

# The Sh'ma & Her Blessings

Beit Midrash Prayer Guides

## Bar'chu

Yotzer Or / Ma'ariv Aravim

Ahavat Olam / Ahavah Rabah

Sh'ma

V'ahavta

Mi Chamocha

Introductory Prayers

**The Sh'ma & Her  
Blessings**

Amidah

Torah Service

Concluding Prayers

By Rae Antonoff, MAJE



The second section of the service begins with a prayer often nicknamed

# The Call to Worship

What does it mean to “Call” someone?



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# The Call to Worship

What does it mean to “Call” someone?



To get them on the phone  
or from across the room

# The Call to Worship



What is a “Call,” as a noun, rather than as a verb?

- In Google, type in “define:call”  
(without any spaces)
- What’s the first definition  
that’s listed as a **noun**?



# The Call to Worship



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call

/kôl/ 🔊

*noun*

1. a cry made as a summons or to attract someone's attention.  
“a nearby fisherman heard their calls for help”  
*synonyms:* cry, shout, yell, roar, scream, exclamation, vociferation; *informal* holler  
“I heard calls from the auditorium”



# The Call to Worship

Circle all the words that could be **synonyms** for “Worship”:



Use Google’s “define:\_\_\_” feature for this word, too, if you’re not sure!

**Synonyms** are words that mean the same thing as each other – like “cold” and “chilly.”

Prayer

Praise

Shouting

Help

Honor

ברכה



# The Call to Worship

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Prayer

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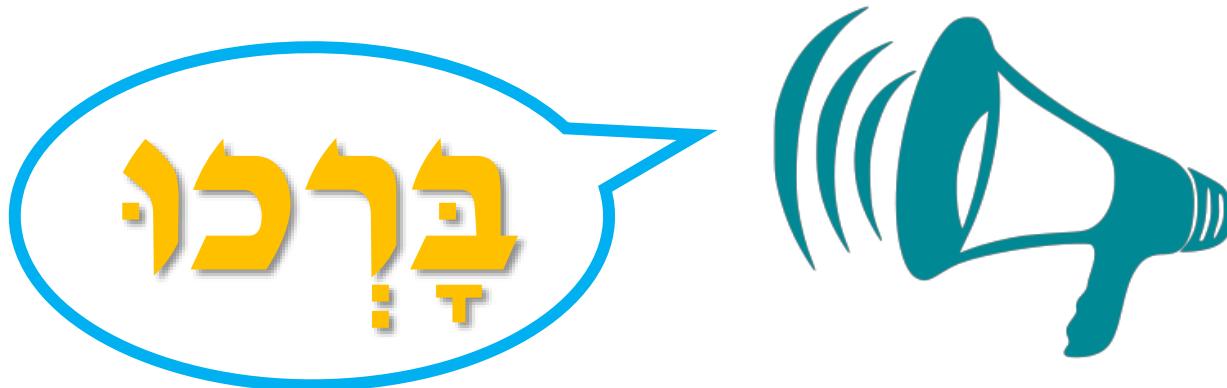
ברכה



# The Call to Worship

So a “**Call** to **Worship**” is a way to  
**attract someone’s attention** for **prayer**

Whose attention is the Bar’chu trying to attract –  
ours, or God’s?



# The Call to Worship

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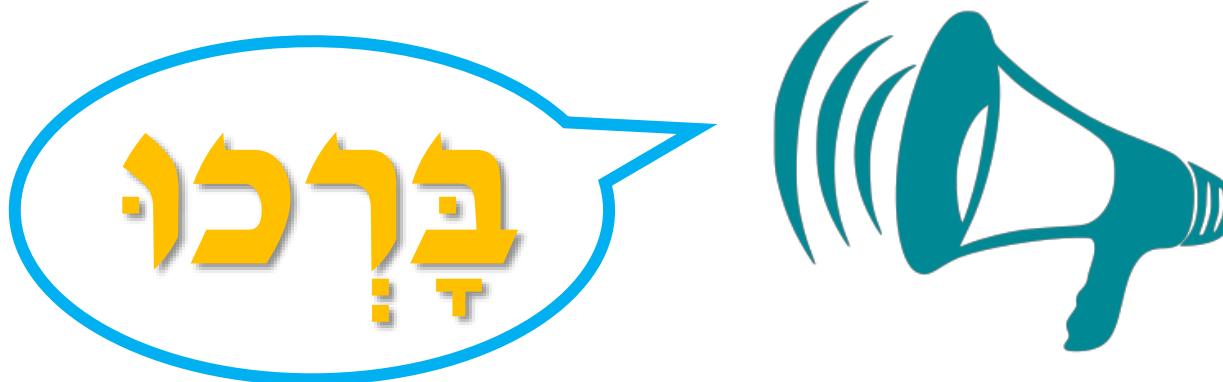
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# The Call to Worship

