



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and  
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

### **MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.**

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

---

Reel  
187

Box  
71

Folder  
1047

Episcopal Diocese dinner, 1963.



63-10  
10  
Feb 11/1963

Invocation:  
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio  
Cleveland

OUR KIND FATHER IN HEAVEN:

✓ UPON ALL WHO ARE GATHERED HERE THIS EVENING, WE INVOKE  
THY BLESSING. BLESS THIS FELLOWSHIP OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO  
ARE MET IN THY NAME, <sup>and</sup> PLEDGED TO THY SERVICE, (AND COMMITTED  
TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THY KINGDOM ON EARTH.)

AS WE MEET TO RECEIVE WORDS OF INSTRUCTION AND IN-  
SPIRATION, MAY WE GAIN IN POWER AND RESOLVE TO HASTEN THE  
COMING OF THAT KINGDOM.

THE DARKER OUR WAY, THE MORE EAGERLY WE SEEK THY  
LIGHT. THE MORE FORMIDABLE OUR TASKS, THE MORE PRAYER-  
FULLY WE TURN TO THEE WHO GIVEST POWER TO THE FAINT, AND  
STRENGTH TO ALL WHO WAIT FOR THEE.

WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THEE, ~~OR~~ LORD, BUT WE HAVE  
LOST OUR SURE WAY TO THEE. IN CONFUSION WE ARE HURRYING  
DOWN BLIND ROADS TO OUR FATAL UNDOING. HELP US TO RETURN  
TO THE HIGHWAY WHICH WAS MARKED OUT FOR US BY THY SAGES  
AND SEERS OF OLD -- NOT BY FORCE AND NOT BY MIGHT, BUT BY  
THY SPIRIT OF JUSTICE, COMPASSION AND LOVE.

✓ DRAW ALL OUR HEARTS TOGETHER TO THE ONE COMMON  
PURPOSE. WE SPEAK OF THEE IN DIFFERENT TONGUES, AND  
WORSHIP THEE IN SHRINES AND RITUALS WHICH OFTEN ALIENATE  
US NOT FROM THEE, BUT FROM ONE ANOTHER. MAY THE



ENCOMPASSING SPIRIT WHICH INFORMS ALL OUR FAITHS MOVE US  
TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, TO A WIDER BROTHERHOOD, AND A  
FULLER COOPERATION IN THE (INELUCTABLE) TASKS WHICH THOU  
HAS ASSIGNED TO ALL THY CHILDREN.

✓ BLESS EVERY EFFORT WHICH IS BEING MADE ANYWHERE TO  
LIFT BURDENS FROM OFF THE HEARTS OF MEN AND TO BRING THE  
PRISONERS OF IGNORANCE, FEAR, BIGOTRY AND SEGREGATION OUT  
OF THE DUNGEONS OF THEIR LIVES.

✓ MAY WE COME TO SHARE MORE FULLY <sup>in</sup> THE RESPONSIBILITIES  
<sup>our common</sup> OF HUMAN FELLOWSHIP AND TO WELCOME MORE READILY THE  
FREEDOM OF THY SERVITUDE.

AMEN.

