

## The Tragedy in Newtown: A Prayer of Healing

By Naomi Levy, spiritual leader of [Nashuva](#)

*Our thoughts are with the friends and families of those whose lives were taken.*

*In light of this tragedy, we offer this prayer:*

Our hearts are breaking, God,  
As our nation buries innocent children and brave teachers.  
The loss is overwhelming.  
Send comfort and strength, God, to grieving parents,  
To siblings, family and friends in this time of shock and mourning.  
Shield them from despair.  
Send healing to the schoolchildren who are lost and frightened  
Whose eyes witnessed unfathomable horrors.  
Ease their pain, God,  
Let their fears give way to hope.  
Let their cries give way once more to laughter.

Bless us, God,  
Work through us.  
Turn our helplessness into action.  
Teach us to believe that we can rise up from this tragedy  
With a renewed faith in the goodness of our society.  
Shield us from indifference  
And from our tendency to forget.  
Open our hearts, open our hands.  
Innocent blood is calling out to us to act.  
Remind us that we must commit ourselves to prevent further bloodshed  
With all our hearts and souls.  
Teach us perseverance and dedication.  
Let us rise up as one in a time of soul-searching and repair  
So that all children can go to school in peace, God,  
Let them be safe.

God of the brokenhearted,  
God of the living, God of the dead,  
Gather the souls of the victims  
Into Your eternal shelter.  
Let them find peace in Your presence, God.  
Their lives have ended  
But their lights can never be extinguished.  
May they shine on us always  
And illuminate our way.  
Amen.