

Liturgy

**Avodah**

*Barbara D. Holender*

Delight, O our God, in Your people Israel.  
See how our souls mirror Your presence.

Let our yearnings be as words of praise  
and our strivings as works of love.

Shower us with compassion  
as we reach out to You.

Ever-returning God  
keep watch over us and over Zion.

*Barbara D. Holender is the author of three volumes of poetry as well as a children's book in Hebrew. Her poems and essays appear in numerous journals and anthologies; some of her poems and translation, including Avodah, have become part of the Shabbat morning prayerbook at Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo, NY.*