

AL KOL EILEH IYYUN
Yom Ha'atzma'ut 2021
DLR

HaMa'ariv Aravim – the One who brings on the evening.
This dusk time,
at which we begin to celebrate Shabbat,
is a liminal, in-between time,
representing the gradual transition from day into night.
As Rabbi Blake mentioned last week,
the root of the word *erev*
(Hebrew for evening) itself contains this swirling *ta'aroret*, or mixture.

Naomi Shemer's beloved song, *Al Kol Eileh*,
acknowledges another sort of mixture,
the fact that each and every day,
we are called upon to hold the bitter with the sweet,
the good with the bad,
the joys with the sorrows.

In Shemer's native Israel, these both/and moments are certainly present:
sending children to the army in order to protect the nation,
not knowing whether they will return home safely;
the desire for peace,
and the violence that still exists as we struggle to work towards it.

At this swirling time of evening,
let us hold our own mixtures and the mixtures of our brothers and sisters in Israel.
Al kol eileh,
over all these things, God,
protect us,
help us hold onto hope,
and help us celebrate and reflect upon our good and holy land.