We have watched the political events of these past few weeks with much dread and anxiety. This morning the Israeli Knesset passed the first in what is proposed to be a series of drastic changes to the powers of the judiciary and the system of checks and balances that undergirds Israeli democracy.

Throughout these perilous seven months we have urged our community to raise our voices in protest over the threats that Israel is facing, including threats to women's rights, LGBTQ+ inclusion, Reform Judaism, prospects for peace with Palestinians, and the democratic nature of the state.

Over the past several months, hundreds of thousands of Israelis have been marching in the streets in protest. Without broad consensus, Israel is being ripped apart along the seams of its social fabric.

We have been here before. Twice in our history (586 BCE and 70 CE), Jewish sovereignty in the Land of Israel was destroyed from the same internal conflict and senseless hatred that now boils between our fellow Jews in the streets of modern Israel. On Thursday we will commemorate Tisha B'Av (9th of Av), a day set aside centuries ago to mourn the destruction of Jewish peoplehood and sovereignty by our own infighting. We hear the "echo of history" again and it is heartbreaking to say the least.

What can we do?

- **PRAY**: Join us in person at Temple Sholom at 10:00 am on Thursday, July 27 for our Tisha B'Av service of prayer, study and introspection. We will look at ancient texts to provide context for our present day.
- **STUDY:** Register for a webinar briefing tomorrow, Tuesday, July 25 at 11:30 am PT with MK Rabbi Gilad Kariv and leaders of the Reform Movement in Israel to unpack what has transpired and what comes next. For a statement of the Reform Movement on this latest development click here.
- **ADVOCATE:** Make your voices heard in Israel through support for the UnXceptable Movement of Israeli Expats. We urge and invite you to share your views on how our Canadian Jewish communal organizations should respond (CIJA and Jewish Federation) so they can accurately reflect and amplify your voice.

We pray for the peace of Israel and all its inhabitants.

L'shalom,