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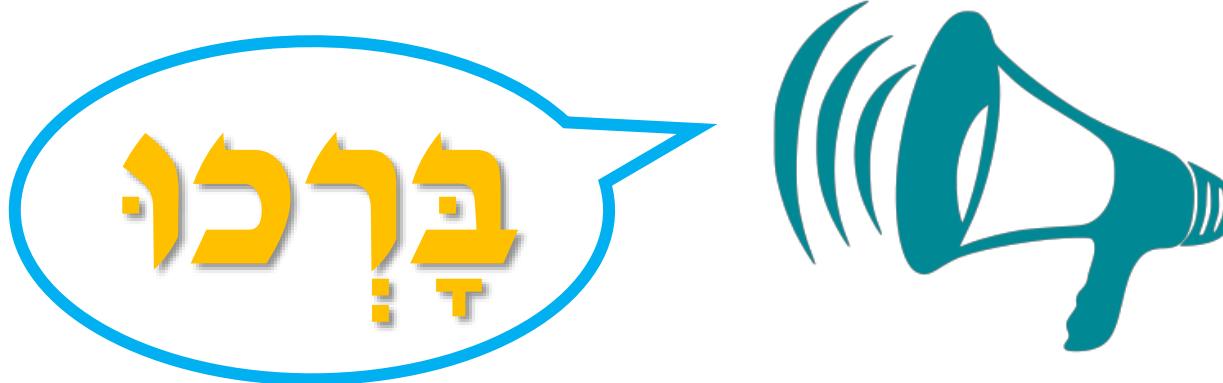
Why do you think we, as human beings, might need  
to have our **attention attracted** to our **prayer**?



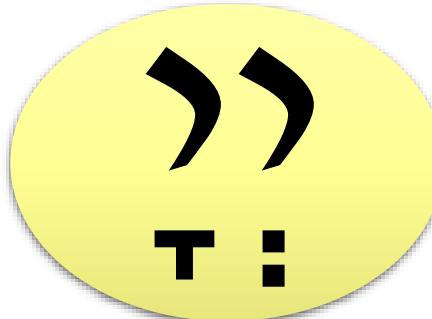
# The Call to Worship

After some introductory prayers to get us in the mood,  
this is the first prayer we say in the service.

Why do you think it makes sense to begin  
our service with a “Call to Worship”?



The Bar'chu usually uses a “symbol-word” twice:



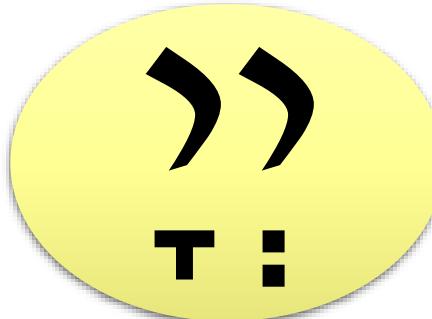
We don't read that word like it's written.

It stands for a name that is  
*so super-duper holy*

That we don't write it out *just in case* the  
book or piece of paper gets thrown out.

Whose name would you guess it stands for?

The Bar'chu usually uses a “symbol-word” twice:



We don't read that word like it's written.

It stands for a name that is  
*so super-duper holy*

That we don't write it out *just in case* the  
book or piece of paper gets thrown out.

Whose name would you guess it stands for?

God's (we usually say “Adonai” during prayers)

Now read through the words of the Bar'chu:

- 1 **ברכו** את ייְהוָה!  
2 **ברוך** ייְהוָה לְעוֹלָם וְעַד!

Judaism has a very uncreative method of naming most of our Hebrew prayers: we pick the first word of the prayer and make that the name of it.

So, knowing that, write out the Hebrew name for this prayer on a piece of paper and show it to your teacher through the webcam!



- 1 **ברכו** את יי' המברך!
- 2 **ברוך** יי' המברך לעלם ועד!

Do you recognize any words in the prayer?

What do you think they mean?

