

## NEW SONGS FOR A NEW YEAR: THERE'S A SONG FOR THAT

**Karen Daniel**

### SESSION SUMMARY

Participants learned some of Karen Daniel's original songs that teach the major themes and customs for *Rosh Hashana*, *Yom Kippur*, *Sukkot*, and *Simchat Torah*. Songsheets were made available, with chords for those who brought a guitar. Participants collaborated in small groups to create a lesson plan for each holiday to incorporate the song and each group shared its lesson plan with the larger group.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Karen Daniel is well-known for her original songs of Jewish holidays, prayers, and lifestyle. She lives and works in Nashville, Tennessee, where she has taught music and prayer in several congregations. She leads *Shabbat* services for assisted living facilities and is the High Holiday cantorial soloist for a small Reform congregation. Her music is available at [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com) and other internet music distributors, [danielkare@aol.com](mailto:danielkare@aol.com)

In the religious school setting, the month of *Tishrei* brings us the opportunity to teach the themes and traditions associated with the High Holidays. This workshop helps attendees learn new songs for the High Holidays; they then work in groups to prepare a lesson plan around the theme/teaching of the song. Finally, each small group presents its lesson plan to all the workshop attendees, who will discuss and make suggestions, and the song is sung again as reinforcement. Upon returning to their home classroom, workshop participants can include these new songs and lesson plans in their curriculum.

Attendees are asked:

- What are some themes of the High Holidays? Suggestions:
  - o Prayer
  - o Forgiveness
  - o Fasting
  - o God
  - o Self-reflection
  - o Hope
  - o Change

The songs are taught, giving attendees the option of recording them for later use. Lyric sheets and guitar chords are provided for those who would like to present the songs themselves. The new songs introduced in this workshop include the following by Karen Daniel, appropriate for a variety of ages:

- Return, Return, Return (see lyrics below)
- If You Forgive Me (available at <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/karendaniel5>)
- Book of Life (see lyrics below)
- *Rosh Hashana*, a New Beginning (available at <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/karendaniel3>)
- Sitting in a *Sukkah* (available at <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/karendaniel3>)
- Turning the *Torah* Scrolls Around (available at <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/karendaniel3>)
- *Mah Tov* – Welcome Song (see lyrics below)
- *Avinu Malkeinu* – English version for traditional melody (see lyrics below)

Attendees are divided into small groups of 2-4 individuals. They each choose one song and prepare a lesson plan around the holiday/theme of that song. Lesson plans are presented to all attendees, with discussion and suggestions by the larger group.

At the end of the workshop, everyone knows some new songs to add to their repertoire, and has a few new lesson plan ideas to take home and share.

### **RETURN RETURN RETURN**

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CHORUS:

Return, return, return; return to you  
Return to you, at last.  
Renew, renew renew; renew our days, renew our ways  
As in the past.  
Return, return, return to you!

From dark and dusk, to hope and trust  
From deep despair, to heartfelt prayer  
From restless night, to morning bright  
From hurt and pain, to smile again  
Return, return, return to you!

CHORUS

From sleepless night, to morning bright  
From loneliness to being blessed  
From hate and greed to all we need  
Return, return, return to you!

CHORUS

## **BOOK OF LIFE**

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CHORUS:

The book of life, the book of life  
Write my name in the book of life.  
The book of life, the book of life  
Write my name in the book of life.

I do good deeds, and act so nice  
WRITE MY NAME IN THE BOOK OF LIFE  
I try to follow the Torah's advice  
WRITE MY NAME IN THE BOOK OF LIFE

CHORUS

I always try to do what's right  
WRITE MY NAME IN THE BOOK OF LIFE  
Fill up the darkness with lots of light  
WRITE MY NAME IN THE BOOK OF LIFE

CHORUS

Get out your pen and write, write, write  
WRITE MY NAME IN THE BOOK OF LIFE  
Put down my story in black and white  
WRITE MY NAME IN THE BOOK OF LIFE...

