

**Office of Prayer**  
**in connection with the Jewish people**  
**Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022**

**Yedid Nefesh, "Lover of the soul"**

*This liturgical poem was composed in the 16th century by Rabbi Elazar Azikri. Sung during the Shabbat, it evokes the intense love that one must feel for God. Each of the four verses has as its first letter one of the four letters of the Tetragrammaton, the unspoken Name of God.*

**Verse 1 (Youd)**

Beloved of the soul, the Father of Compassion,  
draw Your servant to Your Will;  
Your servant will hurry like a hart  
to bow before Your majesty;  
to him Your friendship will be sweeter  
than the dripping of the honeycomb and any taste.

**Verse 2 (Hé)**

Majestic, Beautiful, Radiance of the universe,  
my soul pines [lit: is sick for] for your love.  
Please, O God, heal her now  
by showing her the pleasantness of Your radiance;  
then she will be strengthened and healed,  
and eternal gladness will be hers.

**Verse 3 (Vav)**

Enduring One, may Your mercy be aroused  
and please take pity on the son of Your beloved,  
because it is so very long that I have yearned intensely  
to see speedily the splendour of Your strength;  
only these my heart desired,  
so please take pity and do not conceal Yourself

**Verse 4 (Hé)**

Please, my Beloved, reveal Yourself and spread upon me  
the shelter of Your peace;  
illuminate the Earth with Your glory,  
that we may rejoice and be glad with You;  
hasten, show love, for the time has come,  
and show us grace as in days of old.