

Through the Darkness

לִיהוּדִים הַיְתָה אוֹרָה
וְשִׂמְחָה וְשִׁשְׁן וִיקָר

La'y'hudim ha'y'tah orah v'simchah v'sason viykar

You have guided us through the darkness, illuminating the night.
You have lifted up our broken hearts with your joy and your light.
(Esther 8:16 and Havdalah)

These words from the Book of Esther recall a moment of rejoicing after successfully navigating a most dangerous and harrowing passage. We sing these words at Havdalah as we move from the shelter of Shabbat into the work of our week, facing the challenges of this world with the faith that we are guided and blessed. We are grateful to the Holy One who guides us from within, and to the extraordinary people who are filled with the Divine Spirit and lead us through the darkness with their joy and inspiration.

(This chant was composed in honor of Rabbi Debra Waxman)