

# Liturgy for Nesiat kapayim (duchaning)

*There is a time-honored custom of the Kohanim, the Priests, blessing the congregation on Festivals at this point in the service. In rabbinic literature, it is called "Nesiat kapayim -- Raising of the hands." The more familiar term is the Yiddish "duchaning," named after the duchar, the raised platform at the front of the synagogue.*

*Duchaning is rarely done in non-Orthodox circles because the priestly blessing is traditionally given only by male Kohanim. But that is NOT how we do it. If you are male or female, a Kohein, a Levite or an Israelite, you can choose to participate. And if you choose not to be among those doing the blessing, that's great, too! We also need congregants to respond to the blessing.*

*There are four roles in our ceremony: The Leader, The Translator, Those who Bless, and the Congregants.*

*The Leader begins by calling up those who will bless the Congregation.*

[Leader:] Kohanimot! Levi-imot! Klal Yisra-eil!

[Leader:]

אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ [וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ], בְּרַכְנוּ בְּבִרְכַּהּ הַמְּשֻׁלֶּשֶׁת,  
בַּתּוֹרָה הַפְּתוּכָה עַל יְדֵי מֹשֶׁה עַבְדְּךָ, הָאֲמוּרָה  
מִפִּי אַהֲרֹן וּבְנָיו, כַּהֲנִים

[Translator/Meturgeman:]

Our God and God of our ancestors, with the threefold blessing  
written in the Torah by the hand of Moses Your servant, recited by  
Aaron and his descendants, the *kohanim*, bless us

[Congregation:]

עַם קְדוֹשׁךָ בְּאֲמוּרָה.

Your Holy People.

[If they are wearing tallitot, those blessing the congregation cover  
their faces and hands with their tallitot.]

[Those blessing the congregation]:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּקִדְּשׁוֹתוֹ  
שֶׁל אַהֲרֹן, וְצִוָּנוּ לְבָרֵךְ אֶת-עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאֲהָבָה.

[Translator:]

*Barukh atah ADONAI*, our God, ruler of time and space, who has made us  
holy with the sanctity of Aaron and has instructed us to bless the people  
Israel with love.

[Leader recites each word softly. **Those blessing repeat aloud.**]:

אֱמֵן. יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ.  
אֱמֵן. יֵאָר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיִחַנֶּךָ.  
אֱמֵן. יֵשֵׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיִשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.

[Translator:]

May ADONAI bless and protect you. *Amen.*

May ADONAI's countenance shine upon you

and may ADONAI bestow kindness upon you. *Amen.*

May ADONAI's countenance be lifted toward you

and may ADONAI grant you peace. *Amen.*

[Congregation]:

אֲדִיר בְּמָרוֹם, שׁוֹכֵן בְּגִבוֹרָה, אַתָּה שְׁלוֹם וְשָׁמֶךְ שְׁלוֹם.

יְהִי רְצוֹן שְׁתַּשִּׁים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל-עַמֶּךָ בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל

חַיִּים וּבְרָכָה לְמִשְׁמֶרֶת שְׁלוֹם.

[Translator]:

Majestic on high, dwelling in might: You are peace and Your name is peace. May it be Your will to grant us and the entire house of Israel blessing and life as guardians of peace.