CHORUS

You've known me since an early age  
WRITE MY NAME IN THE BOOK OF LIFE  
I'm really hoping you turn the page  
WRITE MY NAME IN THE BOOK OF LIFE...

CHORUS

## **MAH TOVU WELCOME**

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CHORUS:

*Mah tovu, o-ha-le-cha Ya-a-kov  
Mishk'no-techa Yisrael.  
Mah tovu, o-ha-le-cha Ya-a-kov  
Mishk'no-techa Yisrael.*

We welcome you into this place, to sing and pray together, Mah Tov!

CHORUS

Take my hand, I'll hold open the door, I'll help you to find what you are searching for!

CHORUS

**AVINU MALKEINU**

*From liturgy, English translation by Karen Daniel*

Our father, our Sovereign, our King  
Oh please hear these words that we sing  
We call out to you, for without you,  
We know that we merit nothing.  
Be gracious unto us, with charity and love  
And give to us your loving-kindness,  
Save and shelter us.

# Rosh Hashanah: A New Beginning

Words and music by Karen Daniel  
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$\text{♩} = 90$

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a tempo of 90 beats per minute. The lyrics are written below the notes, with chord symbols (Am, Dm, F, G, E) placed above the staff. The lyrics are: "Rosh Ha - sha - nah a new be - gin - ning when our fu - ture is re - vealed on Rosh Ha - sha - nah it is writ - ten and on Yom Kip - pur it is sealed. Rosh Ha - sha - nah a new be - gin - ning when our fu - ture is re - vealed on Rosh Ha - sha - nah it is writ - ten and on Yom Kip - pur it is sealed. We eat rais - ins in our Chal - lah we dip ap - ples in ho - ney too and we say Sho - he - che - ya - nu on a fruit that is new. Rosh Ha - sha - nah a new be - gin - ning when our fu - ture is re - vealed on Rosh Ha - sha - nah it is writ - ten and on Yom Kip - pur it is sealed. It's a spe - cial time of year to ex - a - mine how we're li - ving. It's a time to stop and think, a time for pray - ing and for - gi - ving. Rosh Ha - sha - nah a new be gin - ning when our fu - ture is - re - vealed on Rosh Ha -".

41 sha-nah it is writ-ten and on Yom Kip-pur it is sealed and on

42 Yom Kip - pur It is sealed.

# Sitting In A Sukkah

Words and music by Karen Daniel  
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The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked '♩ = 88'. The score consists of ten staves of music, each with a line of lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are as follows:

To - night, tonight I'm sitting in a Sukkah to - night and  
up a - bove I can see the stars shi - ning bright For  
for - ty years we wan - dered in the de - sert We lived in lit - tle booths like this back then So  
for eight days we sit in - side a Suk - kah once a - gain, It  
has three walls and lots of pret - ty bran - ches for a cei - ling We  
de - co - rate with pic - tures of the har - vest and pop - corn on a string The  
myr - tle and the pal - m and wil - low stand and a fra - grant yel - low e - trog from the Ho - - ly Land We  
raise them high and ce - le - brate Suk - kot with our bles - sing To -  
night to - night I'm sit - ting in a Suk - kah to - night To

# Turning the Torah Scrolls Around

Words and music by Karen Daniel

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$\text{♩} = 100$  G G C D G

Turn-ing turn-ing turn-ing turn-ing turn-ing the To-rah scrolls a - round We're

G G C D G

turn-ing turn-ing turn-ing turn-ing turn-ing the To-rah scrolls a - round The

C D C D

To - rah keeps on go-ing like a cir-cle that is spin-ning for

Em C Amin7 D G

when we reach the end we go back to the be - gin-ning Ce - le - bra-ting

G C D G G

Sim-chat To - rah turn - ing the To - rah scrolls a - round We're ce - le - bra-ting

G C D G C D G

Sim-chat To-rah turn-ing the To-rah scrolls a - round turn-ing the To-rah scrolls a - round.