

Dear CBST Community,

What we prayed would not happen has happened. In this moment of grief, despair, and fear, we pray for ourselves, for each other, for our government -- and for our own strength to keep going, to keep fighting, and to hold our leaders accountable. The consequences of this election are dire, but we will not let fear hold us back.

The coming days and years will bring challenges that threaten our freedoms and erode the structures upon which we rely. The reality is that we live in a world that needs and has needed serious repair, and we are proud that CBST members and teams have been working on enacting that repair since the day our community was founded.

Since then, we have only grown more dedicated to using our collective power to create what we need, and to fight for ourselves and our expanding tent full of loved ones, no matter who sits in the Oval Office or Congress. Here, together, where we live, and on the local level, there is essential and world-changing work that can and will continue to happen. We plan to continue to do that work hopefully together, and hopefully for a long time.

In our community, we are and stand with LGBTQ+ people, we are and stand with Black and brown people, we are and stand with immigrants and descendants of immigrants. We are fighters for trans* equality, for bodily autonomy, for systemic justice, for human rights. We are and have always been here for your full self -- as we are now. Please know that we are available to you in whatever way you need.

And please join us [on Zoom](#) today, Thursday and Friday, and every day next week, at lunch time to share space and feelings, to sing, to read a psalm, to connect. And, tonight, for [No Matter What, We Sing](#). With song, with prayer, with community, with learning, we will support one another in grief and look to the future with hope and resolve.

We see you, and we stand with you, in love, in heartbreak, and in action, and we commit to CBST as a locus of hope, connection, and strength.

Warmly,

Jason Gary Klein

Senior Rabbi

Ivan Zimmerman

CBST Board President

P.S. Here is some music to connect with your spirit. Listen to [the CBST Community Chorus singing "I Have Decided" and "Oseh Shalom" on MLK Shabbat](#), or Yonatan Raz'el's "Kol Haolam Kulo" [here](#). *The whole world is a very narrow bridge, a quiet song, waiting for you, smiling at you, but the main thing is not to fear, not to close our hearts, to open our eyes, to open our hearts a little more. And may a day will come when all of us will sing and all of us will laugh. And the main thing is not to fear at all.*