



LeoBaeckTemple

Bubble Up: 2021-2022/5782

## ***Heart and Soul:***

A playful exploration pairing the insight of the podcast **Dolly Parton's America** with selections from *Songs Ascending: The Book of Psalms in a New Translation* by Rabbi Richard N. Levy, z"l

**"Music is the way we accompany ourselves through space and time"**

- Jad Abumrad, Co-Producer Dolly Parton's America Podcast

**Heart & Soul created by:** Elizabeth Levy & Rabbi Benjamin Ross

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## **Blessing Before Studying Torah**

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה  
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ-הָעוֹלָם  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו  
וְצִוָּנוּ לְעִסֵּק בְּדִבְרֵי-תוֹרָה

*Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha'olam  
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu la'asok b'divrei torah.*

Blessed are You, the Eternal our God, Sovereign of the Universe,  
who sanctifies us with *mitzvot* and invites us to engage with words of *Torah*.

# **B'rit/Working Agreement for LBT Small Groups**

## **ACCOUNTABILITY:**

I will show up to our agreed upon times: I will let the group leader know the (good) reason I will be absent. I will also be punctual and respect everyone's time.

## **PRESENCE:**

When we're together, I will be present and mindful. I will listen and share. Life (and our mobile devices) offers many distractions, but I will stay present and engaged.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY:**

I will maintain complete confidentiality. What I hear and say stays here.

## **VULNERABILITY:**

I will stretch myself to be as open and honest as possible with my perspectives and experiences in order to create a safe environment that might encourage others to take risks as well.

## **RESPECT:**

I will remember that all of us are here for a common purpose and I will respect and acknowledge everyone in my group.

## **NO FIXING, ADVISING, SAVING OR SETTING STRAIGHT:**

I will give each person the gift of true attention without trying to "solve their problem." No advice unless it's asked.

## **LISTENING:**

I understand that some of us are talkers, while some of us are quieter. I will be aware not to dominate discussions and to balance how much I'm talking with how much I'm listening.

## **CURIOSITY:**

Judaism is a religion of exploration; of big questions more than answers. I will get the most out of my group by being open to our discussions and the people around me.

## **OWNERSHIP:**

This is our LBT Small Group. This is our community to create. While we have guidelines and suggestions, it is ours to shape and form. We will get out of it what we put into it.

*\*Language graciously borrowed from The Temple in Atlanta, Georgia*

# LEO BAECK TEMPLE'S HEART AND SOUL: A BUBBLE UP PRODUCTION

A playful exploration pairing the insights from the "Dolly Parton's America" podcast with selections and commentary from *Songs Ascending: The Book of Psalms in a New Translation* by Rabbi Richard N. Levy, z"l

**SESSION VII:** Loving Both

**PARTNER PODCAST:** [Episode 9 - Dolly Parton's America \(She's Alive - Dec. 31, 2019\)](#)

**I. READ SUMMARY & QUESTION (10 minutes):** Dolly said, "I found Dolly Parton and I found God in that church and I loved them both." In this episode, Dolly's theology and spirituality is addressed, including the moment when, as a child, she found God and herself in an abandoned church as she uttered the words of Psalm 23. She also considers her artistic legacy and what she would like to leave behind. Psalm 23 may be the most familiar, and chilling, of Psalms as we often associate it with death and funerals. The intimacy of language, walking in the valley of death and not having fear, may transport some to a place of comfort; to others, it may cause sadness in recalling loved ones who have died.

**OPENING QUESTION:** Where do you feel, or have you felt, most safe and nourished? What made it so?

## II. READ ALOUD PSALM AND RABBI RICHARD N. LEVY'S COMMENTARY (5-10 minutes)

### Psalm 23

A psalm of David.  
Adonai, my shepherd;  
I lack for nothing--  
In meadows thick with grass You lay me down,  
Across streams serene You guide me.  
My life You restore,  
Leading me serenely in well-worn paths of justice  
To glorify Your name.  
Even when I walk in a valley dark as death's shadow  
I shall fear no ferocity,  
For You are with me,  
Your staff and Your walking stick--they reassure me.  
You set a table before me along with my enemies,  
You rain rich oils 'round my head;  
My cup? Overflowing!  
For certain, goodness and the love of Your covenant  
Will run after me all the days of my life,  
And I shall abide in God's house  
For long days,  
Long, long days.

### Psalm 23:1

"I lack for nothing." Whether we are lambs or monarchs, or creatures in between, we too have the opportunity to make our days long--not in number (we have little control over that) but in quality, to look at the lengthening shadows outside our windows and know that we are doing all we can to stretch each day, to drink in our relationships with those we love and those we casually encounter, so that we too can ask: "Our cup?" And answer with the poet, "Overflowing."

- Rabbi Richard N. Levy, p. 85

(Option to briefly share reactions to the Psalm or commentary)

**III. [LISTEN TO “GOLDEN STREETS OF GLORY”](#) (5 minutes) (LYRICS ↓) - THEN 1 MIN. OF SILENCE**

**IV. GROUP QUESTIONS: (30-35 minutes)**

a) Dolly sings, “And when I've reached my journey's end, and if I'm worthy, to go in golden streets of glory, I walk on.” **What is your legacy?** Who or what will walk it forward?

b) Like the Psalmist suggests, **in what ways do you “stretch each day?”**

c) Psalm 23 is often read at funerals. However, Dolly also recited this psalm as she felt her understanding of God deepen while standing in an abandoned church as a child. **How do you think this psalm both offers comfort to some mourners, and also served as a spiritual awakening for a young Dolly Parton?**

**V. OPTIONAL CONCLUDING SONG (5 minutes): [Gam Ki Eilech \(Psalm 23\), by Joey Weisenberg](#)**

**GOLDEN STREETS OF GLORY, BY DOLLY PARTON**

Glory to his name, oh, holy, holy  
There's a city where the streets are paved in gold  
A land where the milk and the honey flow  
And a mansion which for me  
'Cause my bible tells the story  
I just hope my feet are clean enough  
To walk upon the golden streets of glory

Green meadows where the little children play  
No sorrow there, just one long happy day  
And none will litter there except the pure and holy  
I just hope my feet are clean enough  
To walk upon the golden streets of glory

*Chorus (x2):*

*And when I've reached my journey's end  
And if I'm worthy to go in  
Golden streets of glory, I walk on  
And the golden streets of my new home  
Will lead me up to the master's throne  
With the angel band I'll sing:*

*Glory to his name, oh, holy, holy  
I just hope my feet are clean enough  
To walk upon the golden streets of glory*