- 1 בָּרוּכְךָ אֱלֹהִים מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם יְהוָה מֶלֶךְ עַד !
- 2 בָּרוּךְ יְהוָה מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם וְעַד !

Every time someone bows in this prayer, the word is made **bold** in the copy above.

How many times does someone bow during this prayer?

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Now think back to the last time you heard this prayer at a service, or watch this YouTube video of the Bar'chu being led in a service:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3ZaR93fnBo>

(or search for “Bar’chu Shabbat Unplugged” and click the first result)

1. Who says the first line and bows on its first word?

---

2. Who says the second line and bows on its first word?

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3. If the first line is the “Call,” how would you describe the second line? \_\_\_\_\_

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The Response

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# Translate it!

Fill out the translation from the Word Bank at the bottom!

Prefix	Suffix	Noun	Verb	Adjective / Adverb
--------	--------	------	------	--------------------

מַכְרָךְ!	תִּי	אַתָּה	בָּרְכֻוּ	1
Blessed One!	God,	(has no English translation)	_____	_____

וְעַד!	לְעוֹלָם	מַכְרָךְ!	תִּי	בָּרוּךְ	2
ever!	forever	Blessed One,	God,	is	_____

## Word Bank

-מַ	בָּרְכֻוּ	בָּרוּךְ	-וּ
the (prefix)	Bless (verb, as a command, like “Hey you, Bless!)	Blessed (adjective)	and (prefix)

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<b>מַכְרָךְ!</b>	תִּי	אַתָּה	בָּרְכֻוּ	1
------------------	------	--------	-----------	---

<b>the</b> Blessed One!	God,	(has no English translation)	Bless	
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<b>וְעַד!</b>	<b>לְעוֹלָם</b>	<b>מַכְרָךְ</b>	תִּי	בָּרוּךְ	2
<b>and</b> ever!	forever	<b>the</b> Blessed One,	God,	<b>Blessed</b> is	

Word Bank

<b>מ-</b>	<b>בָּרְכֻוּ</b>	<b>בָּרוּךְ</b>	<b>ו-</b>
the (prefix)	Bless (verb, as a command, like “Hey you, Bless!”)	Blessed (adjective)	and (prefix)

# Translate it!

The translation chart goes right-to-left with the Hebrew.

הַמְבָרֵךְ!	??	את	ברכו	1
The Blessed One!	God,	(has no English translation)	Bless	

Can you put the words in left-to-right order so it's easy to read in English?

Bless		
-------	--	--

# Translate it!

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הָמָבֵךְ!	יְהֹוָה	אַתָּה	בָּרְכֻ	1
<u>The</u> Blessed One!	God,	(has no English translation)	<u>Bless</u>	

Can you put the words in left-to-right order so it's easy to read in English?

Bless	God,	
-------	------	--

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<u>The</u> Blessed One!	God,	(has no English translation)	<u>Bless</u>	

Can you put the words in left-to-right order so it's easy to read in English?

Bless	God,	the Blessed One!
-------	------	------------------

# Translate it!

The translation chart goes right-to-left with the Hebrew.

עד !	לעולם	המברך	??	ברוך	2
and ever!	forever	The Blessed One,	God,	Blessed is	



Can you put the words in left-to-right order so it's easy to read in English?



Blessed is				
------------	--	--	--	--

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Blessed is	God,	the Blessed One,		
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עד !	לעולם	המברך :	??	ברוך	2
and ever!	forever	The Blessed One,	God,	Blessed is	



Can you put the words in left-to-right order so it's easy to read in English?



Blessed is	God,	the Blessed One,	forever	and ever.
------------	------	------------------	---------	-----------

# Translate it!

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הַמָּבָרָךְ !	?? :	אַתָּה	בָּרוּכָה	1
---------------	------	--------	-----------	---

<u>The</u> Blessed One!	God,	(has no English translation)	<u>Bless</u>	
-------------------------	------	------------------------------	--------------	--

נָעֵד !	לְעוֹלָם	הַמָּבָרָךְ	?? :	בָּרוּךְ	2
---------	----------	-------------	------	----------	---

and ever!	forever	<u>The</u> Blessed One,	God,	<u>Blessed</u> is	
-----------	---------	-------------------------	------	-------------------	--

What would you say are the two most important Hebrew words in this prayer?

\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think so?

# T'fillah Taxonomy

Most Jewish prayers also fall into one (or two) of three types...



Praise

“WOW,  
GOD!!”



