



AND WE



CRY OUT



EX 2:23



JEWS UNITED FOR JUSTICE
2020 HAGGADAH SUPPLEMENT & CALL TO ACTION

original art by Ellen Weinstein

Passover 5780 will be a surreal experience: a celebration of liberation at a time of terrible suffering in our region and our world, as we are also physically distant from the family, friends, and communities who give meaning and structure to our lives. And yet, it is not the first time. The very first Passover, celebrated in the Land of Mitzrayim, took place at the height of the 10th plague. Locked away in their homes, anxious and fearful, our Israelite ancestors marked their doors, ate their Passover sacrifices, and waited uneasily for freedom while the Angel of Death rained down terror on the world outside.

There have been many hard Passovers in our communal history. And still, Torah asks us not only to observe the holiday, but to rejoice in it. We hope this haggadah might help add some measure of joy or meaning to your holiday. **Despite our physical distance, we will be united in spirit, in hope, and in the relentless pursuit of justice.**

Now is the time to lean hard into ancient Jewish truths: that strength comes from community; that we are all responsible for one another. You are the community that makes JUFJ strong — and we will continue to be here for each other, for our region, and for our partners in this work.

USING THIS YEAR'S LABOR SEDER HAGGADAH AND SUPPLEMENT

We are sharing this supplement and the full Labor Seder haggadah in hopes that you will use them in any of the following ways:

First and most important: please use this seder supplement to take action on critical local issues (see below) and to spark a discussion with friends, family members, or colleagues.

Use excerpts from the full haggadah in your own seder. Page breaks have been designed so that key sections — such as the four questions and the 10 plagues — can be easily printed on their own. We have also included recordings of our traditional Labor Seder songs for you to download and sing along.

Use the Labor Seder haggadah in its entirety for your seder.

We would love to know how you used these resources. Send us an email at info@juff.org with a note and/or a photo telling us what you did to celebrate this year's Labor Seder!

HAVRUTA: TABLE DISCUSSION

If you have a discussion partner, take a few minutes to read this text out loud to each other and talk through some of the discussion questions.

This piece was taken from a conversation between Abigail Pogrebin and Rabbi Jeffrey Sirkman reflecting on how this Passover is (or isn't) different from all other Passovers:

We are going to open the door for Elijah, and if we ever needed the Messiah to come... we need it now. A great scholar — Harvard theologian Harvey Cox — writes about Elijah being the perennial no-show, and that's the lesson. The lesson isn't that Elijah is going to come; the lesson is that you're going to open the door, there's no Elijah, now what are you going to do?

Well, you have to live as though you are Elijah's emissary. You have to bring hope to a world that is dark. What do Jews do when the world is dark?... [W]e are going to look at a no-show again — Elijah's not going to be at the door — and we are going to say, OK, we know you didn't come, but we are going to try to act and live as if you did.

— Rabbi Jeffrey Sirkman, *The Forward*, March 30, 2020

Discussion Questions:

- What thoughts or feelings does this text spark for you?
- What are you doing to stay hopeful? How can others help create this hope for you?
- What can you do to “act and live” as if Elijah had come? What are some of the ways you want to push yourself to show up for justice right now and in the coming year?

CALL TO ACTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it crystal clear that we are all dependent on one other and on each other's physical, economic, social, and spiritual wellbeing, no matter where we come from, what we look like, or how much money we have. We know that the only way to truly address this crisis is through collective action to support and protect everyone in our region, especially those communities who are most vulnerable. We know this will require strong leadership from our local governments and powerful activism from everyday people to hold those governments accountable. And we also know that the choices our governments make now to help us weather the pandemic have the potential to chart a better course for the future of our communities once this crisis passes.

But we need you to make it happen. Please take action NOW:

If you live in Maryland:

Please use JUFJ's Action Alert to ask Governor Hogan and your state legislators to expand protections for some of the state's most vulnerable residents during the pandemic: jufj.org/hogan-response

All people have a right to be safe and to thrive in our state, regardless of immigration status or interaction with the criminal justice system. There is a public health crisis brewing in Maryland's jails and prisons because of the pandemic. Ask Governor Hogan to issue an executive order to dramatically reduce mass incarceration and get people in detention centers basic necessities like soap, hand sanitizer, and cleaning supplies: jufj.org/hogan-decarceration

If you live in DC:

Childcare is essential to families, but the pandemic has placed childcare providers in a precarious position. Shuttered childcare services would devastate DC families. Ask DC's Mayor and Council to provide urgently-needed relief: jufj.org/childcare-action

DC's primary is June 2, followed by a Ward 2 special election June 16, with most polling places closed due to the pandemic. Request an absentee ballot early at vote4dc.com, or download the "Vote 4 DC" smartphone app and request your ballot through your phone. You have until May 26 to request an absentee ballot and until election day to send the ballot in.

No matter where you live:

Sign up to get JUFJ emails — it's the best way to stay connected with opportunities to get involved and respond to the issues of the moment: jufj.org/email

And consider a gift to JUFJ to power our collective work for justice that is now more important than ever: jufj.org/donate