**The Shma and Its Blessings**

**Barchu** Call to prayer

**1st Blessing:**  Yotzer Or – Who Creates Light (morning/shacharit)

 Ha-Maariv Aravim – Who Brings on Evening (evening/maariv)

 Themes: Nature / Light and Dark / Stars and Seasons / **Creation**

**2nd Blessing:** Ahavah Rabbah – Great Love (morning)

 Ahavat Olam – Eternal Love (evening)

 Themes: God’s love / Torah and Mitzvot / Community of Israel / **Revelation**

 **Shma Affirmation of God’s Oneness**

 ***Baruch Shem Kevod***

 *Three Scriptural Readings***:**

 **– V’ahavta: wholeheartedness / integration of mind/body/soul /memory**

 **– V’haya im Shamo’a: our environment/ land and rain / natural cycles / memory**

 **– Va’yomer Hashem: tzitzit / knots and fringes at our borders / memory**

**3rd Blessing:** Ga’al Yisrael – Who Redeemed Israel

(Emet V’yatziv - morning; Emet V’emunah - evening)

 Themes: Truth, eternity of God / chain of ancestors / deliverance at the Sea / **Redemption**

**4th Blessing:** Hashkiveinu – protection, peace at night

(evening only)