Petition

“HELP, GOD!!!”



Gratitude

“THANK YOU,  
GOD!!”

# T'fillah Taxonomy

Which “type” of prayer do you think the Bar’chu could be?  
Why do you think so?



1. Bless God, the Blessed One!
2. Blessed is God, the Blessed One, forever and ever!

1. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהֹוָה מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם!

2. בָּרוּךְ יְהֹוָה מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
לְעַלְמֵנוּ וְעַד!

# T'fillah Taxonomy

Most Jewish prayers are either

## Personal Prayers

*Can still be said along with a community...*

*...but talk about ideas that are of a **personal** and **individual** nature, not for the whole Jewish people.*

For example: a prayer for healing, or a prayer for wisdom.

What might be another **personal** topic for a prayer?

or

## Communal Prayers

*Can still be said when alone...*

*...but talk about ideas that are of a **communal** and **group-related** nature, not just for one person.*

For example: a prayer for rain, or a prayer to remember our ancestors.

What might be another **communal** topic for a prayer?

# T'fillah Taxonomy

Most Jewish prayers are either

## Personal Prayers

*PRO TIP:*

Look for “I” and “me” in  
the translation – it’s likely  
this is a personal prayer!

**or**

## Communal Prayers

*PRO TIP:*

Look for “we” and “us” or  
mentions of the “people of  
Israel” in the translation – this  
could be a communal prayer!

# T'fillah Taxonomy

Plenty of Jewish prayers are a little bit of both

**Personal and Communal**

But the Bar'chu is *very* much more of one than the other!

Read through the translation again:  
is the Bar'chu more personal, or more communal?

1. Bless God, the Blessed One!
2. Blessed is God, the Blessed One, forever and ever!

ברכו את ייְהוָה!

ברוך ייְהוָה  
לעַלֵם וְעַד!

# TAXONOMY Trivia



1 בָּרְכוּ אֶת יְיָ הַמֶּבֶךְ!

2 בָּרוּךְ יְיָ הַמֶּבֶךְ לְעוֹלָם וְעַד!

Which word(s) in the Bar'chu's translation makes it easy to see this as a **communal** prayer?

- (A) Bless (B) Adonai (C) The Blessed One (D) Our God (E) Forever  
בָּרְכוּ יְיָ הַמֶּבֶךְ אֱלֹהֵינוּ לְעוֹלָם

Which word(s) in the Bar'chu's translation makes it easy to see this as a **praise** prayer?

- (A) Bless (B) Adonai (C) The Blessed One (D) Blessed (is) (E) Forever  
בָּרְכוּ יְיָ הַמֶּבֶךְ בָּרוּךְ לְעוֹלָם



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Which word(s) in the Bar'chu's translation makes it easy to see this as a **communal** prayer?

- (A) Bless (B) Adonai (C) The Blessed One (D) Our God (E) Forever  
ברכו יי' המברך אלהינו לעלם

Which word(s) in the Bar'chu's translation makes it easy to see this as a **praise** prayer?

- (A) Bless (B) Adonai (C) The Blessed One (D) Blessed (is) (E) Forever  
ברכו יי' המברך ברוך לעלם



# Break It Down



1. Bless God, the Blessed One!
2. Blessed is God, the Blessed One, forever and ever!

1 בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם וָעָד!  
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Some prayers are *so important* to say with the community that Jewish tradition only allows us to say them at all if the service

has a **ミニון** (usually spelled “*minyan*” in English).



Google “**define:minyan**.” Fill in the blanks for the definition of *minyan*:

**Minyan:** noun. A \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (or, in some synagogues, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_) over the age of \_\_\_\_\_ required for \_\_\_\_\_ Jewish \_\_\_\_\_.

Now use the same “define:\_\_\_\_\_” search method for the **second word** in the definition for “*minyan*.” Fill in the blanks for the beginning of that definition:

\_\_\_\_\_ : noun. The \_\_\_\_\_ number of \_\_\_\_\_ of an \_\_\_\_\_ or society that must be \_\_\_\_\_ ...

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Now use the same “**define:\_\_\_\_\_**” search method for the **second word** in the definition for “*minyan*.” Fill in the blanks for the beginning of that definition:

Quorum : noun. The minimum number of members of an assembly or society that must be present ...

## Break It Down



1. Bless God, the Blessed One!
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1 בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם וָעָד !  
2 בָּרוּךְ יְהוָה מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם וָעָד !



