



To dedicate an area in the home for prayer

וְעָשׂוּ לִי מִקְדָּשׁ וְשָׁכַנְתִּי בְּתוֹכְכֶם

V'asu li mikdash, v'shachanti b'tocham

AND LET THEM MAKE ME A SANCTUARY, THAT I MAY DWELL AMONG THEM¹

Eternal God, for the coming hours I dedicate this space to You as a sanctuary, inviting you to dwell within. Though this is not my usual place of prayer, I know that You are here with me.

I sanctify this space with the words of Birkat HaBayit, the blessing of the home:

בְּזֶה הַשַּׁעַר לֹא יָבֹא צָרָה : בְּזֹאת הַדִּירָה לֹא תָבֹא צָרָה :
 בְּזֹאת הַדֶּלֶת לֹא תָבֹא בְּהֶלֶת : בְּזֹאת הַמַּחְלָקָה לֹא תָבֹא מַחְלוּקָת :
 בְּזֶה הַמָּקוֹם תְּהִי בְּרָכָה וְשָׁלוֹם :

*B'zeh ha-sha'ar lo yavo tza'ar. B'zot ha-dirah lo tavo tzarah.
 B'zot ha-delet lo tavo vachelet. B'zot ha-machlakah lo tavo machaloket.
 B'zeh ha-makom t'hi b'rachah v'shalom*

Through this gate, may there come no sorrow. Into this dwelling, may there come no trouble.
 Through this door, may there come no panic. Into this area, may there come no conflicts.
 In this place, may there be blessing and peace.

A kavannah before sitting down for prayer at home

אֶפִּילּוּ אֶחָד שְׂיֹשֵׁב וְעוֹסֵק בַּתּוֹרָה שְׂכִינָה עִמּוֹ

Afilu echad she-yoshev v'oseik ba-torah Shekhinah immo

EVEN ONE PERSON WHO SITS AND ENGAGES IN TORAH, THE SHEKHINAH (DIVINE PRESENCE) IS WITH THEM²

Eternal God, may I find the ability over the coming hours to engage in Torah, enabling Your presence to dwell here, with me.

I have prepared and dedicated this place for prayer. Now I prepare and dedicate myself for prayer. I join with Jews around the world, "all Israel directing our hearts towards one place"³ wherever we are.

I begin my prayer with traditional words of kavannah (intention):

הָרִינִי מוֹכֵן וּמְזֻמָּן / הָרִינִי מוֹכְנָה וּמְזֻמְנָת
 לְקַיֵּם מִצְוֹת בּוֹרְאֵי יְהוָה שְׁמוֹ :

*(m) Hareini muchan um'zuman / (f) Hareini muchanah u-m'zumenet
 l'kayem mitzvot ha-borei yitbarach sh'mo*

Here I am, ready and prepared to fulfil the mitzvot of my Creator, may God's name be blessed.

For morning services and Kol Nidre:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם. אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהִתְעַטֵּף בְּצִיצִית :

Baruch attah Adonai eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher kidd'shanu b'mitsvotav, v'tsivvanu l'hitatteif ba-tzitzit

Blessed are You, our Living God, Sovereign of the universe, whose commandments make us holy and who commands us to wrap ourselves in the Tallit.

¹ Exodus 25:8

² Babylonian Talmud, Brachot 6a

³ Babylonian Talmud, Brachot 30a