

Rabbi Lewis' Message for November, 2008

A Blessing for the Weeders: Benediction for a Small Congregation

"You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord your God - your tribal heads, your elders, and your officials, all the men of Israel, your children, your wives, even the stranger within your camp, from woodchopper to waterdrawer - to enter into the covenant of the Lord your God..." (Deuteronomy 1:9-11)

Atem nitzavim hayom kulchem lifnai Adonai Eloheychem

You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord your God

From woodchopper to waterdrawer

From weeder to planter

From painter to light installer

From flower arranger to ark curtain hanger

From Torah roller to Torah reader

From webmaster to newsletter editor

From silver-polisher to tallit ironer

From service usher to front row worshipper

From craft-creator to memorial board hanger

You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord your God

From student of Torah to teacher of Torah

From balancer of books to payer of bills

From mopper of floors to unstopper of sinks

From teacher of Hebrew to student of Hebrew

From maker of coffee to purchaser of cups

From singer of songs to performer of mitzvot

From organizer of oneg to assigner of aliyot

You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord Your God

The one who says yes when asked

The one who say yes before being asked

The one who brings goats for petting

The one who watches for the sun's setting

The one who arrives first and the one who cleans up last

The one who brings snack and the one who picks up trash

The one who sits and the one who stands

The one who convenes and the one who attends

The one who sheds tears and the one who wipes them away

The one who welcomes the stranger and the one who blesses the sick
The one who mourns and the one who rejoices

Atem nitzavim hayom kulchem lifnai Adonai Eloheychem

You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord your God

Those who are standing here with us this day

Those who are not with us here this day.

Those who were here in years past

And those who are yet to be born.

With many thanks to all of you who helped make the high holy days go smoothly and who help this congregation to be what it is.

Written with love by Rabbi Ellen Lewis