Help us to acknowledge the devastation, trauma, and destruction in Gaza,

To express the heartbreak for the tens of thousands of Palestinians that have died—among them so many women and children.

For the lack of food, shelter and medical care.

For the destruction of peoples’ homes. For the millions of refugees the war created. For the hopelessness and despair.

We pray for a cessation of the violence, the safe return of the hostages and we pray for our ability to hold in our hearts at the same time the suffering and pain of Israelis and Palestinians.

We pray for the future of both peoples on this land, for the acknowledgement of both peoples right to self determination and the freedom to live in justice and dignity.

We pray that in all our trauma, our sorrow, our despair, that we don’t harden our hearts, or refuse to see what is happening before our eyes. We pray we preserve our humanity.

We pray that in the horror of this moment, there will be an awakening; and a realization that the only path forward is one of coexistence.

So that every person might sit under their vine and fig tree and no one shall be afraid.

— Micah 4:4

May God grant strength to God’s people; May God bless of all of God’s people with peace.

— Psalm 29:11

— By Rabbis Felicia Sol and Roly Matalon, B’nai Jeshurun, NYC