* this evening, we will be singing Psalm 96, a joyous psalm that begins with the text: Sing to *Adonai* a new song, sing to *Adonai* all the earth. Sing to *Adonai*, bless God's name, proclaim God's victory day after day. This text uses the word for singing, *Shiru*, 3 times- one after the other! This emphasizes the point that Shabbat is a time for joy, a time to lift up our voices for the world to hear.

The psalm calls for us to sing a new song, which gave me pause today. Why a new song on *Shabbat*, and not just any old song? Our liturgy reminds us that we are renewed into life every day, and so perhaps because we are renewed, we need a new song to celebrate Adonai. Or maybe because *Shabbat* is a day of rest, it is akin to pressing an inner reset button and beginning anew each week, so therefore, we need to sing a new song to Adonai. Or maybe, it shows us the potential for change, that we can always find a new way to connect to Adonai, to do good in the world, to make a change for the better.

That is the thought I am carrying with me tonight, as we prepare for next week's election. I truly hope that this can be a time of newness, a time of change, where we lift up our voices and sing out, with cries of hope and possibility.

The final line of Psalm 96 states:

For Adonai is coming to rule the world, God will rule the world justly,
and its peoples with faith.

We can work towards a world that is just and faithful. Help us get there. Come sing a new song alongside me. If you haven't done so already, please go out and vote.

We continue with Psalm 96 on page 131.