

# Blessing for the Matzah

*Anna Swanson*

[One speaker reads, with the rest of the group joining in on the bold text]

We realize again in each generation  
that we did not truly understand what it meant,  
**the bread of affliction.**

From long tables of borderless plenty,  
our beautiful futures look back in sorrow  
for they have reached that part of the story.

We must tell it as if we were there.  
**We were there.**

**We watched on our phones**  
as parents ground animal feed and baked it into hard loaves.  
**We saw** the blood-soaked sacks of flour  
in the streets.

Matzah reaches back into story  
and forward into prayer.

**Flour, calories, safe water,**  
**aid trucks, streets without snipers—**  
not enough but may this be  
a bridge of survival,  
may every living person in Gaza  
make it through  
to a Free Palestine

**alive.**

May all who are hungry in every land  
have enough today to arrive  
at tomorrow and next week  
and to arrive

**alive**

**at the feast of freedom.**

May we be the ancestors  
of a better story,

**Amen.**