

## *Today I am taking sides.*

I am taking the side of Peace.

Peace, which I will not abandon even when its voice is drowned out by hurt and hatred, bitterness of loss, cries of right and wrong.

I am taking the side of Peace whose name has barely been spoken in this winnerless war.

I will hold Peace in my arms, and share my body's breath, lest Peace be added to the body count.

I will call for de-escalation even when I want nothing more than to get even.

I will do it in the service of Peace.

I will make a clearing in the overgrown thicket of cause and effect so Peace can breathe for a minute and reach for the sky.

I will do what I must to save the life of Peace.

I will breathe through tears.

I will swallow pride.

I will bite my tongue.

I will offer love without testing for deservingness.

So don't ask me to wave a flag today unless it is the flag of Peace.

Don't ask me to sing an anthem unless it is a song of Peace.

Don't ask me to take sides unless it is the side of Peace.

- **Rabbi Irwin Keller, Oct. 17, 2023**

