

Prayer is not enough
by Rabbi Danielle Upbin, Clearwater, FL

Summer light blackened by death, we are Orlando.
Searching for the rainbow to give us hope, we are Orlando.
Forty-nine dead and all of us wounded, we are Orlando.

When youth is cut down in its prime, Prayer is not enough.
When pulsing rhythms turn to blood and tears, Prayer is not enough
When terror and hate are disguised as justice, Prayer is not enough

Yet prayer is all we have.

God above, God of peace, Creator of all, bless your inhabitants on Earth
to know that violence and bigotry are never truly in Your name.

Bless us as one spiritual community, as brothers and sisters in Faith
With the guidance of Your true teaching,
The Word within the Word,
The way to You, the real You.

Bless us with peace in Your name.
Bless us with hope in Your redemption.
Bless us with healing in Your comfort.
Bless us to answer the call to hate with more love.

Bayom ha'u yi'hi'yeh Adonai echad, u'shemo echad.

On that day, God will be one
And God's name will be one.

We are ready to embrace that day.
To pledge allegiance to You alone.

May peace be upon us in Your One Name.
Teach us that name so it will be clear,
So we know it for sure.
And the violence can end.

Speedily in our days, please.

And let us say Amen.