**Minyan:** noun. A quorum of ten men (or, in some synagogues, men and women) over the age of 13 required for traditional Jewish public worship.

Quorum : noun. The minimum number of members of an assembly or society that must be present ...

**In your own words**, what would be the simplest way to define a “*minyan*”?

Why do you think we need a *minyan* to say this prayer?



# Break It Down



1. בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה מֶמְבָּרֶךְ!  
2. בָּרוּךְ יְהוָה מֶמְבָּרֶךְ  
    לְעוֹלָם וְעַד!

Why do you think we start every public *t'fillah* service with this prayer (after a few introductory prayers to get us in the mood)?

## Practice, Practice, Practice!

Practice reading & singing the Bar'chu until you're ready to sign off with your teacher!

1 בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם וָעָד!

2 בָּרוּךְ יְהוָה מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם וָעָד!

### Practice Resources:

1. In **ShalomLearning**, practice with the JiTap soundboard directly in your browser!
2. Go to <http://jitap.net/activities/g3li/play/> or open the **JiTAP app** and search for “Bar’chu” to find the Tap-and-Hear soundboard to practice.
3. Or search **YouTube** for “Bar’chu Prayer Karaoke” – the videos should have a white background and black→blue letters.

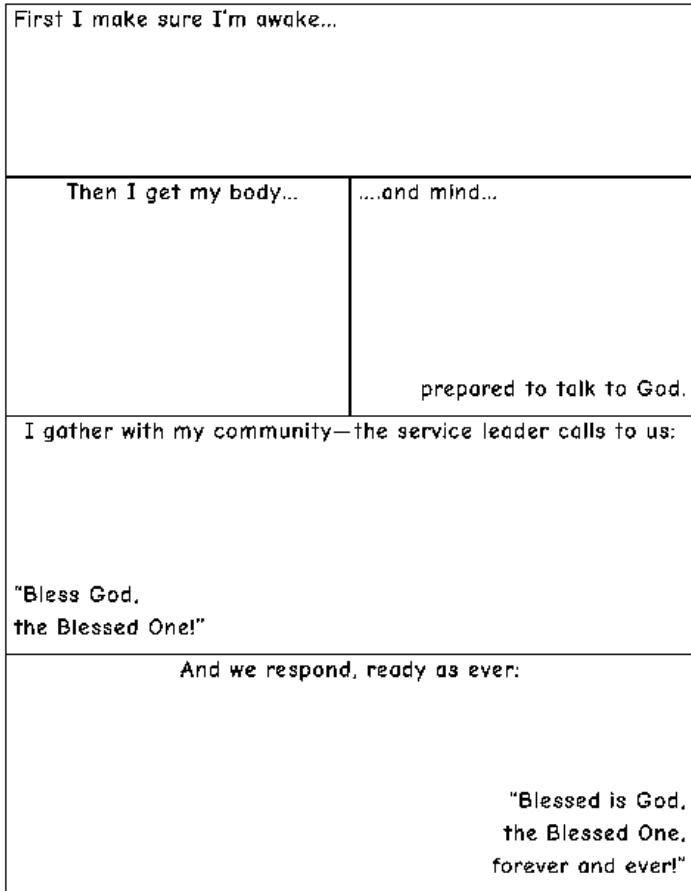
Direct Links: [Read](#) | [Chanted](#) | [Sung \(Siegel melody\)](#) | [Sung \(Aronson melody\)](#)

*Note: The Bar’chu has a **lot** of different tunes! There are only JiTaps & videos for a few of the most common tunes, but if you can read the words really well, you can follow any tune your community uses!*

# Get Creative!

*Illustrate a comic strip of yourself getting ready to pray:*

*Ask your teacher to send you the PDF of the Comic Strip page if you need it!*



Take a photo or scan your comic strip and either

(1) send it to your teacher

or

(2) upload to Instagram

with the tags #Barchu,

#LovePrayCreate, &

#JLearnHub



# The Sh'ma & Her Blessings

Beit Midrash Prayer Guides

## Bar'chu

Yotzer Or / Ma'ariv Aravim

Ahavat Olam / Ahavah Rabah

Sh'ma

V'ahavta

Mi Chamocha

Introductory Prayers

**The Sh'ma & Her  
Blessings**

Amidah

Torah Service

Concluding Prayers

By Rae Antonoff, MAJE

